



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

Summer 2017

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BIKE PARADE 2017



Office: Jeff Robbins, Sunnie McPhetres, Dawn Cote, Janene Robie, Karen Small

Floating Assistant Teachers
Terri Crane, Kristin Cole, Jenn Murphy, Vipasha Oza

Save the Date
2018 Bike Parade
Monday, July 2, 2018
Rain-date
Tuesday, July 3, 2018





From the Director

Dear Big Jeff,

It's been so nice at pick-up time we've kind of been hanging out for a while with other families before we leave. Is that OK? Somebody told me that we should play on the west lawn, not on the driveway island, and that makes sense. To be honest, I notice that some of the children (not mine!) get a little rowdy and supervision isn't as thorough as when the teachers are handling things.

Signed
Love to Schmooze

Dear Schmoozer,

What fun! I'm glad you get in a little socializing time and exercise time before the witching hour begins. And thanks for taking it to the west lawn. You're right – children should not play in the driveway or on the sidewalk – too hazardous! Although this activity is after hours, I still have a responsibility to make sure that children are safe when they are on the property. Since I'm the Rule Guy, I'll speak to that. If for some reason you don't want these to be your rules, feel free to say they are my rules.

Here are some general guidelines. Your children should:

- Stay in your sight.
- Be thoughtful of others.
- Watch out for younger children.
- Be safe.
- Be respectful of property.

Here are some more specific directives. Children should:

- Walk on the sidewalk; Run in the grass.
- Play on the grass; stay out of the driveway.
- Be kind to our trees. Keep them upright and let them keep their leaves.
- Enjoy trees from underneath. Please climb elsewhere.
- Run around (not through) the gardens. There's lots of tall grass out there to run in.
- Let flowers and vegetables grow and leave them for everyone to enjoy.

If you're looking for a place to escape my overarching watchfulness, it's just a quick walk across the street to the playground at the Ray School and there is always parking there after 3:30.

Thanks for asking,
Big Jeff

Greetings From Sunnie:



It is so hard to believe that the end of the *school* year is here already! It seems to surprise me every year. I look at the children who are getting ready to transition into a new classroom or a new role in their current classroom and notice how much they have grown during the year. Looking back at pictures of children from last September, they all look so big now – from Chickadees ready to make their first transition to Black Bears ready to head out into the world. I always have to remind myself that these children who look so big to me now will look really little again in just a few weeks. Transitions are part of life that we all experience. The work that your children are doing now to say good-bye to their caregivers and a familiar space will serve them well in the future as they transition to college, new jobs, and new communities!

Everyday transitions are a big part of the early childhood curriculum – learning to move from one activity to another, one place to another, and one expectation to another. This yearly transition is yet another piece of that learning. The teachers at DCCCC take this transition very seriously. They help the children to see that they are ready for new people and new adventures. They guide them gently toward making new connections and understanding new expectations. Sending teachers take time to communicate with receiving teachers. Receiving teachers do their utmost to make connections with incoming children. Some children will come at this transition with gusto (ask me about my experience teaching in the *Pooh Bear Room* sometime) and others are a bit more hesitant, but they all manage to transition.

Then there are parents... sometimes these transitions are harder for you than for the children. We recommend walking through your child's new classroom at drop-off time not just for your child's sake, but for your sake as well! You have come to rely on, trust, and enjoy the caregivers in your child's current classroom... you might not be able to imagine anything different. Making the transition to a new team, developing trust again, and letting go of the past is not an easy thing to do. When I was an infant teacher (oh so many years ago), I noticed that it was especially hard for the parents who were

making their first transition. I even had one parent who brought their child's doll to me each morning so that she would still have a *Teddy* to pick up at the end of the day. This only lasted a week or two, but it was hard to let go. My main message here is be ready! Be prepared for the feelings that you will experience and give yourself permission to feel everything that you need to feel.

At the end of this newsletter there are several items concerning transitions in early childhood and a letter from Big Jeff. Take time to read these messages. Here is my list of things to expect, and *dos and don'ts* for making this transition as easy as possible for you.

