



# Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

Summer 2018

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**Office:** Sunnie McPhetres,  
Dawn Cote, Karen Small

### Floating Team

Terri Crane, Kristin Cole,  
Megan Wheeler, Maya  
Lopez, Sue Downey

## We Said, “Good-bye” to Big Jeff (and an era)



1984



2018





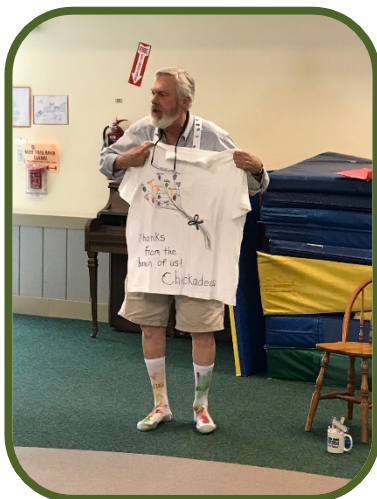
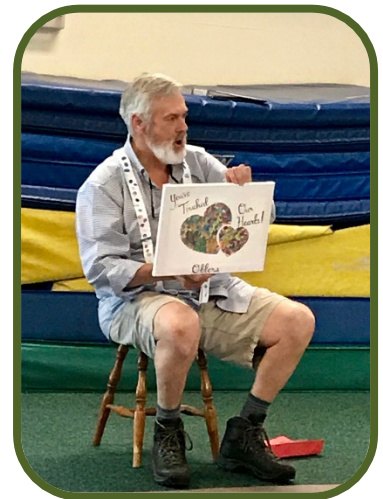
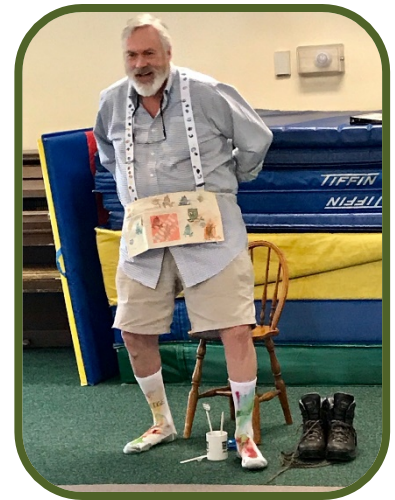
Big Jeff's last day was July 27. The children and staff had a great send off for him in June. Each class presented him with amazing gifts!

The halls of DCCCC will not be the same without Big Jeff especially around 5:30! When you are running a bit late, just imagine Jeff gently urging you to move out the door.

Jeff already had the pleasure of watching his son, Nick receive a Doctoral degree. He is now a nurse anesthetist.

We've received word that Jeff is ready to begin his camping journey! Life here will not be the same without him, but we are happy that he can enjoy life outside of DCCCC!

I'm sure that we will see him again someday and hear about all of his adventures!



# **One Last Dear Big Jeff**

Dear Big Jeff,

Our baby is due Oct 6th. I believe the school cut off age for the area is Sept 30th, which means (I think) if she's a bit early she might be in a different school year than if she's on time or late. If she's born in Sept, would she be in a different class at DCCCC than if she's born in October? Do you know if there is flexibility in local public Kindergarten enrollment?

Thanks for your assistance,  
Parent of a Black Bear 2023 or 2024?

Dear '23 or '24,

This is a question I've spent a lot of time with! Both of my children have September birthdays, two years apart. The K cut-off date was Sept. 1 when they were born, then changed to Sept 30 before they went to Kindergarten, so we had plenty of opportunity to consider the difference between being oldest vs. youngest in the class. I can tell you right away that I don't know which is best. Actually, I'm pretty sure there isn't a "best." In our case we opted for our children to wait a year to start Kindergarten and to be the oldest in their classes to provide more time to develop social competence, self-esteem and basic academic proficiencies. They had all the skills they needed, of course, but it seemed like an auspicious start. I'm reasonably sure it was for my son, because his 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher immediately made it hard to be an active, social child. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school, most of the boys had their desks pushed up against the teachers' either as punishment or "to help them concentrate" depending on your perspective. I'm confident that had he been a year younger it would have been even more difficult.

