



Dickinson College Children's Center September 2023



From the Director's Desk...

Welcome to the new school year here at DCCC! We are in full swing and can't wait to start all our fun fall events.

Center Happenings

The Kindergarten Program is very much enjoying the use of their Outside Classroom and as it continues to cool down, they will continue to use it even more. How exciting that the class got to perform a science experiment outside!

The center was closed on August 18th. The teachers spent their day cleaning and setting up their classrooms for the Open House later in the day. A quick, fun staff game was played by all along with a review of center policies and procedures early in the afternoon. Kris Woody, Behavior Specialist, presented the training *Culturally Responsive Teaching*, provided resources to all staff, and an open discussions was shared by all.

We are heading into our ninth year as a part of the PBIS program. This year we decided to partner (as needed) with Kris Woody, Behavior Therapist. 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. A core team was created 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. We once again received state recognition this past spring. We continue another year working on our implementation of these strategies. Be sure to follow our progress throughout the year and learn the DCCC Big Three!

**safe, kind,
responsible**

This fall, we also renewed our STAR 4. All fulltime staff are encouraged to complete twenty hours of training while those staff that are part time and all substitutes are required to obtain twelve hours of training. Congrats to all the staff for working hard to keep all their paper work updated throughout the year!

Flu Shots

According to our state regulations we are to be obtaining documentation for flu shots for all children. Please keep in mind that we are requiring documentation of a flu shot for your child by November 30th. If you know that you have no intention to get a flu shot for your child, please see below. We are asking for your exemption documentation as of October 1st so that we can cross you off our list and get our files up to date.

3280.131 Health Information:

Exemption from immunization for religious belief or strong personal objection equated to a religious belief must be documented by a written, signed and dated note from the child's parent or guardian. The statement shall be kept in the child's file. (medical, religious, or strong personal objection/belief

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

October 3—
Infant/Toddler fall
portraits

October 4—
Preschool/Kg fall
portraits

October 12—
Evening
Parent/Teacher
Conferences
***this is a change
from the original
calendar***

October 19—
Trick or treat at
DCCC!

October 27—
Class fall harvest
parties/parade



Fundraising



Products Available

(Various Flavors Found Online):

Latitude 40 Snacks: Granola Bites

Tommy's Beef Jerky

Harney & Sons Tea Sachets

Ben's Soft Pretzel Home Kit

Poppin Popcorn

Steep + Brew Coffee

Ship-2-Home Fundraising Program

Sale Begins Sept 5th,

Ends Sept 21st

**Top Selling Classroom gets
special party with treats!**

Top Selling Family gets \$50 tuition discount!

October Fundraising:

Chipotle Night Out: Tuesday, Oct. 3rd 5-9pm

Li'l Angels Fall Portraits:

Oct. 3rd Infant/Toddler/Sibling pictures

Oct. 4th preschool/Kindergarten pictures



Spotlight on the Family Handbook

Each month we will highlight something we believe is important from our Family Handbook and that needs some extra attention!

Late Pick-Up Fee

In consideration of our staff, the Children's Center closes promptly at 5:30 each evening. Families should arrive at the Center with enough time to pick up their child, gather their child's belongings and **exit the building by 5:30**. Families will be charged one dollar for every minute that they or their child remain in the building after 5:30.



Families who are late more than 3 times per fiscal year will have their late fee increased to \$5 per minute for the remainder of the year. This will be documented in the office.

If, after having the late pick-up fee increased, late pick-up continues to be a consistent problem, a meeting will be scheduled with the Director to plan and come up with possible solutions.



Duckling News

This Month

We are so pleased to report that our seven new infants, ranging from 3 to 9 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. 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; listen to nursery songs and lullabies; manipulate keys, rattles & teething 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 on HiMama each month during the course of this year. You will also find a hard paper copy of the Infant lesson plan in the mailbox area 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.

Reminders

*Please remember to label all of your babies' belongings, especially bottles and milk. Please include your babies first and last name and date milk was expressed.

*Remember to maintain a supply of extra outfits ...costume changes occur frequently in the infant room!

*We can not serve mango and coconut. They are both part of the tree nut family.

And please, 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. If you have them saved in a digital format, email is the best way to get them to us! Send them to wimerl@dickinson.edu

Baby Signs

<https://babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/more>

We use this sign for lots of things! More milk, more food, more toys, and more bubbles to name a few!

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 and listening to songs like “Wheels on the Bus”, 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.

Reminders:

Please remember to cut your child's food and make sure you are familiar with the choking hazard list you received at the beginning of the year. Please label everything, including the sheets and blankets.



It will start soon to get 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!





BLUE PUPPY HIGHLIGHTS!

The puppies have adjusted very well, are busy exploring the room and getting used to the routine of the day! We are having fun getting to know you and your child! The kitchen area, baby dolls and instruments are popular.

