Dartmouth College
Child Care Center
Newsletter
FALL 2018

In This Issue:

From the Director pg. 2
Fall Reminders pg. 4
Assist. Director pg. 5
Things to Know pg. 6
Recent Events pg. 7
Chickadee One pg 8
Chickadee Too pg 12
Owl pg 14
Hedgehog pg 16
Otter pg 18
Badger pg 21
Black Bear pg 23

Office: Sunnie McPhetres,
   Abby Plummer Dawn Cote, Karen Small

Floating Team
Terri Crane, Kristin Cole, Liz Harrington, Sue Downey,
Maya Lopez, Megan Wheeler

Fall Festival
2018
From the Director

This is a space where many of you have become accustomed to reading Dear Big Jeff messages. I have grappled with what I can do to match his offerings. The truth is – I can’t! Here is what you can expect from me: each month you’ll get some kind of reflection from me. It may be about something that is happening now or it may be a reminiscence from my early parenting or teaching days (many, many years ago).

This month, I have three related stories from my experiences to share with you. The first is a story from my son’s first child care center experience. When my son was a young preschooler, I arrived to pick him up at the end of the day and was informed that he had needed to be disciplined because he had been jumping up and down on chairs with another child and saying some very bad words. I was horrified and embarrassed. The teachers at the time didn’t really have any advice to give about how I could help – I didn’t even want to bring him back the next day because I was worried that other parents would look at him as a “bad boy.” He wasn’t a bad boy but they would only hear about the bad things that he did.

The second story is from my teaching days. A parent came to me because her child was coming home and reporting that some children in the class were being mean to her and saying bad words to her. I completely understood the parent’s concerns and explained the process that I follow when I hear children using inappropriate language. But I also had to share that I had not heard language that I thought was inappropriate. I asked what her child was reporting so that I could listen more actively. The parent replied, “I think that saying that they are going to roll in Icky Chocolate is pretty inappropriate!”

Story three comes from a teacher who worked here years ago. A parent came to her with a concern that their child was swearing at home. The parent was very distraught and didn’t know where their child was hearing such horrible words. The teacher was surprised and said, “Oh my God! Really?” That was all the parent needed to hear because that was exactly the phrase that concerned them.

Now, over 30 years later, I have given advice to families about this issue more times than you can imagine. I give the advice that I wish had been given to me. I’d like to share some of that advice with you now.

Things that we know about preschool children:

- They are going to experiment with language.
- They watch us to see how we react to something new.
- They bring home things that they are trying to make sense out of so that they can figure things out in a safe space.
• They tell us the worrisome things because that is what they are trying to make sense out of; they don’t need to tell us about all the good things that happened during the day.

• They have many influences outside of the home; when they are in a group child care setting, those influences increase exponentially because they have their own experiences and the combined experiences of all the children in their class.

• Each family has a different tolerance for language. There are some words that we mostly agree are not appropriate but there are other words that vary from family to family.

When your child comes home saying things that you don’t feel are appropriate:

Try to figure out if your child is just experimenting, trying to get a reaction, or is expressing a feeling. The first two only require a basic reaction (virtually no reaction): ignore it the first time. If it happens again, calmly state, “We don’t use that word here.” Resist the urge to ask where they heard such a word because that will just give the word more power and importance. If your child is expressing a feeling you can help them find other ways to express their feelings. You can help by modeling how to appropriately respond to frustration or anger or disappointment.

When your child comes home saying, “________ said __________ today,” they are probably trying to make sense out of something new to them. They heard the word, didn’t understand it or the situation, and perhaps saw some strong reactions to the word. This is a good time to ask, “How did that make you feel?” Knowing what they need for support is most helpful! The best response is to say, “People say lots of things that we don’t agree with. That’s not something that we say here but other families might not feel the same way. Would you like me to talk to your teacher to let them know that it bothers you? Your teachers can help you tell ________ that you don’t like it.”

When a child is visiting your home and uses inappropriate language, you can address it directly with the child with a simple, “We don’t use that word here.”

The most important part of the whole situation is that you take advantage of the opportunity to reinforce your family values and to help your child see that they can be an advocate for themselves. When we put away our first reactions of horror or anger and see the opportunity to use the situation for a positive outcome, things look a little different. I wish that someone had told me that so many years ago; I had to figure it out for myself!