Things to expect

- Your child will be tired and maybe a bit unpredictable for a short while.
- You will be tired and maybe a bit unpredictable for a short while.
- You will miss your child's old teachers while you get to know the new.
- You will be tempted to talk to your child's old teachers if the transition doesn't feel just right.
- You might linger outside your child's old classroom.
- You might cry.
- Drop off may take a bit longer for a few days.
- You will want to talk a lot with your child's new teacher at the end of the day so allow plenty of time.
- The end of the day rules (out of the building by 5:30) are the same in every room.
- You will still need to put a dated *no-nut* note in your child's lunch every day.
- You may wonder if you made the right decision to move your child, let your child grow, have a child, go to work, grow up yourself... the answer is yes, you made the right decision!
- The teachers in your child's new classroom are eager to answer any questions that you have. They are the best place to start if you have any questions or concerns.
- Jeff and/or Sunnie are always open and willing to discuss **anything** with you. They always have tissues readily on hand.

TRANSITION DOS AND DON'TS	
DO	DON'T
Be patient with yourself and your child.	Expect to feel as though nothing special is happening.
Take time to transition throughout the summer.	Walk into the new classroom for the first time on August 30.
Set up a time to meet with your child's new teachers.	Think that your child's new teachers are too busy to meet with you.
Let your new teachers know about what is important to you in your child's care.	Feel as though your preferences are not important in the new classroom.
Find a way to say thank you and good-bye to your current teachers – attend end of the year events.	Think that you won't miss your current teachers.
Let your child know that you are confident that they will have a great time in the new classroom, but that you are a little nervous too.	Hide your feelings from your child or be so nervous that the feeling becomes contagious. Find a happy medium.
Create a NameBadge (see page 7 for details) for your e-mail, or just tell your child's new teachers how to properly pronounce your name.	Be afraid to make corrections to how to pronounce your name.
Bring any concerns to your new teachers – large or small. Your new teachers want to know how you are feeling and why. If they don't know about your concerns, they can't make adjustments.	Seek out old teachers to ask about concerns in the new classroom. They still love you, but it puts them in an awkward position.
Talk to Jeff and Sunnie if you have concerns.	Think that you are being silly and that concerns will just go away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

-Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 28 and 29, In-Service and Transition Preparation

-Monday, September 4, Labor Day

-Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24, Thanksgiving Break

-December 25-January 1, 2018, Winter Break

-Monday, April 9, In-service Training

First Day in New Groups is August 30.

August 30-September 1: Three day week

September 5-8: Four day week

September 11-15: Five day week

Nice way to transition!

Save the Date Friday, October 6, 2017 PICTURE DAY

Once again, Peter Swett of Doughty Falls Photography will be here to photograph children and families. Dawn will send information as we get closer to the date.

We are always amazed at the quality of Peter's photographs.

For more information about Doughty Falls Photography:

<http://www.doughtyfallsphotography.com/page2.html>

Fun and Helpful Idea

NameCoach (<https://cloud.name-coach.com/>) offers a very useful tool: a free NameBadge that can be added to your e-mail signature or social media accounts. The NameBadge is a recording of you properly pronouncing your name. Ever wonder how to properly pronounce *McPhetres*? Find out by clicking the icon in my e-mail!

To create your own NameBadge:

<https://cloud.name-coach.com/> , Our Services, Personal NameBadge.

Greater Upper Valley Events in August

Free Events

Friday, August 4

Kids Theater: "Treasure Island" in White River Junction, VT

Where: Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St., White River Junction, VT

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

What: The Little Red Wagon Theater Company presents the story of a journey to search for buried loot on the mystical Treasure Island.

Contact Info: Karen McNall, Hartford Parks & Recreation, kmcnall@hartford-vt.org, 802-295-5036

Kids Theater: "Fabled" in White River Junction, VT

Where: Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St., White River Junction, VT

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

What: The Little Red Wagon Theater Company weaves together stories and lessons in Fabled: A Journey Through the World of Aesop.

Contact Info: Karen McNall, Hartford Parks & Recreation, kmcnall@hartford-vt.org, 802-295-5036

Saturday, August 5

Family River Exploration Day in West Hartford, VT

Where: Erwin Clifford Park, 100 Recreation Drive, West Hartford, VT

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

What: Hands-on activities with a focus on local streams and rivers. Learn about aquatic animals, watersheds, conservation and water quality, take a fly-fishing casting lesson and more. Drinks and snacks provided. Sponsored by Hartford Parks and Recreation.