On the other hand, I once asked my adult daughter if we had made the right decision for her to wait a year. She said, "Absolutely not! All the cool girls were in the class above me." Nonetheless, she went on to be valedictorian of her high school class, completed her education at Brown with Honors and went on for graduate study. It reminds me how hard it is to predict the outcome of our parenting decisions or, for that matter, to ever know if we made the right ones.

To further humble me, I recall when I was a young teacher and I firmly recommended to a family that they have their very quiet, just barely old enough for Kindergarten child wait a

year. They decided not to take my advice and by the end of Kindergarten, the child was academically solid, socially mature and rather outgoing. I rarely make a recommendation anymore.

But to answer your question about DCCCC, children are indeed grouped by age. The youngest classes are not aligned with date of Kindergarten entry. The first class is for infants and toddlers up to the age about 15 months in Sept, so in your baby's case, her birthday on the cusp wouldn't make a difference. The rest of our classes are indeed grouped by age, but the "cut-off" dates vary from year to year depending on the children who are here and their ages. My goal has always been to put together congenial groups of children who are not, generally, more than about 12 months apart in age. Cohorts typically stay together although the children who start in the infant-toddler room will skip a class at some point, as they will go to Kindergarten in 5 years and there are 6 age groups. On the other end of the spectrum, it has always worked out that the oldest group is comprised of kids the year before they go to Kindergarten. Sometimes kids with a just under the cutoff birthdays do that program for 2 years, depending on space available, which group they were in previously, teachers' perspective and parents' preference. Parents of the kids who are youngest the first year and oldest the second year are usually very happy with the growth, both socially and academically, during the second year. Of course families whose children wait a year to be in our oldest group are very happy, too! Each set of circumstances is a little different. Although there may be years when not all of the children who will go to Kindergarten will be Black Bears, some may go directly from the Badgers.

As for public schools, yes, the cut-off is September 30 in all the towns that I am aware of. A particular town may have more flexibility than another, but they do pretty much stick to the cut-off dates. There are a few private schools that may take Kindergartners early, but then there may be the question of what grade they will be in when they transfer to public schools (if they do). In the immediate area there is a Waldorf school, a Montessori school and one based on the Core Knowledge philosophy.

In ending, I have a suggestion that I would have given myself 30 years ago and one that I almost always give to parents in this situation (as well as in many other, unrelated situations) – do your best to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. So very many things may change, and we will all be that much older and wiser ourselves by the time a decision is needed. Periodic check-ins with your child's teachers, followed by nice long gaps in which you are just enjoying your parenthood, are a great idea.

Best  
Jeff



## From the Director



How weird is this? You are reading *From the Director* and it isn't from Big Jeff! I am half-way into my second solo week as Director of the Dartmouth College Child Care Center. It still sounds kind of strange to hear that. I have taken phone calls asking for *The Director* and it takes a couple of seconds for me to realize that is me!

I went away for awhile and really enjoyed what I was doing at the Community College of Vermont. With that being said, I am very happy to be *home*. I have no illusions of *replacing* Big Jeff! I'll bring my own strengths and flair to this position. I won't have the same awe-inspiring presence in the green house at the end of the day. I will always be available to chat whenever you would like to chat. I'll make decisions, give advice, be a listening ear, and a helping hand wherever I can.

There has been a question about what the children should call me now that I am the Director. One of the Badgers has decided that my name is *Principal Sunnie*. I'm open to suggestions – does anyone have any ideas? The only limit is that it cannot be Big Sunnie!

I'm really looking forward to the years ahead here at D4C! We have a phenomenal staff and we are being joined by even more phenomenal staff (more about that later in the newsletter). The teaching staff here bring so much knowledge and experience to provide an amazing program for children. It will be very exciting to bring in several new staff members with fresh ideas and perspectives. Put the two together and we are in for great times ahead!

Wishing you all well,

Sunnie

P.S. On the personal side, I am a parent as well and have many stories to tell! For right now, I'll just share a picture of my three children.