Wishing you all well,

Sunnie
The Usual Fall Reminders

- Access Card: if you don’t have one, please go get it. If you have one, please, please use it.
- Check with your child’s teachers to see how they celebrate birthdays and other special events.
- Children must always be with an adult: no wandering, running ahead or waiting in the Multi please; this applies to older siblings as well.
- The Multi closes at 5:00. This helps everyone leave a bit more smoothly.
- DCCCC closes at 5:30. Really. Late pick-up charges are assessed for departures after 5:30. That means that you have to be out of the building (not just arriving) by 5:30.
- Sign in/out every day.
- Let your child’s teacher know when you are leaving with your child.
- Keep lots of extra clothes in your child’s cubby. We value messiness!
- Always send outerwear. Every day is an outside day!
- Make sure we know how to reach you. If you are in a different place for the day, let your child’s teacher know.
- There’s a parent bulletin board outside the office with articles and events for families.
- Pamphlets, newspapers, and other resources are in the bookshelf to the right of the multi door if you arrive through the main door.
- A lending library of resource books for parents is also located outside the office. Other titles are available, too.
- Be careful on Reservoir Road; the speed limit is low for a very good reason!
- Be extra careful in the D4C driveway. Children are entering and exiting vehicles so be aware!
- Check in with your child’s teacher with any concerns that you may have.
From the Assistant Director’s Desk

Hello DCCCC families!

I am SO excited to be here! These past weeks have flown by. They’ve been filled with subbing in classrooms, creating a training calendar for the staff, taking over the hiring process for students/float staff and partnering with Sunnie on future projects! I have enjoyed floating to different parts of the building and setting up temporary offices. I am now in my own space!

During the month of November, I will be doing a workshop for the staff called “Mindfulness and Bringing it into the Classroom”. Mindfulness has become a word we hear often, but what does it mean? How does it affect the brain? I will talk about how we need to, first, practice mindfulness with ourselves and then ways we can bring it into the classroom. I hopped on the mindfulness train a few years ago, when I brought it into my classroom. Since then, I have become very passionate about it and enjoy teaching others about the importance.

It is hard to not share pictures of my family- Jeremy (the tall one) and Brody (soon to be the tall one, 16 months).

Best,
Abby Plummer
Things to Know

Dartmouth November Swim School

The winter break Swim School will occur November 26-28. If you’d like to register your child for learn to swim or dive, group or private, lessons taught by members of the varsity swimming and diving team, please go to the following link on the Dartmouth Athletic’s ticket webpage:
https://tickets.dartmouth.edu/online/article/swimschool

More info:
http://vox.dartmouth.edu/archive?id=3999

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:
-Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, Thanksgiving Break
-December 24-January 1, 2018, Winter Break
-Monday, April 8, 2018, In-service Training
-Monday, May 27, 2018, Memorial Day
-Thursday, July 4, 2018, Independence Day
(anticipated: Monday and Tuesday, August 26 and 27, 2018, Transition Days – subject to change)

Is Your Department Updating Their Letterhead?

Do you have any old letter head or other scrap paper that would be appropriate for children to draw on?

We would love some donations!

Gratitude Basket

You may have noticed gratitude baskets popping up around campus. We have a gratitude basket located in our staff workroom (to the right inside the main entrance).

If you notice something that you are grateful for, feel free to pop in, take a card, fill it out and have it delivered!
Recent Events at DCCCC

Wellness Day
--Welcome to the 2018 & 2019 School year & welcome to the Chickadee One classroom--

We are so excited to have your children with us (some a second year & some brand new). We ended the last year saying goodbye to a wonderful group of children who moved on to the owl classroom and are doing so well. We still get to see them every day and give them lots of love. Many of the classrooms at DCCCC will say “once a ____ always a ____,” but it goes without saying “once a chickadee always a chickadee.” Past families please come visit us!

Welcome back Sunnie! Although she announced her return last newsletter she is now getting more settled in. We are so excited to have her back. We welcomed Abby as our assistant director not too long ago. We are all so happy to have her on board. If you have not met Sunnie or Abby please go say hi :)

A little about the Chickadee One team:

*First we have bio’s right outside the classroom that we keep updated regularly. Check them out :) 
-Ali-Lead Teacher-I have been working in the early childhood field for over 10 years and it is my passion in life. I have my bachelor’s in early childhood education & childhood education. I am a 518 native and moved to the upper valley about three years ago. I have been working at DCCCC for over two years now. I reside in Randolph VT with my wife Allison, our 5 dogs (yes 5), two cats, two ferrets, and three frogs (not my choice). We are going through an adoption of a boy named Michael who many of you may already know :) We also have a nine year old boy at home who we are fostering. The frogs are his! My wife and I have been in foster care for over three years now and it is a big passion of ours. I love talking about it so always ask 😊
-Denise-Teacher-Denise has been at DCCCC for over ten years now. She has a degree in early childhood and infants are her passion. She resides in Vermont with her partner Sue and their dog Piper, and their cats. Denise has a deep love of horses and in her spare time spends time with family & friends.
-Deserai-Teacher-Deserai has been at DCCCC for two years now. She just recently married her longtime boyfriend Walter in August and is enjoying the newlywed life. She is still in school getting her degree in early childhood education. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family and friends.
We are lucky to have kept a majority of the children from last year and welcomed Sia, Caledonia, August, Luna. Michael, Maia, Benjamin, Dorothea, Sonia, Jack, and Harvey stayed with us for another year. Some joined us the beginning of the summer months.

- Sia is a ball of fun. She is running all over, makes silly noises, teaching us some Greek words. She is always making us laugh.
- Caledonia just joined us and is learning the environment and making connections with the teachers. We are looking forward to seeing her progress.
- We are excited to have August with us and reconnect with a past family whose daughter was a chick too.
- Luna joined the chickadees not so long ago and boy does she make us laugh. Her smile is infectious, and she is such a pleasure to have.
- Michael is pulling himself up onto everything and scoots to get around.
- Maia is on the move and nothing and no one can stop her. She is crawling and beginning to pull herself up onto different things.
- Benjamin is a cuddle bug and we are soaking it up. He is enjoying puree food and getting so close to being mobile.
- Dorothea has been with us for a whole year and she has grown so much. She is a walking girl now and nothing can stop her determination. She is full of spunk and we are so excited to have her with us another year.
- Dorothea’s partner in crime, Sonia, has been with us for a year as well. She is pulling herself up and showing more and more interest in walking. Her favorite thing to do is play with the baby dolls. She rocks them, pats their backs, and puts them in the swing + turns it on (we taught her well haha).
- Jack aka Jackaroni just recently celebrated his first birthday. He is our little koala bear. We all crave Jack snuggles and hugs. He is on the move and beginning to take some steps. He enjoys lunch time and playing with the other children.
- Harvey celebrated his first birthday towards the end of August. He is all over the classroom and loves to explore. He enjoys playing the most with Jack.

We welcomed back Millenah, our Dartmouth student who means so much more to us than just a helper. Millenah has worked with children for many years now and even volunteered in the nicu at hospitals. She has cpr/first aid certification and is an EMT. She is not only an afternoon helper but has become part of our chickadee one family. She is from Jersey and travels back home on breaks. We are excited to have her back. If you haven’t already please tell her hi!

A day in the life of the chickadees:
- We go by their schedules and their needs. Unlike other classrooms in the building we do not stick to certain times for certain things. During our intakes we go over your child’s schedule and try to mirror that as they begin at childcare. Of course, we admit that the environment is nothing like home and children may change their schedule at childcare & this is okay. Children begin to learn and understand that they do one thing at school and one thing at home.

- We provide an AM & PM snack every day and we post the schedule on the refrigerator. Please make sure to check this and let us know by either verbal communication or initialing the menu that your child can have these snacks. If they have not had it at home we are unable to give it to them at the center because of allergies. For lunch time (for the children that are eating) we ask you provide a lunch box labeled with their name and a nut free note (hanging on the fridge). This way we know the contents in the lunch box are safe to eat at the center.

- For moms that are nursing we ask the breast milk to be labeled with the name and date on the container. Also we are allowed to store frozen breast milk for up to six months. You are always welcome to bring in a supply to have here.

- We try to go outside at least once if not twice a day. As the colder weather approaches we will be making sure to ask for snow gear and take them out in the snow (I can’t believe I am saying that). We would love if you could bring in rain jackets and rain boots for your child for these next few months with rain ☺

- If you haven’t checked it out yet the parent handbook is on the Dartmouth College Child Care website :) This handbook has a lot of good information and also just updated biting policy. I have a copy in the classroom as if you would like to look at it.

Every day in the chickadees is different and every day we fall more and more in love with them.

Some Gentle reminders:
*Please wash your child’s hands upon arrival. We share the kitchen space with the chickadee toos and all the babies are making their way around the kitchen. We wash children’s hands before and after meals, coming in from outside and periodically throughout the day.
*We do our best to answer emails as they come in. If for any reason we are not answering them in a timely fashion please call :) It seems to be easier to pick up the phone and talk instead of emailing when we get busy.