Contact info: Karen McNall, Hartford Parks & Recreation, kmcnall@hartford-vt.org, [802-295-5036](tel:802-295-5036)

Kids Theater: "Beauty and the Beast" in Grantham, NH

Where: Grantham Town Building, lower level , 300 Route 10, Grantham, NH

Time: 4:00pm

What: The Hampstead Stage Company presents the French fairy tale of a selfless young woman, Beauty, who takes her father's place as prisoner in a castle far away. Upon arrival, she meets the owner of the castle, who appears to be a terrifying Beast. As time progresses, Beauty and the Beast begin to get to know not only each other, but also themselves.

Contact info: Karen Goldstein, Dunbar Free Library, dfprogramming@comcast.net, 603-863-2172

Monday, August 7

Comedy Performance in Lebanon, NH

Where: Kilton Library, 80 Main St., West Lebanon, NH

Time: 2:00pm

What: Jungle Jim performs Minecraft-themed balloon artistry, magic, comedy and improv. For all ages.

Contact Info: Carolyn Crocker, Lebanon Libraries, library@lelibrary.com, 603-448-2459

Outdoor Concert: Trombone Stompers Dixieland Band in Lebanon, NH

Where: Colburn Park, 51 North Park St., Lebanon, NH

Time: 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Note: Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on

Contact Info: Kristine Flythe, Lebanon Recreation & Parks Department, recreation@lebcity.com, 603-448-5121

Wednesday, August 9

Outdoor Movie: "Up" in White River Junction, VT

Where: United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St., White River Junction, VT

Time: 8:00pm

What: Movies shown on the big screen, drive-in style. Bring a chair or blanket. Refreshments provided.

Contact Info: 802-295-7091

Thursday, August 10

Outdoor Performance: "Drumming About You" in Lebanon, NH

Where: Colburn Park, 51 North Park St., Lebanon, NH

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

What: Bob Bloom presents an interactive program with drums and world percussion instruments.

Contact Info: Kristine Flythe, Lebanon Recreation & Parks Department, recreation@lebcity.com, 603-448-5121

Friday, August 11

Concert: "From Trash to Tunes" in Thetford, VT

Where: Latham Library, 16 Library Road, Thetford, VT

Time: 4:00 pm

What: Dennis Waring performs using handmade and homemade musical instruments, built from recyclables and inspired by instruments around the world. His stories offer insights into folklore, music, craft and science.

Contact Info: Latham Library, 802-785-4361

Tuesday, August 15

Meet the Boston Bruins Mascot in West Lebanon, NH

Where: Kilton Library, 80 Main St., West Lebanon, NH

Time: 11:00 am

What: Stories, prizes, and entertainment for all ages with Blades, the mascot of the Boston Bruins.

Contact Info: Carolyn Crocker, Lebanon Libraries, library@lelibrary.com, 603-298-8544

Wednesday, August 16

"Bedknobs and Broomsticks" in Hanover, NH

Where: Spaulding Auditorium, Hopkins Center, 4 E. Wheelock St, Hanover, NH

Time: 6:30 pm

What: film - When three young children move to a small English village to escape the Blitz, they discover their host, Miss Price (Angela Lansbury), is an apprentice witch. Although her early attempts at magic create hilarious results, she successfully casts a traveling spell on an ordinary bedknob, which they use to find the professor (David Tomlinson) who is supposedly running the correspondence course in witchcraft. He turns out to be a cynical conman, but he agrees to join their quest to find the spell they need to save Britain in this classic musical. Directed by Robert Stevenson, U.S., 1971. 1 h 57 m

Contact Info: Hopkins Center for the Arts, dfs@dartmouth.edu, 603-646-2422

Monday, August 21

Starlight Storytime in Windsor, VT

Where: Windsor Public Library, 43 State St., Windsor, VT

Time: 7:00 pm

What: An evening storytime event for families, complete with milk and cookies.

Contact Info: Windsor Public Library, 802-674-2556

Outdoor Movie: "Beauty and the Beast" (2017) in White River Junction, VT

Where: United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St., White River Junction, VT

Time: 8:00 pm

What: Movies shown on the big screen, drive-in style. Bring a chair or blanket.

Refreshments provided.

Contact Info: 802-295-7091

Saturday, August 26

Back-to-School Festival in Claremont

Where: Barnes Park, 9 Bernard Way, Claremont, NH

Time: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

What: Appearances by a school bus, fire truck, police car, ambulance and race cars.