Andrea (21) Claire (19) Crory (34)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS/RESOURCES

## Save the Date

Coming to a Multi near you!

**Friday, October 5  
will be picture day!**

Peter of Swett of Doughty Falls  
Photography will be back yet  
again to photograph children and  
families.

Peter produces some amazing  
photographs. Siblings are  
welcome to come to be  
photographed as well.

Dawn will send more information  
closer to picture day!

## DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

**-Monday and Tuesday, August 27 and  
28, 2018**, Transition Days (First day of new  
groups will be Wednesday, August 29)

**-Monday September 3** – Labor Day

**-Thursday/Friday, November 22 and 23**  
Thanksgiving break

**-December 24-January 1** – Christmas and  
Winter Break

## From Parenting NH

Thinking about taking a hike with  
your children? Check out this article  
for some kid friendly hiking spots  
(just click on the link):

[Family Friendly Hiking Spots in NH](#)

Or if you are just looking for  
something different to do:

[12 offbeat and unique things to do  
with your families](#)

# STAFF UPDATES

Wow! There are so many staffing changes to report! We have staff members retiring, changing positions and joining our team. Here's the run-down!

## In the Office:

- Jeff retired.
- Sunnie returned as the Director (I just can't stay away).
- We have concluded our interviews with potential Assistant Directors. The pool of candidates is very impressive. We are ready to check references and make an offer soon.

## In the Black Bear Room:

- Liz will be having a baby (Theo) – Theo will decide the time.
- Barb is retiring – her last day will be September 4.
- Kristen Brown has joined the Black Bears as the Lead Teacher She has a Bachelor's Degree from UNH in Human Development and Family Studies-Child Development. Kristen spent several years working at the UNH Child Study and Development Center. She very excited to continue the Black Bear's strong focus on project based learning. She has already settled in!
- Judy Labrie will be moving up with the current Badgers into the Black Bear Room as an Associate Teacher.
- Gerry Bott will join us August 20 as an Associate Teacher in the Black Bear room. Gerry has an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Grand Rapids Community College. Gerry has worked with children of varying ages. He also has carpentry skills – what fun for four year olds! Gerry is beyond excited to join Kristen and Judy as the Black Bear team for the 2018-2019 year.

## In the Badger Room:

- Brandi Tobin will join the Badger team August 13 as an Associate Teacher. Brandi has a background in Early Childhood Education and has worked at several child care facilities. She brings a great deal of energy, experience, enthusiasm, and knowledge to compliment Terri and Miranda on the Badger team.

## In the Otter Room:

- Vasso Iliopoulos will join Stephanie and Vipasha as an Associate Teacher. Vasso has an Associate Degree from Surry Community College. She has worked as a Floating Assistant Teacher here at DCCCC

before taking a 5 week trip to Greece. She will return August 27 just in time for the new group of Otters!

In the Hedgehog Room:

- Jennifer has taken a position with the Windsor School District in Vermont.
- Danielle Field will join the Hedgehog team August 13 as the Lead Teacher. Danielle has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education / English Literature from Keene State College. Danielle has experience working with toddlers and twos in several other child care locations. She is excited to join Jenn and Angelica in creating an amazing year for the upcoming Hedgehogs

Owls, Chickadees, Chickadees Too: NO CHANGES!

On the Float Team:

- When Liz returns from her maternity leave, she will join the Float Team so that she has more time and energy to devote to her family!
- Jennifer doesn't want to completely leave us so she will float two days a week.

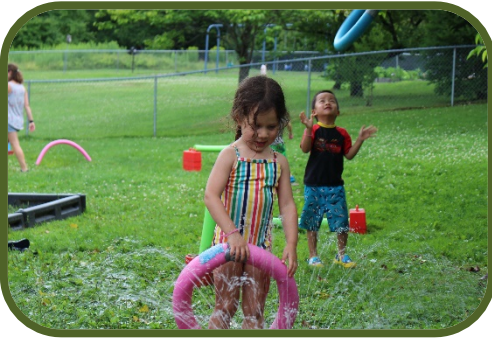
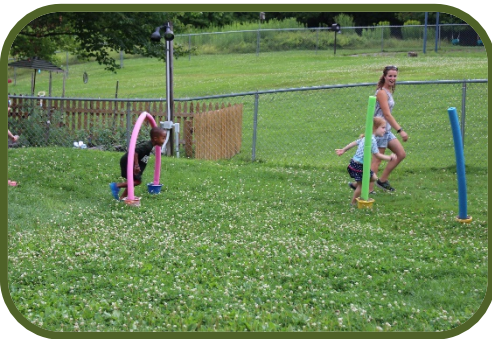
Lots of changes! Don't worry if you don't know all of the players right now. In September I plan to publish a who's who at DCCCC complete with pictures!