*Daily sheets-Please make sure you are checking them and seeing what your child needs and how their day was. Many times we write cute little notes or stories about your child’s day.

*For those of you who are wondering about picking up days. We have families that ask for extra days sometimes. As long as you ask in advance we can let you know numbers we are expecting that day. In turn if picking up is an option we white out a spot for your child on the sign in sheet and once we hand that in, you will be billed.

*A big thank you to all the families for making picture day another success. We love looking at the pictures and seeing the beautiful families and children we have at DCCCC. Your patience and support mean so much.

*Please let us know as you soon as you know if your family will be taking time off/traveling for the holiday season.

~As many of you know from the intake we do two parent events in the year, a parent snack in the fall (we just did that) & an end of the year parent picnic.

~Parent conferences will be coming up before we know it. We will be in touch with more information and times. Please bring with you questions, concerns, and stories, anything at all :) We are looking to begin these mid-November into December. Our goal is always to get them done before Christmas break.

Below are some articles from NAEYC website that I found interesting...take a look if you would like :)

https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/encouraging-healthy-sleep-habits
https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-things-every-parent-play
https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/10-ways-babies-learn-sing-to-them
https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/13-things-babies-learn-when-we-read-them

Happy Fall,

Ali~ Chickadee One Lead Teacher
Welcome Chickadee Too Families!

I am excited for the new school year! We have 7 new members in the Chickadee Too classroom, and I am looking forward to watching them grow, learn and have lots of fun. I am also excited to have so many returning families with their newest additions.

September was spent getting acquainted with new Chicks and their families. There has already been so much change. Sanna and Morgan are both walking and beginning to talk to us. Catie and Charlie are cruising regularly and have both taken some independent steps. They too have begun to express themselves verbally and by signing.

I am very happy to have the twins with us this year. Declan and Graham are moving all around and have taken to pulling to standing at the toy shelf and the table. Audrey also has learned to crawl and waits for the door to be opened so she can explore the kitchen. She is pulling to standing as well.

All the mobile babies have really been enjoying the multi and all the gross motor skills they can practice there. We have a bunch of climbers this year! I think they also enjoy having the Owls in there to watch and play with.

Tessa has been charming us with her awesome smiles, and Daniel, not to be outdone, is also quite the smiler. They both have a lot to say to us and we are so happy to listen to their stories.

Riley joined us on the 15th and we are at full capacity. What a great bunch of children and families we have this year!

We have already had a number of visits from older siblings and the babies have been venturing out to see the big kids in their classrooms. It is lovely to be able to get the kids together during the day.

Just a few reminders, please put a signed and dated no-nut note in your child's lunch every day. Breast milk also needs to have the child's name and the date on the container it comes in (bag or bottle). Please check the cubbies to make sure your child has weather and size appropriate clothing. There also may be correspondence
from the office or artwork on the clips and bagged soiled clothes that need to go home. Thank you.

Got lunch ideas? Leftovers from last night's dinner? Yogurt, cheese, cooked vegetables, tofu, fruit, bread, pasta, muffins or pouches. Just please remember to only send foods your child has already tried at home.

I am looking forward to all the changes and growth that will be happening throughout the year. I think it's going to be a great one.

Teresa for the Chick Toos
The first months in Owls have swiftly passed. We are in a routine and the children are adjusting to getting ready to go outside, coming in for lunch and napping. Here is a quick update of what is happening:

Brooke is here for music class and the children love it! They know some of her songs, get to play instruments and dance to music. Campbell was boogieing to the beat! Clarissa liked using the shakers and Angela clapped after every song.

Friendships are starting and children are showing concern for others. Fallyn will come over if someone is sad and pat their arm.

Sabina has been enjoying our dress up clothes, especially the green hat. Sam likes the yellow construction hat!

Many children are already showing growth in this room. Netta and Basil have been practicing walking up and down the slide in the little multi. They are so proud when they do this! Brielle and Aiden pushed their chairs away to get out one afternoon after snack. This is a major accomplishment: this involved problem solving, self-help skills and using your muscles. They both received major hoots and clapping from us!

Simon loves lunchtime and just chows down. He is not a big fan of painting yet though. This year we have made a decision to have a painting project each week.

Ayah loves her shoes. As soon as nap is over she wants to put her shoes and socks on.

Madie is always full of happy energy. She gets her friends to join her in play.
The darkness will be coming. This is a transition for our room. Now that the time changed, we will no longer be going outside in the afternoons. We will have activities, stories and songs inside.

