



Dickinson College Children's Center September 2014



From the Director's Desk



Well, we made it through another summer! Summer at DCCC is always a busy time but it is also full of lots of energy. Making new friends and welcoming new summer teachers is exciting. We are always so happy to hear that the children transitioned well to their schools and wish our summer teachers the very best as they return to college or venture out to find a permanent teaching job. Welcome to the new school year here at DCCC!

The current enrollment for the Children's Center is 112 children. We have 91 families. This year we reached our maximum in Kindergarten enrollment which is 15 children. We hope to post our new and updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks.

The center had a very successful Summer School Age Program that was held in the big room and consisted of field trips, crafts, outside play and many educational games and special visits. The total children for the summer school age program averaged 30 children a day for 10 weeks of care.

We welcomed 32 new children at the start of the school year on the 18th of August. All the children have seemed to adjust very well overall to their new rooms and in some cases to their very first experience in group care.

The center was closed on August 15th and the teachers attended a training titled: Head Bumps Matter, Playing Safely. The training shared many safety suggestions for playgrounds and child care space. It also reviewed the signs of a concussion in young children.

We welcomed one new student worker who will be working in the afternoons. A few new substitutes were also hired to help out when teachers need to take off. More details will be shared as they start this fall.

The center has begun to focus on our \$15,000 goal for fundraising. Fundraising information was distributed to all families and the big fall fundraiser is in the works.

The center has an Advisory meeting Scheduled for September 30th at 4:15.

~GINA

Dates to Remember:

**9/11 & 9/12—TEMA
testing for Kindergarten**

**9/18 & 9/19—TERA
testing for Kindergarten**

**9/30—DCCC Advisory
Meeting 4:15**

**10/2—Paladan
Financial Services
Presentation 4:00 p.m.**

**10/7—Infant/Toddler
Portraits**

**10/8—Preschool/
Kindergarten Portraits**

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FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Ongoing:

*Giant Bonus Card Numbers-If you did not give us your bonus card number last year, please either sign up online or turn in your number at the office. Thank you!

*Nell's Gold Card & Target Red Card-Please find information on how to register for these on our website at: http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20075/children_s_center/1055/fundraisers

Totals:

Chicken BBQ-\$1600

Red Robin-

Total Amount Raised: \$1600.00



Upcoming:

T-Shirt Fundraiser

Box Top Competition

Promotion Motion



Goal for the year: \$15,000

Upcoming Maternity Leaves



As most of you know, Ms. Sarah (Yellow Bee teacher) and Ms. Carly (Bunny teacher) will be soon going on maternity leave. Ms. Sarah's last day will be September 5th and Ms. Carly's due date is September 16th. Therefore, we will welcome two of our very familiar substitutes to the center for the next few months. Ms. Alisha will be working for Sarah in the Yellow Bee Room and Ms. Deb will be working with the Pre-K

class for Ms. Carly. Please let me know if you have any questions, I know the kids will be in good hands while they are out. It's an exciting time for their families and we wish them both the very best on their birth of their second child.



Ducklings



We are a little over two weeks into the new year and we are pleased to welcome five new infants into the Duckling classroom! At this time we have six infants ranging in age from about 8 weeks to 10 months. Some are working on tummy time; some just beginning to roll over; some to creep and crawl and some beginning to pull themselves up! We all have our own individual preferences for feedings, sleeping and playing, so we have a very flexible schedule in the infant room right now. However, we have managed to take advantage of the beautiful last days of summer, getting outdoors and resting on a mat in the shade on our playground. The infants seem to love this very calming activity, sleeping outdoors, or watching the clouds shift overhead and listening to the wind chimes sing or to the happy preschoolers playing next door.

During the month of September we will continue to work on getting to know each other gradually. It takes time and patience to begin to understand each other and to build those trusting relationships! We will listen to stories and songs; look at board book pictures; explore sensory books; take nature walks to detect the early signs of autumn; listen to nursery songs and lullabies; manipulate keys, rattles & chew toys. Some of us will be working on the introduction of sippy cups, solid foods and table foods, holding a spoon and sitting up in a high chair. And there will be lots of floor play and exploration!

You will receive a newsletter and lesson plan by email each month during the course of this year. You will also find a hard paper copy of the Infant lesson plan in your bin and one posted on the hallway bulletin board. Lesson plans are developmentally based and for infants, activities revolve largely around basic care activities. Because there is a wide age range in the infant room, you may see activities on the plan that are not developmentally appropriate for your child. The plan is designed to cover the individual needs and goals of each child.

