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 115 children. We welcomed 49 new children and have a total of 99 families. Out of the 49 new enrollments, 19 are Dickinson Employee children. This year our Kindergarten enrollment is sitting at 10 children. We hope to post our updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks.

Center Happenings
The center was closed on August 9th and the teachers spent their day cleaning their classrooms, completing some online training and taking part in a training from HR, and an Open House at the end of the day.

The center had a very successful Summer School Age Program at both camps. The younger camp (ages 5-8) was held in the big room here at the center and consisted of field trips, swimming, crafts, outside play at nearby parks, games and a few special visits. The total children for the summer school age programs averaged 25-30 children a day for 10 weeks of care.

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 first two weeks we wiped some tears and held some hands and after that it was all good. These children really are happy and we want them all to especially feel safe here.

We welcomed a few new student workers and some returning ones as well that will be working in the afternoons. A new substitute was also hired to help out when teachers need to take off. More details to be shared as they start this fall.

The center has an Advisory meeting Scheduled for September 24 at 4:15. We will be looking for a few new members for the committee. We usually ask for parent volunteers in which we implement a voting process to determine the best candidate.

In October we will be introducing a 6 week series of workshops titled: Positive Solutions for Families. The workshops will be held on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. starting October 1. Please RSVP with the office if you are interested in receiving more information about these classes. Our first Parent Meeting is Oct 24.

We are heading into our third year as a part of the SPEC program which is implemented by Early Intervention Services. SPEC (Supporting Positive Environments for Children) is a program that consists of staff training and the implementation of new procedures and policies when dealing with challenging behaviors. It is a program that will help all teachers by providing the support and resources that are greatly needed in child care. Staff will earn training hours and have the opportunity to grow as an individual teacher. A core team was created in order to support and provide resources for our teachers and families. The core team meets once a month to review policies and procedures and to discuss strategies to use in classrooms in dealing with challenging behaviors. Be sure to follow our progress throughout the year and learn about DCCC’s Big Three!

In September we will be renewing at our STAR 4. All fulltime staff are encouraged to complete 20 hours of training while those that are part time are required to obtain ten hours of training. As always, all staff our trained in Pediatric First Aid, Child Abuse and a Health and Safety Building Blocks for Quality online module consisting of ten hours.

Staff Professionalism
The annual Summit Conference for early care will be held at Penn State in October. We typically like to send a staff member or two to that training.

Fundraising
The center has begun to focus on our 15,000.00 goal for fundraising. Fundraising information was distributed to all families. The big fall fundraiser is in the works.

-Gina VanKirk, Director
**Fundraising News!**

So much going on, so little time! We have been busy with fundraisers to start off the year, but will soon see a lull, so hang in there! We truly appreciate your participation in any way you can. Don’t forget our “No-Effort Fundraisers”: Giant A+, Shoparoo, and Box Tops.

**July & August Totals:**

- Signature Sandwich Fundraiser: $343.20
- Chicken BBQ: $2,160.95
- Panera Night Out: $232.88

**Upcoming**

- September: Elite Discount Cards
- October: Lil’ Angels Photography

**Total So Far:** $2,737.03  **Goal:** $15,000

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**Safety Corner:**

- When packing lunches: please refrain from the use of glass containers.
- Please check all food items from home that are packed in lunches. Items that are labeled with containing any sort of peanut or treenuts. Due to the number of allergies in our Center, we want to avoid risk of exposure to these ingredients. Please keep in mind that certain restaurants (i.e. Chic- fil-a) cook their rood in peanut oil so remember that when packing the leftovers
- Be careful when walking to the Center, entering, and exiting the building. We have had a number of close calls in the past few days and want to make sure we are being safe at all times! Please use sidewalks whenever possible.

**Health Check**

Well check-ups need to be completed at the following ages:

- 4 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, and 24 months, and then every year after that your child is enrolled. Please be sure there is a Dr. signature with a date of the exam on the form and turn it into the office. Health Assessment forms are available on the website and in a pocket folder by the sign in/out desk.
BIRTHDAY/HOLIDAY PARTY POLICY
Families are welcome to send in a small snack to share on the day of their child’s birthday (items must be store-bought and packaged). Please remember we are a “nut free” center so read the labels carefully. Please do not send napkins, plates, candy or party bags for any of the holidays or special class days.