Sunnie



## Recent Events at DCCCC

# WATER DAY 2018



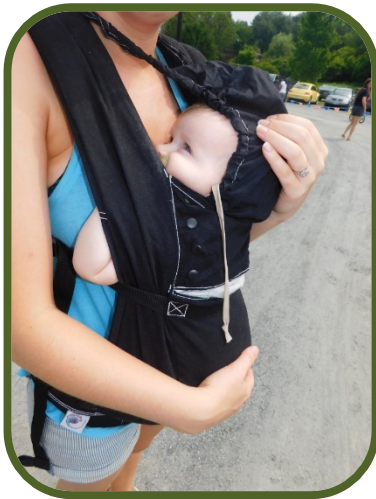


# News from the Chickadee Ones

Ali Hull  
Lead Teacher

Denise Ayers

Deserai Stone



Greetings from the Chickadees,

We chickadees wish time would slow down. The summer flew by and before we know it some of the chickadees will be moving to the owls. It is always a bitter sweet time in the chickadee room as we prepare them for their new classroom & begin to say our goodbyes.

A few months ago we said our goodbyes to RJ & Andy who moved up to the owls for the summer. We are still greeted with big hugs from them when we see them. In the fall they will be joining the hedgehog classroom. Angela, Aiden, Fallyn, and Simon will be joining the owls in the fall.

Angela is beginning to talk more and she loves playing outside in the sandbox. Aiden says so many words now we have lost count. His favorite word is “mono” aka lawnmower. Fallyn is always on the move and helps out a lot with the babies. Simon returned from Argentina and has melted our hearts with his amazing dance moves and kisses.

Since last time we welcomed Benjamin, Maia, and Michael to the chickadees. Benjamin is such a snuggle bug and always smiling. Maia is always babblings and rolling around. Michael is full of smiles and learning to move around. We are looking forward to having them this coming year.

Sonia, Dorothea, Harvey, Jack will still be Chickadees in the fall and we will welcome Ava & Delores. Sonia is talking up a storm and she and Dorothea are partners in crime. Dorothea just returned from Rome and is happy to be back. She is crawling all over now. Harvey has been spending the summer with his dad. We miss him dearly but he stops in to visit. We are looking forward to him coming back in September. Jack is full of energy and always giving open mouth kisses. We are very excited to continue with some of these children and get to know Ava & Delores.

We celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with our annual bike parade. The children loved being outside (although hot). (see the pictures).



We had our annual water day celebration July 24<sup>th</sup>. The children loved playing in the water and washing the toy cars.

It is with heavy hearts that we said bye to Jeff. He has retired from D4C and planning to go on a big trip. He will be missed very much! Sunnie has made her return and we are excited to have her back. The center is looking forward to all that's to come.



Upcoming:

Family Picnic-Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup>

\*The center will be close August 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. We open back up for the new school year August 29<sup>th</sup>.

From the Chickadee Room,  
Ali





# News from the Chickadee Toos

Teresa Hahn,  
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins

Moya Stevens

Can you believe it is August already? Change is in the air... exciting, yet this is the hard time of the year for me emotionally. We are helping the children spend time in their new rooms and getting to know their teachers, but also enjoying the time we have left together.

Zelda and Ari both turned two in July and Solene will be two in August. They will be making the journey to Hedgehogs. We have enjoyed 2 years with Zelda and appreciate being a part of her journey from infant to toddler. Ari, Solene and Zelda have been gaining lots of new vocabulary and are so much fun to converse with.