Food and face painting. Community members are welcome to set up vendor tents to network with students and families; call 603-543-4250 x226 to join. Sponsored by the Claremont School District.

Contact Info: Courtney Porter, Claremont School District, 603-543-4250 x226

Events That Have a Charge

Sunday, August 13, 2017

Hay Day Family Festival in Newbury, N.H.

Where: The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens, 456 Route 103A, Newbury, NH

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Admission: adults, \$10; seniors and students, \$8; children ages 6-17, \$4; 5 and under, free.

What: Activities include children's art projects, a petting zoo, face painting, games, storytelling and singalong, along with a performance by the New London Barn Playhouse Junior Players and demonstrations by local craftspeople. Lunch and dessert will be for sale.

Contact Info: The Fells Historic Estate and Gardens, 603-763-4789 x3

The Arts Corner

Liz Harrington

Summer in the Sun



Go on a Nature Walk!

Whether exploring your neighborhood or going on a brief walk through the woods, the outdoor world around us is a great place to go exploring! Talk together with your child about what they predict they will see. What things might we hear? Grab a clipboard, markers, and paper and bring them along to draw pictures of what you see! You can make a nature walk checklist for your child to check off- there are many examples of these kinds of lists online to inspire you!

Bring a bag on your walk so you can collect items to create:



Natural Paintbrushes:

Collect various natural items like leaves, small fir/pine branches, pinecones, grasses, or pinecones. You will also need twigs/sticks of various sizes for your handles. Either twine, elastics, or hot/super glue will work to help attach the natural material to the sticks you have collected to paint with!

Natural Discovery Bottles:

Creating a natural discovery bottle will allow another way to explore items found on your nature walk! Choose a plastic bottle with a screw top- any size will work. [Hard plastic bottles last the longest- such as Gatorade.] If you choose to add water in addition to your natural materials, fill it 3/4th of the way at this time. When finished, add an item you've collected from your nature walk into the bottle. Add a bit of super glue or hot glue to the inner thread of the cap right before you screw the cap back on!



Rock Painting: Take rocks that you've collected on your walk (or found in your yard) and paint them! For younger children, let them explore with various sized brushes and water-based paints. When you're finished, you can either leave them inside- or place them outside and predict what will happen when the rain will come. For those who are older, acrylic paints can be used and protected with a sealant such as Mod Podge (or other acrylic varnish) to last longer!

When You Come Back, Have a Snack!

Food Art:

Offer your child a selection of vegetables (such as peppers, carrots, tomatoes, etc.) cut into age-appropriate sizes. You can talk with your child about some of the things you saw on your walk: did you see a bird? A flower? A rainbow? A person? Encourage your child to think about how he/she could create what they saw with the vegetable pieces they have. Discuss what shapes they saw. [Example: a flowers might have a circle shape in the middle of it.]



Song of the Season “Slippery Fish”



**Slippery fish, slippery fish, sliding through the water,
Slippery fish, slippery fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a...**

**Octopus, octopus, squiggling in the water,
Octopus, octopus, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a...**

**Tuna fish, tuna fish, splashing in the water,
Tuna fish, tuna fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a...**

**Great white shark, great white shark, lurking in the water,
Great white shark, great white shark, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a...**

**Humungous whale, humungous whale, spouting in the water,
Humungous whale, humungous whale,
Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Burp! Excuse me!**

News from the Chickadee Ones

Ali Wachunas
Lead Teacher

Denise Ayers

Deserai Stone

Hello all! The time has come to say goodbye to our Chickadees as they move on to their next room. We are excited to see them growing up, but sad to see them go. This year flew by, and the Chickadees grew up so quickly. They have been spending time in their new rooms and getting comfortable with their new teachers. We know they will excel! Make sure to visit your child's new room and say hi.

Since last newsletter the chickadees have been very busy. We completed the first chickadee field trip to Billings Farm! The children had a blast and were able to see animals up close and pet them. Although we had a rainy day, it was a fun time shared with the children and their families. Here's the group picture we took.



We said our goodbyes to our good friend Ruth who moved back to California. We look forward to her visiting sometime in August. Andrew is officially on the move and talking. He will be spending another year with us in the chickadees...we are very excited to keep him! Avens, Matthew, Jonah, and Aadhi will be a Hedgehog in September & Eason, Adeline, and Vartan will join the Owls. They all have grown so much!