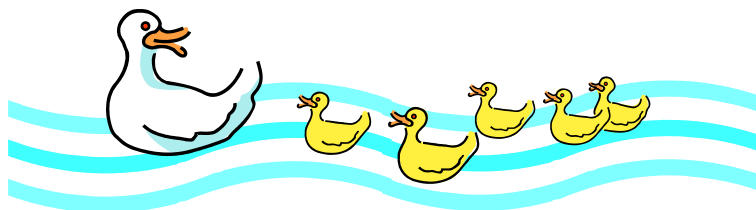
Once again, please remember to label all of your babies' belongings, especially bottles. We find that the names are already washing or wearing off some of the feeding bottles, so please pay close attention to re-marking them as necessary.

Please also send in family photos of everyone and anyone important in your baby's life. This includes parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, pets, friends, etc. Babies love to look at photos of their families. These family photos will be hung in the classroom. As the babies get older, they begin to recognize and point to family members in photos. Such images from home can help to ease the transition from home to daycare.

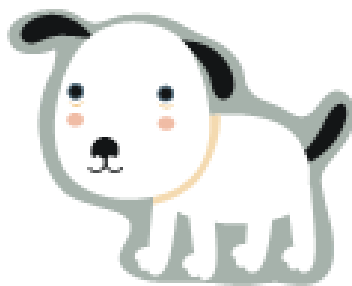
We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as the Nursing Lounge is being prepared. The creation of a separate, quiet space for parents to be with their babies at feeding time is something we have been very excited about. It remains a work in progress! Improvements to the space are ongoing and we hope that in a short time you will find it to be a comfortable and welcoming space for you and your baby to spend time together.

Our caterpillar friend emerged into a big beautiful butterfly during our very first week and we think that this is a good omen for the rest of our year together! We welcome you all to the Duckling Room and look forward to a wonderful year.

~**SANDY, LYNN, TORY & JODY**



The new Yellow Puppies came into our room ready to explore! We are rolling balls, playing with babies and checking out the shelves. We have used markers, crayons, and paints and have looked at many books. Our teachers are encouraging to us to use our words. We have adjusted to our new room nicely and are enjoying our outside time.



- Spend a week talking about friendship and what gentle touches are.
- Take some time to explore textures.

We all look forward to an exciting time in the Yellow Puppy Room. And we are enjoying getting to know each other. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to talk to us.

Family reminders:

- * Label all items coming into our room
- * Please try and remember to wash your child's hands before coming into the room.

Next month we will continue to practice routines throughout the day in our room such as:

- Climbing the stairs to wash our hands
- Sitting on chairs having snacks, lunch, and doing projects.

In the coming weeks we will:

- Talk about the pictures we bring from home of our family, friends, or pets you wish to share with us.
- Spend some time on tasting fun foods. We will also

Yellow Pups

* Please help us try and keep diapers and wipes supplied in your child's bin.

* If your child will be absent for the day or coming in later than normal, please let the office know.

* Make sure we have a sweatshirt or jacket for up and coming cool days.

~MARSHA & DONNA

Blue Puppies



It seems like everyone is exploring the room and getting into a routine. The puppies really like to push cars and trucks around, look at books and play with baby dolls.

We started the month with bubbles which everyone loved chasing around the playground! The puppies even enjoyed finger painting, coloring with chalk and making a paper plate bubble.

Start looking for family pictures to bring in (3-4) so we can hang them up in our room as we talk about families. We will read lots of books about family members.

Since we all like to push trucks and cars around, we thought it would be fun to explore a week of "things that go". The puppies are going to run cars through paint, make some ramps to roll cars down, read books and sing songs about cars and trucks. We will also try and go for a walk to see all those fun things

Apples are so good to eat and with fall starting the puppies will do some apple taste testing to see which ones we like to eat and make a yummy apple treat! We will paint with red to make an apple, color with green crayons and make a hand print apple tree.

We are going to wrap up the month with introducing/reinforcing colors. Watch the lesson plan for the color of the day and wear it. We will be using lots of colors in our art projects as well as talking about the colors we see and identifying colors in the books that we read.

REMINDERS:

~Please take bedding home every Friday to be washed.

~CATHRYN & LACI



Yellow Honey Bees



We were happy to welcome a fun loving and adventurous group of older toddlers into our classroom on August 18th! Our first week was spent just trying to help each other get accustomed to each other, our routine, and our schedule. We continue to follow the children's pace while challenging them just enough to encourage further development. Before we knew it, we were well into our 2nd week of this school year! I know you're thinking, 2 weeks?! That's not a long time!

But considering how time flew and how well a lot of our friends have adjusted in such a short time, is an encouraging sign to our already optimistic outlook on this school year!