We have been joined by a new friend, Charlie. He will be one in October, so he will stay with us in the fall. He is working very hard to become mobile. He is scooting all around on his bottom and pulling up to stand. He may decide to skip crawling and move right on to walking.

Sanna turned one at the end of July. Wow, what a difference a year can make! She has grown so much and is a delightful presence in our room. Sanna will remain a Chickadee.

Morgan will also be staying another year with us. She is taking some cautious steps on her own and is willing and able to climb everything!

Sabina has been vacationing this summer but will be back for August. We are delighted to have her back for a while before she leaves us for the Owl room.

Netta, who also be moving to Owls has really come into her own. She is quite independent and is talking up a storm.

Campbell has gained a sister over the summer. She will join the Chickadees, as he moves on to Owls. He is ready for some big boy fun and activities in the Owl room.







Madison has charmed us with her never ending energy and enthusiasm. She is moving and talking nonstop and has been so much fun. She will share her good times with the Owls.



Basil will also be moving on to Owls, She has gone from the happiest baby to the happiest toddler. She is talking, dancing and whistling her way through life.

Sam has become the Chickadee Cassanova, wooing the girls with all his charm. His hilarious antics will be sorely missed.

It has been a fabulous year! The time has gone so quickly. I appreciate you all sharing your families with us.

Please join us for a family picnic on Thursday August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00- 6:30. Bring your family and a picnic for yourselves. We will provide drinks and dessert.

Thank you all,

Teresa for Chickadee Too



# News from the Owls

Debbie Burnham,  
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin

April Buchanan

Thank you for sharing your child and your family with us this year. Each year at this time we look back at pictures from our beginning and it is amazing just how much your child has grown! Our classroom is now full of two year olds who have strong friendships, language and opinions. We have loved being part of this growth.

Petra was unsure of us at the beginning and she wanted "Mommie" most of the day. Now she enjoys her time here. She is happy and independent. And she is also fully potty trained!

Vartan started in our room friendly, but he now has strong friendships. He plans out what he wants to do for play and calls to his friends to join him. He loves to jump and run!

Eason was a little quiet at his start, but now he talks and sings all day. He has become very silly, especially at the lunch table. He is extremely comfortable here and is a great friend.

Adeline came to us with a short nap history. She sleeps better now, talks non-stop and loves to learn. She greets everyone that comes into the classroom, asks questions and has an opinion on most subjects.

Franz was hesitant at the beginning of the school year. Now he calms quickly when mom or dad leave and joins in most activities. He has developed a strong sense of humor and his smile makes us smile!

Hudson had a big year-he became a Big Brother! He loves to do jobs and work on our vehicles. Hudson shows us his strength but pulling wagons full of children around the yard.







Nolan talks in full conversations, but his favorite word is "WHY?". He is also potty trained. He is a cuddler and is willing to do anything asked of him.

RJ and Andy joined us recently, but these two are best friends. They ask for each other when one hasn't arrived for the day yet.



We have enjoyed being a part of your lives and watching the changes in each Owl. We will continue to watch them from across the fence!

Thank you again.

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! We love this time of year to look back on how much everyone has grown and all that they have accomplished. Thank you to families for a wonderful time over this past year. We will be having our end of the year celebration on Friday, August 24th at 4:00pm. The Hedgehogs will make a delicious snack, put on a small performance, and we will watch a slideshow. I have included a few favorite group pictures from the year!







# News from the Otters

Stephanie Cummings,  
Lead Teacher

Vipasha Oza

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 warm 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 into puddles. The children enjoy playing with the hose pipe while a teacher controls the different settings. They come close for the mist setting and try to run away when the shower setting comes on. Sometimes they ask us to soak them with water. 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, as the Otters observed the sights and noises of their surroundings. We learnt about camping and spent the whole day outside. In addition to this the Otters made s'mores and enjoyed dramatic play with a tent set up in the classroom. The highlight of this theme for the children was being able to sleep in the tent at nap times. The Otters spent two weeks learning about food and farming. The children were able to experience life on a real farm as we visited Billing's Farm in Woodstock, VT. The children interacted with items that belong to animals and we did a small group activity to identify which animal it belonged to. They were able to touch goats, sheep, cows, calves and horses. Back in the classroom we made butter, learnt how to milk a cow and how sheep are sheared. The children were able to learn new things through real life experiences, play, manipulatives and videos.