The Chickadees enjoyed the bike parade and helped decorate in red, white, and blue. Some of our friends rode in wagons, some walked, and some rode their bikes. Thank you Chickadee families for coming & participating in this event. We had a blast! Our annual water day is August 2nd. We are excited to participate in water events and spend time with other classrooms. The Chickadees will be organizing a car wash with sponges and toy cars to clean.



The weather this summer has been very rainy but we have managed to spend a lot of time outside. The chickadees love water play and the sand box. We have planted veggies and flowers and are enjoying watching them grow. The children love watering the plants. The positive to the rain is all the worms it

brings. The children enjoy watching them, picking them up, and yes, even squishing them. They have been very curious about insects. The days it has been really rainy we have spent time mastering our fine motor skills with coloring and painting. The Chickadees love to paint and see what happens when they mix colors.

This last month will be bitter sweet as we spend time with our departing chick friends and begin to welcome new friends. We welcomed a new friend, Lucas and all the chick friends love him. As the summer comes to an end we will begin meeting new chick friends and welcoming them to the chickadee room.

Reminder: Parent picnic August 16th from 5 to 6:30 pm. Bring a picnic dinner to share with your family, we will provide refreshments and dessert.

The Chick One Team





News from the Chickadee Toos

Teresa Hahn,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins

Moya Stevens

Summer is in full swing and change is in the air! We have new friends who have joined our group, Solene and Campbell are finding their fit into the mix. We will have a new friend joining us in August as well.

We have started the transitions to new classrooms. This is a very exciting time for us, seeing children grow and move on . It also makes us a bit sad, as we have become so close to the families.

Fortunately, they will not be too far away!

Please remember to check the clips in the cubbies, your child's new teachers may put papers for you there. It is important for you and your child to make several visits, at drop off or pick-up, to get them accustomed to the room and the teachers. Your children need to see that you are comfortable with the changes to insure an easier transition. Talking to them about the changes, in a positive manner, is very beneficial as well. Feel free to ask questions about the process to present and future teachers.

We are taking advantage of the warm days and have gotten plenty of opportunity for water play. This appears to be a big hit with most of the kids and they stay with this activity for long periods of time. We have a supply of fresh drinking water on hand to teach what water is good to drink and what water isn't.

Our salsa garden is coming along nicely, without too much interference from the woodchucks and other little pests. We picked our first (of many we hope) cherry tomatoes yesterday. The flower house is blooming



beautifully, and the sunflowers are taller than the Chickadees and will soon blossom as well.

Our end of the year family picnic is scheduled for Wednesday August 16th from 5:00 to 6:30. Please bring a picnic dinner for your family. We will provide beverages and dessert. The entire family is welcome. We look forward to having everyone together to celebrate the year.

It has been an honor and sincere pleasure to share this year with you,

Teresa for Chickadee Too



News from the Owls

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin

April Buchanan

This year was truly a special one for us. We started the year with seven families that we already knew from having their older child! Not only did we get to know our new children, but we got to see older graduates of our program.

Our school year started off with extra help in our class to comfort crying children. Now our room is full of talking, singing and laughing. They are a silly group, especially at lunch! They comment on each other's foods, poke their friends beside them and make up stories the whole lunch time!

Each child has grown and accomplished the beginnings of toddler-hood:

Charlie has a great sense of humor and makes us laugh with his facial expressions and his actions. He has the distinction of having our first broken leg by going down a little slide.

Libby tells us stories by talking non-stop. She lets her friends know what to do throughout the day, even asking her friends to join in her crying when she is mad at something we have spoken to her about!

Jack is completely toilet trained and vocal about what underwear-and shirt-and pants-and shoes- he wants to wear.

Joshua keeps us up to date on construction vehicles and loves lawnmower day! He is a great cuddler, especially after his nap.

Louisa is a wonderful mother-loving our baby dolls, sometimes two at a time. She likes to put her baby into a shopping cart and go for a walk.

Ada is usually the first one awake from nap and will spend quiet time with one of us in the multi, watching the birds or telling us how many planes she has been on.

Zoe has amazed us by learning the English language so quickly. She is quite opinionated, a true Two Year Old! The sand box is her favorite space.