- Fruit (cups or whole fruit)
- Muffins/bread
- Cheese
- Crackers (graham, cheezits, goldfish, etc.)
- Bagels w/ cream cheese
- 100% juice or fruit popsicles (Minute Maid or Outshine)
- Yogurt
- Vegetables/dip
- Pudding or Jell-O
- Thin pretzels

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 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.
We are so pleased to report that our seven new infants, ranging from 4 to 7 months, are experiencing a successful adjustment to their new daycare environment. We all have our own individual preferences and schedules for feedings, sleeping and playing, so we have a very flexible schedule in the infant room at this time. We are hoping to take advantage of the beautiful last weeks of summer, getting outdoors and playing on a mat in the shade, temperatures permitting. We know how important and how meaningful connecting with nature is for even the youngest children.

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 begin to experiment tasting foods, 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 classroom mailbox 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 developmental range in the infant room, you may see activities on the plan that are not necessarily appropriate for your child. The plan is designed to cover the individual needs and developmental goals of each child.

Please remember:

- Label all of your babies' belongings, especially bottles.
- Monitor diapering supplies in the hallway bins and please keep them well stocked. Remember to maintain a supply of extra outfits ...costume changes occur frequently in the infant room!
- Please send in family photos of anyone and everyone important in your baby's life: parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, pets, friends, etc. Babies love to look at photos of their families. These photos will be organized into family collages and will be hung in our classroom. As the babies get older, they begin to recognize and point to family members in photos. Such valuable images from home can help to ease the transition from home to daycare.

We look forward to a wonderful year, growing and learning together. Welcome!

Laci, Steph, & Kamille
**YELLOW PUPS**

August brought us a wonderful beginning as yellow puppies! We have all become familiar with new faces, and routines and are feeling right at home in the classroom now. It seems that our favorite activities so far are outdoor playtime and snacks and lunch. We also love reading books, dancing to songs like “Baby Shark”, and exploring so many new toys. We have introduced the words “gentle” and “kind” as we play among our new friends.

September is going to be such fun! We will start using some of our skills like clapping, waving, and throwing balls and practice sign language for “all done” and “more”. We will have fun walking, crawling and climbing as we play. Some of us already know how to climb up the slide on the playground! The push toys and riding toys are some of our favorites. We will begin coloring and making some footprint and handprint art. It will be very exciting when we go on some walks in the stroller to explore the outdoors as the seasons start to change!

What fun it is to be a yellow puppy!

**ALISHA & DIANA**

**Reminders:**

Please remember to cut your child’s food and make sure you are familiar with the choking hazard list you received the beginning of the year.

It will start soon be getting chilly! Please be sure to send in a sweatshirt or jacket for when we go out to the playground in the morning!

Please make sure your child has shoes for outside time!
Welcome new Puppies! We are all doing well adjusting and settling into the routine of the room. Drop offs may still be a little hard for the next week or so, but it will get easier. We are all getting to know each other (teachers/children), our families, our likes/dislikes, temperaments, and personalities.

This month will be focused on “All about Me”. We will sing some fun songs like “If You’re Happy and You Know It” and “Skid-a-ma-rink-a-dink-a-dink”. Please bring in 4-5 family pictures so we can hang them up around the room. We will be incorporating art time more regularly with crayons and paint and making handprints. Gathering (circle) time will have us introducing a short book time.

We are exploring the room every day! This group is enjoying stacking cups, baby dolls, blocks, books, cars, instruments, animals, puzzles, pop-up toys, and dress up. Going out side is one of our favorite times of the day! Some of our favorite outside activities include balls, pushing lawn mowers, balls, poppers, balls, riding trikes, and did I mention balls?

Please don’t hesitate to ask questions or address any concerns with us.

SAFETY REMINDERS:
~Please make sure to close all doors and gates upon entering and leaving the room.
~Do not allow older siblings to open gates, please.
~Read all labels to foods coming in for peanuts/tree nut ingredients, this includes “processed in a facility” and/or “may contain”
~Mangos are in the tree nut family, be aware for this in yogurts and fruit cups

REMINDEERS:
~please wash your child’s hand upon arrival AND fill out a daily sheet at drop off.
~label ALL lunch containers, applesauce, pouches, yogurts, and baggies with child’s name.

~CATHRYN & DONNA

The Yellow Bees have been transitioning nicely into the routine of our room.