One of our most recent themes has been space, this was a particular favorite for the children. Libby's dad, Ryan, came in to talk about Nebulae and the children created their own and named it. They created their own rockets, made marble planets and threw rocks

to make craters on the moon. At the end of the week we had an astronaut training day, the Otters learnt to 'walk' in space, 'fly' rockets and ate food in bags like astronauts. What a fun, exciting Summer we have had!

It has been amazing to watch the progress that all of the Otters have made in their comfort level with animals. At the start they were introduced to my chicks (who have now all started laying eggs), Jordan's dog Tyrion and Stephanie's dog Copper. It has been incredible to see the transformation of the children's attitude to animals in this time. At the beginning they thought that all dogs were scary and would bite them. They have learnt to ask the owners if a dog is safe to pet, and once they know it is, they have learnt how to greet and pet a dog to make them feel comfortable. It is clear to see how they have become more comfortable handling animals and comfortable with them moving around them. After his visit, the Otters requested for Copper to come back. Copper came back to celebrate his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and the Otters build upon their skills of handling animals.

Sandy, Cody and their family are making a big transition as they relocate to Florida, we will miss them all! We are talking about this move with all the children to help them understand that Sandy will not be moving to the Badger room with them.

Don't forget our End of year celebration on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 pictures of their year in the Otters. We have folders with all the children's photos from the year, if you would like all the photos that have been taken over the year, please bring in a USB stick and we will transfer your child's photos onto it.

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 also thank you for the support you have shown the Otter program. We have been thrilled that parents have been able to join us to lead activities for the children in the class. 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

Hello Dear Families,

This is the last newsletter to you all as Badger Families. The last letter is also one of the all-time favorite letters to put together. It represents your children's thoughts, however honest, silly, warm, confusing, and humorous they may be.

Sit back and enjoy the years' worth of quotes that came from your children!

"Holy Toledo! That's a big poop."

"I went to the place where they brush and erase hairs."

"My grandchildren are called Nana and Poppy."

"My dad is the best mac and cheeser ever!"

"I like the wind blowing in my hair; it makes my whole body feel

good."

"I don't like soup in my life."

"Mom and dad babysit me."

"I'm like my very own teacher."

"When I poop that is called a real butt ache."

"A go mommy is when mommy brings you to daycare then goes."

"After soon I can blow a kiss."

"My mom can do a great cackle."

"You're just an everyday kind of teacher."

"We are just guys." Response: "No we are men."

"I have old man pajamas at home, too."

"I need cutlery."

"I have uphill and downhill skis."

"I just burped out of my butt."

"My dad is going to work to sleep."

"You knocked over my heart."

"Can I want that?"

"You did a bad habit."

"In the olden days they milked horses first."

"I just saw nothing."

"I like those cute little letters."

"I just love when you talk about me."

"It's goop. Its organic goop."

"My home is very beautiful."

"I want more seconds."

“I still hear that sound, its yellow.”

“My penis keeps interrupting me.”

Teacher “Ouch, you poked me with your sharp fingernails.”