Maya was hesitant at the beginning of the year, but is outgoing now. She knows what she wants and lets her friends know also. She climbs into our laps throughout the day.

Cole needs just one call of "time to pick up" to be on the job, cleaning the multi or our classroom. He loves to roll and tumble with his friends in the multi, attempting crazy feats! He is always willing to do any project or game that we suggest.

Nicole will join in any silliness going on. As soon as she spots a "party" she is there! She is protective of her brother, coming over to check on Jack when he needs assistance.

Torin has learned to spell his name out loud and is interested in writing letters and drawing people. He loves to "cook" and is constantly making muffins!

For children moving onto new classrooms, we have been visiting and even having lunch in their new rooms. We will continue to help make their transition as stress free as possible. Thank you for stopping by the new rooms in the mornings. Please continue to talk about the coming school year at home.

We have loved watching your child grow and become independent. We are grateful to have had you all in our lives this past year. Thank you for sharing your child with us!

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and April



News from the Hedgehogs

Jennifer Sprague,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro

Angelica Morrison

Hello Families,

The end of the Hedgehog year is almost here! I love this time of year to look back on how much everyone has grown and all that they have learned. Thank you to families for making this such a wonderful year for us. It was great to have so many families involved in projects, celebrations, and field trips throughout the year. We will be celebrating our year together on Friday, August 25th at 4:00pm. The Hedgehogs will make a delicious snack, put on a small performance, and we will have a slideshow to watch.

I have included a few favorite group pictures from the year!





News from the Otters

Susan Quimby Young,
Lead Teacher

Stephanie Cummings

Katie Robinson

Jane Wolfe

Hello Otter families,

The end of the Otter year is almost over! These past few months have flown by and we have been looking at photos of when the children first started, they have grown so much. The Otters are preparing for their transition to the Badger room, they have been playing in the Badger room as well as joining them for snack and lunch. We will be continuing with this as the summer progresses. I invite you to visit the classroom with your child during the morning to help familiarize yourself and your child to their new class and teachers. We will shortly be talking to the Badger team about your child to discuss their interests, needs and their typical schedule.

With the warmer weather over the past few months, the Otters have really enjoyed lots of water play. We have been getting into our bathing suits and enjoying playing with hose pipe sprinklers and jumping or 'cannonballing' into puddles. Some activities children have done are filling wheelbarrows with water with then lying in, asking teachers to squirt them with water and running through sprinklers. Some children have perfected the art of cannonballing into the water. They stand on the plastic chairs and jump into the water, this quickly became a group activity of who could make the biggest splashes. As part of our transportation theme we had an outside car washing station. The Otters loved the water and bubbles and they got the bikes and scooters squeaky clean!



As a group we have enjoyed lots of different summer activities. For National Teddy Bear's Picnic Day we enjoyed a picnic outside in the sun, with Chippy the Chipmunk keeping a watchful eye on us. We have painted with ice, the children were intrigued how it was melting at different rates. We also had a spray bottle squirt painting, the children varied their technique by moving the bottle closer and further away from the paper. Last week we had a nature scavenger hunt around DCCCC. The children colored in boxes as they found the objects they were looking for. The Otters found yellow/purple flowers, rocks, ants, clover, clouds, sticks and grass. They tried really hard to find feathers and pine cones, but we couldn't find them.

I want to thank Katie for her help and dedication to the Otter program. I am excited for this new opportunity for her to attend Northland College in Wisconsin but will miss her presence in the classroom. Her last day will be August 18th.

Don't forget our End of year celebration on Thursday, August 24th at 4:00pm. It will be our last chance to gather together before the new school year. The Otters will help to make snacks for the event. We will give out the children's goodbye books which will contain a few pictures of their year in the Otters.

I want to thank YOU most of all for trusting us with your child. We have really got to know your child and we have enjoyed getting to know them and you. We have enjoyed providing them with opportunities for them to develop in areas that interest them. We will miss them all next year, but please drop by the Otter room from time to time to say hello!

On behalf of the Otter Team,
Stephanie



News from the Badgers

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Miranda Arruda

Judy Labrie

Dear Badger Families,

The year has absolutely flown by! There were many experiences that children, parents, and teachers shared. This Last Newsletter of the year is one of the most enjoyable. This is when the Badger Teachers share thought, wisdom, and perspective, questions that your children shared with us or each other. I hope you all ponder, wonder, and laugh as much as we did, after reading these quotes.