We hope that you are enjoying the fall. Your children have been practicing and can help you rake up the leaves in your yard!

Fondly,
Debbie, Wendy and April
Greetings Hedgehog Families,

We have had such a great start to our year, and we are so excited to continue learning and exploring with your Hedgehogs! Even though we are in our beginning months, the children have really been getting into their daily routines, such as hand washing, cleaning up their snacks and lunch boxes, etc. It is exciting to see how much they are grasping and learning in such a short amount of time. And it is not just their tidying abilities! We have seen major growth in their self-help skills, such as putting on and taking off clothes and shoes, as well as their language development, which has seemed to skyrocket as of late.

We also had our first goodbye of the year with Vartan moving to Boston. Though we were all sad to see him go, the Hedgehogs like to talk about what Vartan may be doing in his new house, and eventually at his new school.

Last month, we explored apples, which culminated in a fantastic field trip to the Poverty Lane Apple Orchard! We were able to ride a tractor right into the orchard where we picked (and mostly ate) lots, and lots of apples. This was such a joy for the children to experience, and it is something they are still talking about. We are so thankful for all of the families who were able to join us. A few days after our trip, we used the apples we picked to bake delicious apple muffins that went home with each Hedgehog, and even made homemade applesauce!

This month we are turning our attention to the Fall season, and we have been talking a lot about leaves. The Hedgehogs have loved jumping in leaf piles and throwing leaves into the air. We have also been working on art experiences that use leaves as well. However, our best time to see all the leaves and the changes that come with Fall are on our weekly hiking expeditions on
the trails surrounding DCCCC. The children are so engaged in these hikes and we never know what we might see!

We also embarked on our second field trip this year: a trip to the Riverview Farm pumpkin patch! To add to the excitement, Hudson’s grandparents were there with Hudson’s horses, Rock and Prince, to give us a horse and wagon ride. Very exciting!

We are so looking forward to a very exciting year for the Hedgehogs!

Happy Fall!
Danielle, Jenn & Angelica
Greeting Otter Families,

It’s hard to imagine we are in the middle of the October (as I write) and your child has been in the Otter room for over a month! We are having so much fun getting to know your child. This has been a special year as all the Hedgehogs were able to transition together into the Otter room. This made for a smoother transition and once the children were comfortable with us and the room we quickly had tear-free drop offs. We quickly noticed that this is an energetic group of children who love to be active! We have created activities to engage the Otters in the tactile way they love to learn! We spend lots of time outside, have circle activities where the Otters can move, a big body space to release excess energy and create table choices where the children can throw, jump and run.

We have been busy in the Otter room, learning lots of new things. The weather has given us the freedom to experience the outdoors and understand the changes that take place in fall. We have gone for walks and used the fallen leaves for raking and jumping in! During our time indoors we have chosen to focus on different themes including the 5 senses, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Nursery rhymes and of course apples and fall! The Otters took part in their first field trip of the year to go Apple Picking at Poverty Lane Orchards. We were lucky that so many family members were able to join us for the visit. We used the apples that we picked to eat at snack and to make apple crisp. Once we got back, the Otters asked to go apple picking every day that week! The teachers in the Otter room love to bake and we enjoy teaching this valuable life skill to the children in our care.

We started early in the year with our cultural/religious celebrations and there are many more to come throughout the year. In the first few weeks we celebrated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipper. The Otters rang in the Jewish New Year with shofars, ate honey and
apples for snack, did apple stamping, had honey play dough and made their own shofar. Josh’s mom, Amanda came into the class to lead a circle with books, songs and dancing to teach the Otters about Rosh Hashanah. The children learnt about emotions and how they make their friends feel when we touched upon Yom Kippur. At the end of that week we celebrated Guatemalan Independence Day. The Otters did activities to understand more about the culture and landscape of Guatemala. Maya Lopez (one of our substitute teachers) provided us with material for Guatemalan Independence Day: including flags, books and maps. Maya led a circle where she brought materials and fabrics from Guatemala as well as traditional toys for the children to play with. I think it was appropriate that we named that week ‘Celebrations’. The Otter class is also fortunate to have visits from Erin Norton who comes to read with the children once a week. The children love Erin and the stories that she reads (this was when I realized how much the Otters love audio stories). This experience has allowed the children to develop empathy with Erin to understand how to communicate with her and to feel comfortable to ask questions about her disabilities. I love how much diversity we have brought to the Otter room already!