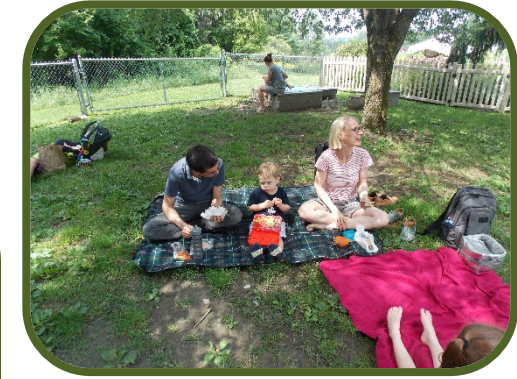
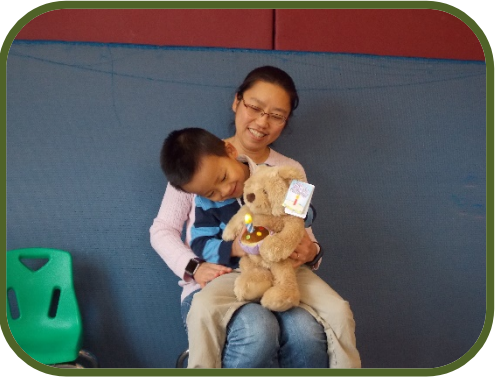
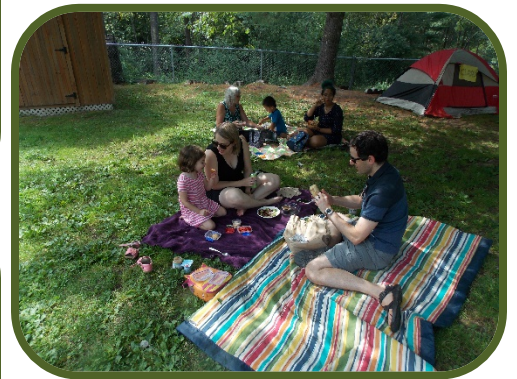
Child “I was just trying to entertain you.”

Thank you so very much for trusting and sharing your children with us.

Terri, Miranda, and Judy









# News from the Black Bears

Liz Harrington,  
Lead Teacher

Kristen Brown,  
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand

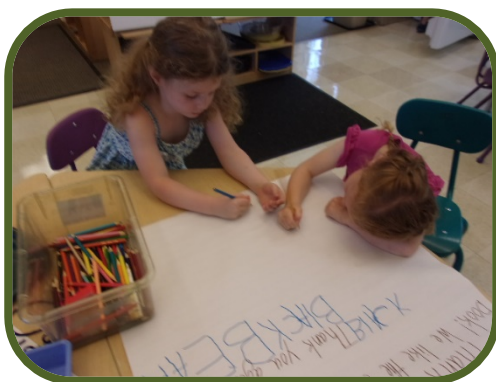
Can you believe that it is already August? I certainly can not- that is for sure. Your Black Bear has spent an amazing year learning and growing with us!

Whether your child be moving on to kindergarten, a brand new state, or staying in the Black Bear room for another year- there are many wonderful changes in their future! These changes are a part of what makes life so exciting and help all of us grow and develop over time.

Barb and I have enjoyed this time both with you and your child. We also wish all the best to Kristen, Judy, and Gerry as they embark on their own Black Bear journey this coming year.

And always remember: "Once a Black Bear, always a Black Bear."

For the Last Time,  
Liz









## Medication Safety Information for Parents

Every 8 minutes in the United States, an adult makes an error when giving a child medicine—and more than 60,000 kids end up in the emergency room because they accidentally got into some medicine when an adult wasn't looking.

We hope you're finding value in the helpful—and possibly life-saving—tips we've been sending. There will be one more email sent to you after this one, so don't forget to take your quiz today and next time!

### **Medication Safety Tip #5: Clean out your medicine cabinet.**

If your medicine cabinet is filled with expired or unused medications, it is time for some spring cleaning!

#### **How to safely dispose of old medicines:**

- Check the label or package to find the expiration date. Expired medications can lose their strength or be harmful. This is true for over-the-counter as well as prescription medicines.



- Do not flush or pour medicines down the drain unless the drug label or patient information material specifically states that it is safe to do so. It can be harmful for pipes and your community water supply.
- See if your community has a drug or household hazardous waste disposal program that takes medicines. If not, mix medicines with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal tightly in a plastic bag or container, and throw them away where children cannot get them.
- When disposing of medicines, remember to remove any labels with personal information.

**Shopping tip:** This is also a good time to take inventory and stock up on medicines you may want to have on hand just in case someone in your house gets sick. [Here are some ideas.](#)

**Visit [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org) for more medication safety information.**



[How to Use Liquid Medications](#)



[Medication Safety \(video\)](#)



[Choosing Over-the-Counter Medications for Your Child](#)