“I’m gonna be a surprise for my momma, it’s gonna be so freakin out.”

“My cereal gave me a gift!”

“I’m gonna have that yesterday.”

“I went to the United States Thursday.” (Washington DC)

“We both have apples that mean we love each other.”

“Mom says I have camel pee.”

“Can you turn off the window please?”

“Now let’s review…….”

“It feels like it’s a bull in a china shop day.”

“Hi toots.”

“I have a Hazmat suit on.”

“Mommy doesn’t want me to have skittles, but I do like corn syrup.”

“I’m three years old, so I know.”

“Your hair is leaking.”

“I ate so many beans, that I have the toots.”

“Like my new boots? They’re made of lamb.”

“My daddy is on the nice list.”

“When I jump it tickles my nose.”

“My dad is 13 years old.”

“This feels like a magical day.”

“On valentine’s day I’m going to make Christmas cookies with my mom.”

“I didn’t see you see me.”

“I’m not busted, I’m not dirt.”

“Mermaids eat chestnuts.”

“I wasn’t there tomorrow.”

“I’m wearing clocks today.”

“Bumblebees eat flowers or steak.”

“My life is too funny to share.”

“I’m hot; I’m ready for some water and to take off my clothes.”

“See the wind? It’s so blowy.”

“Close your eyes and be still, you will feel the love from someone far away.”

“I went on a boat ride to the specific ocean to California.”

“That was serious gas!”

“It’s different looking in here, it’s like a patio.”

“We were smelling the snow, and it smelled like cheese.”

“Spiders are magical.”

“When it’s time to go on the potty, you just need to accept it.”

Thankyou Badger Families for sharing and trusting us with your funny, creative, busy, inquisitive children.

On behalf of the Badger Teachers

Terri, Miranda, Judy

News from the Black Bears

Amy McLellan,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand

Liz Harrington

It's time to say goodbye
Our year has come to an end.
We've made some happy memories
With all our preschool friends.
It's with these happy memories
We all go out the door.
With great hopes and expectations
For what next year holds in store!

Dear Black Bear Families,

Liz, Barb, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for trusting us to love and care for your children this year.

Whether moving to a new school, a new house, or starting another year in the Black Bears, we are all headed for our next great adventure.
Hold on tight, and enjoy the ride!

And remember...” Once a Black Bear, Always a Black Bear!”

The Black Bear Team,

Amy, Barb, & Liz





Dear families and friends of children at DCCCC,

Our 2017 – 2018 school year will begin at DCCCC on Wednesday, August 30. Teachers have already been preparing themselves and the children for some time now. Some children will change classrooms. Some families will leave us permanently. New children and families will be joining us. It may be helpful if I pass on some of the things we have learned from having experienced this, and other, changes many times.

Many of us, children and adults, feel ambivalent about making changes. On the one hand, we are eager for the new experience and excited about the possibilities. Children may be looking forward to changing classrooms as a benchmark in the growing up process, as they might a birthday. On the other hand, we are sad to say some of the necessary good-byes, uncertain about the details of the upcoming experience and perhaps a little anxious. Let us assure you that ambivalence is normal. It is typical for us, child and adult alike, to vacillate between forward-leaning and heel-dragging. We encourage you to honor each part of the experience in its own time. Don't skimp on the good-byes or rush through the sad moments. Help your child formulate and express his or her concerns. When your child is ready, be sure to share the excitement of getting to know new friends and having new activities and experiences.

The most important thing we can do to help the children during transitions is to be confident that the changes are, on the whole, good ones. This is a job for 'grown-ups'. If you have doubts or questions, work them out with other adults, perhaps in talking with us and with other parents. When we are sure that the experience will be positive and are in a position to take pride in the children's growth, we can empathize with their fears and model confidence at the same time. We can say things like, "I'm going to miss your teachers, too" and linger there a moment, not being in too much of a rush to say, "But I like your new teachers!" and "We'll come back to visit."