This month our theme will be “What I know”. We will be using books, folder activities, puzzles, and songs to learn colors, shapes and counting.

Play is an important part of your toddler’s day. We will continue to learn about the toys in our classroom. This is a great time for them to get to know us; as we are on the floor playing with them. Concepts such as sharing and taking turns take place during this important time.

We love to walk with the children. Please continue to send them to school with good walking/playground shoes. We incorporate our science goals of learning about plant and animals during our walk time.

Craft time is our favorite. We will do many crafts this month using shapes and color.

DCCC has asked that we remind all of our families that we are a peanut free facility. Also, please make sure that lunchboxes and food containers have labels.

Our goal for the month of September is to work on your child’s emotional development. We will continue to teach them various calm down skills (breathing, giving yourself a hug, and going to the quiet area) which may help during a “tricky” situation. We will also continue working on what it means to be “Safe”.

Thank you so much! We look forward to a great year!

~BARB & MICHELE
The blue bees have had a great start to the year talking about ourselves and sharing our likes and dislikes, learning what the expectations are in the classroom, hallway and the playground (which is a part of our SPEC Program) and learning about butterflies. Ms. Cassie and Ms. Jody are learning about each child so we can help your child succeed and do their best in the blue bee room. The blue bees love looking at each other’s family pictures, so keep them coming if you have not had a chance to bring pictures in, please do. We are working on learning to use our words to tell our teachers and peers what we want and need. Other areas that we are working on are using the potty, learning to clean up our toys when playtime is over and washing our hands (using soap, scrubbing and then rinsing all the soap off before we dry with a paper towel.) As a parent, you can help with the handwashing by making sure to have your child wash their hands each morning before beginning to play in the Blue Bee room.

In the month of September, the blue bees will be talking about colors focusing on the primary colors, letters focusing on the ones in our names, numbers 1-10, shapes and opposites. In addition, with our SPEC Program, we will be talking about our calming pillows and how we use them and what the expectations are in our calm/quiet space in the room. We will also talk more about caterpillars and butterflies as we watch our caterpillars grow, go into chrysalis, emerge as butterflies and then we will release them outside. Please be sure to check the daily activity schedule for special happenings that may occur in the room related to the topics that we are talking about. For example (when we talk about colors each day will be a different color and we will wear that color to school).

**Family Reminders:**
*Please be sure to wear close-toed shoes for outside play*
*All children must have a helmet to ride bikes, if your child does not have one, please bring one in*
*Please provide utensils in your child’s lunch. We do have spoons but do not have forks if you forget to put utensils in your child’s lunch.*
*Be sure to fill out your child’s daily sheet upon arrival at school*
*Be sure to have your child wash their hands before they begin play upon arrival*
*Please make sure to check food labels for traces of peanuts and or tree nuts*
*Please no glass containers. In the Blue Bee room, we encourage the children to open their own lunch boxes and take out their own containers and we do not want to take the chance of a glass container hitting the floor and breaking*

~**JODY & CASSIE**
YELLOW BEAR CUBS

Everyone is doing well settling into the rules and routine of the day! We have started using our climb the tower reward chart that will help us visually monitor our choices throughout the day! To climb the tower the bears, must be observed Being Kind, Being Safe and/or Being Responsible! We will be starting our PATHS Program, which will help us identify our feelings and learn to use our words for problem solving and complimenting as well as other social and emotional problem-solving techniques! I will be sure to explain these programs more thoroughly as we go through the month!

Our preschool thematic units will be lasting a few weeks long and touch on several concepts. The teddy bears will spend a lot of September getting to know their friends and families, how to be caring, and what pets and people’s needs are through our Pets unit!

~Mandy & Bri

BLUE BEARS

Welcome to the Blue Bear room! We have all officially gotten to know each other and have begun to build on old and create new friendships. We have enjoyed our first few weeks talking about our new environment and what and who we find here. We have learned about rules and how they keep us and the things around us safe. We finished up the month of August talking about ourselves and finding similarities and differences about each of us.

We have really enjoyed learning all about our beginning tools for our Get Set for School curriculum as we met Big Line, Little Line, Big Curve and Little Curve with our wood pieces. We will use and talk about these pieces all throughout the year. We have even met another friend that we will see a lot of Mat Man. These new “friends” will be great tools to make us great and aware when we are writing our letters.