The month of September will bring some new adventures for all of us! Ms. Sarah will be having a baby girl on September 8th, her last day being Friday September 5th. Ms. Alisha will be filling in for her until the New Year comes around. We are excited to welcome Ms. Alisha to the yellow bee room and we wish Ms. Sarah all the best! We are

going to take this exciting adventure and turn it into an opportunity to talk about change as we discuss the change when caterpillars turn into butterflies! As the month goes on, we'll touch on all of the following concepts; colors, abc's, numbers/counting, shapes, and opposites!



REMINDERS:

-Bring in a helmet for your child so that we can start riding bikes during our outdoor play time! Please remember to label it with either their full names or initials so it doesn't get lost in the shuffle!

-KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! It has been a pleasure getting to know you and your children these past few weeks!

Ms. BARB & Ms. SARAH

Blue Busy Bees

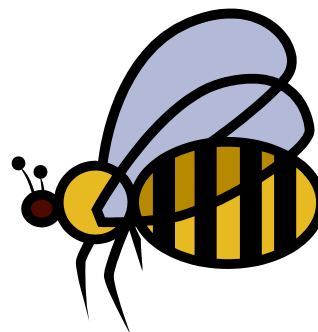
Greetings from the Blue Bee room. Our little bees have been busy discovering their new classroom. We had a good transition with our new class. There were some tears but mostly smiles! The children are already starting to grasp the new routines/schedule. We have been enjoying getting to know our new crew!

We started off the month of September with "Colors Week." The children will learn and re-view the names of many colors this week during their daily play. This will include wearing a special color each day. There will also be lots of fun art activities, new songs to learn and books to read.

Our next week's theme will be "Caterpillar-Butterfly." Our bees will learn and experience the life cycle of a butterfly. We have one chrysalis in our class's terrarium already. They will enjoy new songs and books about butterflies. The third week of September will bring our "ABC'S and 123's." We will do activities that will introduce them to the letters in their names and activities that will work with the numbers 1-10. We will also talk about our last names, and how many people are in our families. The end of the month will include our "Opposites" and "Shapes" weeks. The bees will have fun learning about opposites and shapes through activities, songs and books. Watch for your bee's artwork on display in the classroom.

Areas we are working on:

Hand washing
Potty training
Cleaning up after lunch and snacks
Lining Up
Clean up time after play



Reminders:

- * Please label EVERYTHING that your child brings into the classroom.
- * Please keep our Food Guidelines for Children Under Four in mind when preparing your child's lunch. You can also refer to your parent handbook regarding lunches.
- * Watch for our notes sent home (Needs List) for your Bee. Wipes and extra clothes can run out quickly.

We look forward to a fun and exciting year in the Blue Bees room!

~JODY & PAM

Yellow Bear Cubs

Everyone is doing such a nice job settling into the rules and routine of the day! We have started our rainbow chart that is helping us visually monitor our choices throughout the day! We will soon be starting our PATHS Program which helps us identify our feelings and learn to use our words for problem solving and complimenting! I will be sure to explain these programs more thoroughly as we go through the month!

What to look forward to in September:

- The teddy bears will spend a lot of September getting to know their friends and how to be a good friend!
- We will be making a yummy snack of Zucchini bread for our families to eat Friday September 5th!
- They will become very aware of how to

prevent the spread of germs! We will practice good hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes! There will be a visit from Ms. Mandy's "cousin," Valerie Virus!

- Everyone in the teddy bear room will be shape expert by the end of the month!

Special Notes:

Please keep our Food Guidelines for Children Under Four in mind when preparing your child's lunch. You can also refer to your parent handbook regarding lunches.

~MANDY



Blue Bears

The Blue Bears have had a wonderful beginning to the school year. Most of the kids knew each other from previous classrooms, but we did welcome a few new faces, Felix, Kami, Ella, and Toni! They fit right into the room and routine. The first week we adjusted to our new surroundings. We talked about the rules and schedule for the day and did a lot of practicing! We washed hands, walked in the hallway, did a fire drill and sat quietly for circle. The kids really do know the rules! Our second week we talked all about ourselves. We spent circle time making child models for each of the Blue Bears. They are hanging around the room; try to guess which one belongs to your child!

We look forward to September when we will talk about our families. We will draw pictures of them and our houses and put on puppet shows to show everyone how many people are in our families. We will also make frames to go around the family photos that everyone will be asked to bring in. We hang these inside the house so when your child misses you they can snuggle up and look at their family photos. Next up will be friends! We will try drawing with our hands tied together, playing friend Bingo, draw on our friends faces (on paper of course!) and make a lot of friendly art work for the hall. We will also talk about how we should treat our friends. This is a great week to introduce our PATHS friends, so look for paper work about that. Following family week is the popular germ week. We think Ms. Mandy's cousin Valerie Virus might pay us a visit to talk about coughing and sneezing in our elbows. We will finish out September with a week on shapes, making fun art projects and going on walks around campus looking for shapes on signs and buildings.