We have many exciting things to look forward to in the coming months, we have pumpkins, Halloween, Turkeys, Thanksgiving and Gingerbread themes to explore as well as the celebrations of Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas. Now that we have spent time getting to know your child and they are comfortable with the Otter program and routine we want to spend more time doing some fun/special activities. We have lots of siblings in the Otter room, over the coming weeks and months we will spent time visiting the Chickadee, Black Bear and other classrooms. I think it is important to recognize DCCCC as one large family and to utilize the other classrooms to help build skills out of the Otter room. The teachers too have different cultural backgrounds. Over the coming year we want to celebrate Welsh, Indian and Greek festivals as well as the importance of celebrating
festivals of the country in which we all call home. If you have any celebrations or festivals that are important to you or your family please let us know so we know how we can support this in class.

On behalf of the Otter Team,

Stephanie
Hello Badger Families,

By the time you are reading this it will be close to two months into our new year. It is always very astonishing how quickly your children learn and appreciate the daily routine. They immediately loved the freedom of choice and the trust of independence. What seems like little things to us as adults, are quite the big deal to your children. Take pouring their own milk or water for instance. Simple enough I suppose, yet a signal to your children of I know you can do this. This leads to an overall change of thought. They want to explore what else they can do that they have not been asked to do before.

Your children worked really hard the year before to get to the next year. They deserve new lessons to learn, new routines, new challenges, different expectations, new triumphs, and a fresh perspective on the world. It’s exciting and motivating to them. It is fun for teachers to see your children embrace what was scary as their new normal. One of the areas that are a big shift for them at this age is to realize that they are and will be held more accountable for how their actions impact others. They were pretty certain up until recently that they were the world, now they are learning they are a part of it. In the Badger Room we have been working on giving messages to one another, and learning that listening is a very important part to communication. That you may not like what they are saying, but you need to listen nevertheless. They have learned that we should always listen but two words that are specifically a must to not ignore are STOP and NO! You will likely, if you have not already, notice that they are using stronger tones, and a “serious” voice. LOL this one takes a bit longer to balance, they love the power and it takes a bit of practice to learn when a serious voice is actually warranted.
In terms of learning, other than social skills, wow have we been learning. Your children can tell you about the following topics:

* compost
* Trash
* recycling
* decomposition
* compacting
* Community workers
* float vs sink
* salamanders
* Our five senses

* Seasons
* vegetables/fruits
* How things grow
* exploring textures
* letters
* Body movement
* Life cycles of
* life cycles of insects

This is and will be just the tip of the iceberg of learning this year. Please keep yourselves informed of what is happening in the class by reading our daily E-mails as well as our information board.

Cheers to another year of exploration and learning!

On behalf of the Badger Room, 
Terri, Miranda, and Brandi
Welcome to Black Bears!

Our first months as a group have been full of fun and exciting new experiences. We have been learning new routines and adjusting to the transitions that come with a new classroom and new teachers! We are getting very good at our lunch routine, lining up when leaving the classroom, and our routine during rest time.

The Black Bears have many favorite spaces in the classroom. In the loft we have blocks, ramps, and lots of loose parts! We build and create anything we want to. We have been watching marbles roll down ramps with varied heights. This is a great space for us to build and experiment. It is also a very exciting place to rest during quiet time. The Bear Cave is also an exciting space to work on puzzles, play a game, or relax. We have been practicing using our pictures to show that we are in the bear cave and making sure that there are no more than two friends in it at a time.

We have also been getting a lot of use out of both the big and natural playgrounds! On the natural playground we have been enjoying building with sticks, playing in the teepee that we built, playing running games, and using the bushes as a fort. On the big playground we have spent a lot of time in the sandbox, on the climber, and playing games like baseball and football in the grass. We have recently noticed the abundance of leaves on both playgrounds as the season changes!

We have been practicing being independent and learning about our Black Bear responsibilities. We talked about
what we need to do to take care of our classroom. We now have glass dishes and bowls in the Black Bear room! We have done a great job of taking good care of these dishes, and gently putting them in the sink. It is so great to see the Black Bears being responsible with glass! We also have some new things in our classroom. We just started our classroom jobs, which are posted right next to the door of our classroom. We are excited for everyone to have a job each day! We also have a new cozy corner in the cubby space. This is a great space for one friend to cool down, relax, and have some quiet time.

We have already celebrated Abel, Langston, and Juka, Lorenz and Emerson’s Birthdays! In November we will celebrate Fred and Connor’s birthdays as well!

For the Black Bears,

Kristen