In September we will switch gears a little and talk more about family and pets that we find at our homes. During our study we will learn about how to care for others and pets, what each eats and what makes a great pet. Pets are a big part of our families so learning good care is important.

Along with our pets we will meet some more new friends when we introduce the PATH lessons. The PATHS lessons will happen every week and will take us step by step through each one of our feelings and we will learn that each feeling is ok. Some are comfortable and others uncomfortable. By the end of the year we will know how we feel with each one and what to do with those uncomfortable feelings. September is going to be a busy and fun month!!!

~Ange & Kendra
August came and went with a blink of an eye! We have been together as a bunny family for only 3 weeks but it feels like we all have been friends forever! When we started our time in the bunny room we learned how to make new friends and keep the old. We discovered some new names and faces around our school and on campus. We wrapped up August by showing off our beautiful families!

We also introduced and implemented our classroom management strategy! It’s titled “Get your game on!” The children were introduced to DCCC’s Big 3 and to our classroom’s 3 Bs (Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible). When they display an understanding and actively show that they are completing any of the 3 Bs they get to move UP on the game board because “They have their game on!” There is no way to move “back”, we can only move forward on the game board. There are numerous opportunities to move up on the game board throughout our day. If a child is having a particularly difficult time recognizing their emotions or how to appropriately handle them, we walk them to an area of our room called the “Quiet Space” where they have ample materials and visuals on how to help them calm their bodies so that they are able to return to the group in a manner that is acceptable and so that they can learn at their optimal ability. We are confident most of our days spent in the bunny room will be an enjoyable and it will be a learning filled environment with this strategy in place.

Any questions or concerns about anything taking place in our room, please feel free to contact Ms. Carly or Ms. Sarah at any time!

September also marks the start of our first preschool curriculum study, “Clothing”! As we enter the new month our hopes are that we’ll be diving into some cooler weather and we’ll discuss what changes we see, hear, and feel. We’ll talk about clothing, its purpose, the similarities and differences in our clothing as compared to other cultures, and how we can use our clothing to express ourselves!

In the bunny room, we follow Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum uses a balance of both play directed and teacher directed activities. These activities have goals and objectives that are developmentally appropriate and fall in to 4 main developmental categories: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. If you have any questions about the curriculum, feel free to ask Carly or Sarah! We will also dive feet first into our Handwriting Without Tears workbooks. Carly and I are eager explore these new activities with your children!

A few friendly reminders:
* If your child has a heat up in their lunch, kindly remove it from their lunchbox and place it in the black crate labeled “Bunny Heat Ups”. With some many mouths to feed and so little time, this is one time-saver that comes in super handy and we truly appreciate your cooperation with the procedure!
* Germs are all around us and to help cut back on the spread of them, we do encourage your child to wash their hands upon arrival in the morning.
* Please continue to check your child’s mailbox located to the left of our classroom door. There is a BLUE BUNNY bin and a YELLOW BUNNY bin (if you are unsure what color bunny your child is, ask them! They know)
* Talk to your child about their day! You’d be surprised at what they can recall! They all love to talk, we know!

~Carly & Sarah
We have had a wonderful start to our new school year! In August we focused on learning the classroom routines and getting to know our new friends. We started our math centers, workstations and Fun Fridays! We have met Zero the Hero for the first time, and he has helped us make a bundle of 10. He will come every ten days until the 100th day of school.

In September we dive right in. We will start learning some sight words, writing in our Handwriting without tears workbooks and starting Kidwriting. We have 5 birthday’s in September that we will be celebrating which is really exciting! The first two weeks of September we will be learning about living and non-living things then we will be moving into healthy habits and apples. During our apple unit we will be tasting apples and baking with apples so keep an eye out for a sign up sheet to bring in a few apples.

I am very excited that in September we will also be starting our language lessons as well as our cultural lessons. We are all very excited we will have language twice a week and cultural lessons once a week!

**Upcoming Events:**
- 9/4: Storytime Visit from Bosler Library
- 9/9: Technology Visit from Bosler Library
- 9/17: 1st Language Lesson
- 9/18: 1st Cultural Lesson
- 9/23-9/25: Bring in apples (Sign up Sheet to come)
- 9/26: Apple Crisp family Snack 3:30

- **Ms. Brittney and Ms. Bri**