We will begin our letter of the week as well. Our letter song we sing everyday helps us to remember the letter's sound. We read our letter book, read a poem, play a letter game and even practice writing letters. Make sure to take a look at the word wall, where the kids make a list of words that begin with that week's letter sound.

We will be posting sign-ups and special event flyers above the cubbies on the bulletin boards. Please keep your eyes peeled for those announcements. We also have a wish list for Scholastic Book Orders hanging on our door every month if you are interested in donating a book for the class. We always appreciate it! Check your child's extra clothes bin for seasonally appropriate clothing. If you have any questions about anything please feel free to talk to Ms. Ange or Ms. Kristen. Thank you!

~KRISTEN & ANGE

Bunnies

The first two weeks with the new class have flown by! Everyone is doing a great job of getting the routine down. The children have enjoyed being with their old friends and meeting some new ones as well. We have spent the first week learning about the room and the rules and routine. Then the second week we really started to get to know each other. We can already tell this is going to be a great year!

The first week of September we will be talking about colors, making patterns, and mixing colors. Following that we will have a week on friendship where we will focus on bucket filling and be making our individual buckets. We will then move into a week about apples, where we will taste test different kinds of apples, bake and do some experiments. Look for some sign-up sheets during this tasty week. Following that we will have a week on shapes. We will learn the names of the shapes, build with shapes and talk about some 3D shapes as well. That brings us to the end of September with a week on fire safety. We will learn what to do in case of a fire, what firefighters wear and what number to call if we need help.

Reminders:

- Please make sure that you are filling your child's extra clothes bin.
- In the morning please have your child wash their hands when they enter the classroom.
- Lunch heat ups go in the black crate in the refrigerator so we can make sure each child gets their lunch quickly to ensure they have the full time to eat.
- Please send in forks/spoons in your child's lunch. Also if your child has pasta it is helpful to cut the noodles into smaller pieces to make it easier to eat with their utensils.
- Remember we are a peanut and tree nut free facility, make sure you are reading labels carefully.
-

BIRTHDAY/HOLIDAY PARTY POLICY (copied from Parent handbook)

Parents are welcome to send in a small snack to share on the day of their child's birthday. The items must be store bought and packaged. Please see the list below to choose from. Because of time requirements we are asking that the item be provided for the AM snack only. Please **do not** send napkins, plates, candy or party bags for any of the holidays (Valentine's Day, Halloween, etc) or special class days. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Fruit (bite size)	Bread (banana, pumpkin, blueberry)
Muffins (no nuts)	Yogurt
Cheese	Vegetables
Crackers	Pudding or Jell-O

Pizza lunch - please give 2 days **advance** notice to the classroom teacher and the office. Also check for special dietary needs within the classroom.

Please remember we are a "nut free" center. Please read the labels carefully.

**Please also consider visiting the class to do something special for your child's birthday such as playing a group game together or reading a special story. In order for the classroom teacher to plan appropriately, at least 2 days advance notice needs to be given to the teacher for this activity.

Important Dates:

* September 16- Carly's Due Date (she will be working up until the baby is born and Ms. Debbie will be in for her. Carly will return after the New Year)

~MS. BRITTNEY AND MS. CARLY

Kindergarten Dolphins

After a fun and busy "practice" week in the kindergarten room, the Dolphins are now full-fledged kindergartners! The children all seem to be happy and eager to learn and Miss Cheri and I are looking forward to getting to know each child better.

During the first few weeks our class we will be establishing class rules, practicing routines, establishing a sense of class community, and sharing our hopes and dreams for our kindergarten year. We'll talk about what it means to be a good friend, and will practice resolving peer conflicts. During the first weeks of school, we'll also study about our world through our senses as we learn about living things. We'll explore our garden and learn about parts of plants and what plants need to survive. We'll compare, collect, and taste vegetables from the garden and will hunt for little garden invertebrates who happen to be crawling, hopping, and flying among them. The children are en-

couraged to bring in garden invertebrates that they find in their own gardens at home as well for closer investigation. We plan to create a cricket habitat in our classroom, watch the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies, and continue daily observations of our hermit crabs pets!

August 28 is DCCC's 25th birthday, so the kindergartners celebrated by creating special birthday hats and playing a few party games.

We will begin our "Fill Your Bucket" character building program in September. The children will earn pompoms to put in their own individual buckets in our classroom for showing kindness and respect to others through words and deeds. When a bucket is "filled" the child will be recognized by the class and will receive a "bucket filler" certificate to take home.

We're looking forward to a great year!

~Katie and Cheri