Whether changing schools or classrooms, or remaining in the same place, making transitions is work. Be patient with your child and with yourself and with us, for that matter. Expect temporary behavioral changes. New routines and caretakers may create short term changes in eating, sleeping and toileting patterns. Often children revert to an earlier stage of dependency, needing extra reassurance from you when you leave them in the morning. Sometimes children seem to burst into new levels of independence, telling you that "you may go now," perhaps even before you are ready. If I were to predict one temporary change, I would imagine that your child will be more tired than usual at the end of the day. For many children, that means being grumpy or 'impossible' in the evenings. Being part of something new always takes a little extra energy. My advice: stay calm, keep familiar routines at home and plan early meals and bedtimes.

We urge you to express your concerns and ask questions of us. Knowing that the coming and going times of the day are busy ones, call us or prearrange an informal parent conference. Your child's current teacher is your best source of information about how things are going, but old teachers, other parents and I can be helpful, too. Your child's teacher will have copies of a pamphlet on this topic, "So Many Good-byes."

So, farewell and welcome, all in the same breath,
Big Jeff

Moving On Up: Transitioning to the Next Early Childhood Classroom

<https://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/e-family-news/2011-moving-on-up-transitioning-to-the-next-early-childhood-classroom>

As young children transition to the next early childhood classroom there can be some anxiety for both the child and the parents. Separation anxiety is a normal reaction. Leaving the familiar faces of teachers and entering into a new environment can be difficult for anyone.

Sometimes the pain of separation seems to hurt us more than our children. Most children quickly adapt to a new classroom, especially if it is in the same school with familiar friends.

Here are some tips to help transitions and separations:

- **Know Your Child, and Realize that Each Child's Response Is Different**
We all want our children to take to their caregivers with eager enthusiasm, but children's responses to transition and separation depend upon their age, temperament, and experience.
- **Be Positive**
Our children have incredible intuitive skills. They sense our anxiety and hesitation. As the first day for transition draws near, begin talking to your child about what to expect and about any concerns or fears they might have. Present school as a place where he'll learn new things and make friends.
- **Establish a Drop-Off Ritual**
Developing a quick, simple way to say "good-bye" and reassuring our children that we will return will help separation go more smoothly. Sneaking out creates a sense of mistrust.
- **Tune-In to Your Child's Behavior**
During times of change, our children may have behavior regressions, delayed reactions or even outbursts at pick-up time. It's all normal. We can reassure them with positive comments, physical affection, and love.
- **Make a Connection between Home and School**
Little things from home may make our children feel more comfortable: a blanket, a stuffed animal, or for infants, a scarf with mommy's smell. Photographs also help. Try laminating a favorite picture or compile a little photo album.
- **Contact the Program to See How the Day Is Going**
If our children are upset when we leave them, we can feel uneasy or guilty. Just knowing they are okay can help us settle down and have a good day.

Adapting to transition and overcoming separation anxiety may take time for some of us, both young and old. Transition times are learning times for our children and us. Remember that becoming comfortable in a new classroom is an ongoing process, not just a single event. Our children learn through consistent experience that each goodbye, as hard as it may be, is followed by our happy return.

A Successful Kindergarten Transition

<http://parents.nea.org/providing-emotional-support/a-successful-kindergarten-transition/>

Every parent can empathize with those first day of kindergarten mixed emotions. Entering the school system is a big step for both you and your child, and the anxiety that comes with it is perfectly normal. However, planning ahead can make this time less stressful for everyone involved. To get ready for your child to enter kindergarten you should:

- Schedule an appointment with your child's pediatrician to make sure that his or her immunizations and health screenings are up-to-date.
- Give your child's current preschool program permission to share documents and information with the new school.
- Attend an open house or schedule a tour of your child's new school before school starts.
- Meet your child's new teacher and share your ideas about your child's interests, strengths and any areas of concern.
- Find out how you can become involved in your child's classroom, school committees, and the PTA.

While getting the logistics squared away is important, taking care of your child's emotional transition should also be a top concern. Having a successful entry into kindergarten will help your child have a positive attitude about school and learning. To get your child ready for kindergarten, you should:

- Read books about starting kindergarten.
- Talk enthusiastically with your child about starting kindergarten.
- Reassure your child's feelings of anxiety or fear.
- Plan for your child to visit his or her new school.
- Tell your child about the kinds of work he or she will be doing in kindergarten.
- Talk about and practice new routines.
- Spend extra time on the first day of school but do not "drag out" saying good-bye.

No matter the amount of preparation, that first day of school is likely to be an emotional roller coaster. Take deep breaths, snap a photo or two and get ready for a great year!

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