Please make sure to label items such as lunch containers (yogurts, pouches), bedding, stuffed animals, hats and jackets.

Feel free to bring in a water bottle for you child. It can stay here and we will offer water after being outside and through out the day. Also if your child will wear a hat please bring that in as well.

REMINDERS

~Due to choking hazards, grapes and hot dogs must to be cut into quarters for us to serve.

~check food labels for peanuts/tree nuts and mangos. We can not serve these items.

PBIS

We will be introducing being SAFE this month. Staying safe in the room by keeping feet on the floor, sitting in chairs and keeping toys in our hands. Staying safe outside by climbing up steps and going down the slide

Cathryn &
Bri

YELLOW HONEY BEES



This month:

We are getting used to being a yellow bee & learning the yellow bee rules. We are focusing on colors, shapes & numbers. We are learning our star breathing. Inhale a big deep breath & exhale saying star. This helps



when we get a little upset. They are learning to use the big playground. We go up the **RED** steps and down the **blue** slide.

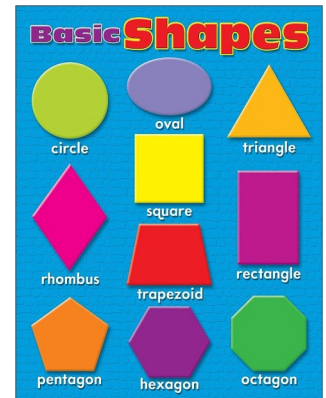
COMMUNITY HELPERS



Next month:

In October we will continue to learn our colors, shapes, and numbers. We will also learn about our community helpers, and how they help us. Some Halloween fun will also be had this month!

~BARB & SONDRRA





BLUE BUSY BEES

August Highlights:

*Getting to know each other and exploring the room. Most of the Blue Bees moved up from the Blue Puppies but we do have some new friends also.

*Meeting Martin our class fish pet.



*The blue bees have had a great start to the year. We have also been learning what the expectations are in the classroom, hallway, and the playground (which is a part of our SPEC Program). 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 independently, 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 these skills by having your child work on them at home.

What is Coming Up in September:

*Caterpillar to butterfly (learning about and watching Monarch and Swallowtail butterflies go from caterpillar, into chrysalis, emerging as butterflies and then releasing them on the playground)



*Colors, shapes, opposites and 123's and ABC's



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 a helmet, please bring one in**

*Please provide utensils in your child's lunch. We do have spoons but we do not have forks available. Spaghetti is tough to eat with a spoon! :)

***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

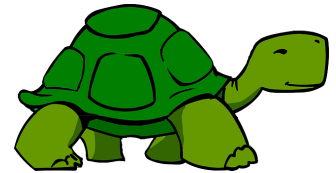
JODY & CASSIE

Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

Everyone is doing well settling into the rules and routine of the day! I am pleasantly surprised at how quickly these bears are learning new skills!

We have been introduced to our DCCC's Big 3: Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Responsible. We will be starting our PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) Program, which will help us identify our feelings and learn to use our words for problem solving, complimenting, as well as other social and emotional skills! I will be sure to explain these programs more thoroughly as we go through the month!



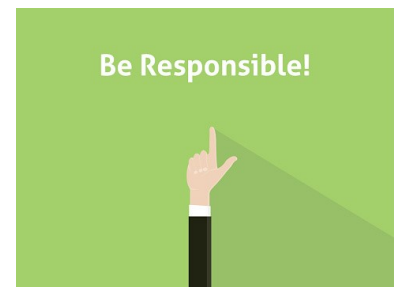
Our preschool thematic units will be lasting a few weeks long and touch on several concepts. The teddy bears will spend a lot of September getting to know their new classroom, friends and families. We will also explore how to be caring, and what pets and people's needs are through our Pets unit!



MANDY



**BE
KIND**



BLUE BEARS



Welcome to the Blue Bear Room! We have all officially gotten to know each other and have begun to build on old friendships and create new ones. We have enjoyed our first few weeks talking about our new environment. We have learned about rules and how they keep us and the things around us safe.

We will start learning 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 will meet another friend that we will see a lot, Mat Man. This new “friend” will be a great tool to make us aware when we are writing our letters.

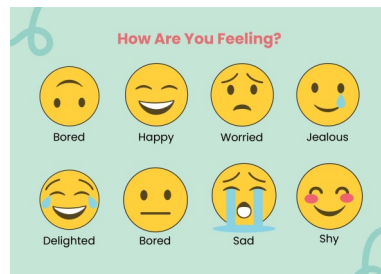


In September we will talk about what makes each of us special and we will also talk about our families and our pets. During our pet study we will learn about how to care for pets, what each eats, and what makes a great pet. Pets are a big part of our families so learning proper care is important.

Starting this month we will spend one day a week during large circle time talking about different emotions and how they make us feel. We will also learn some ways to handle these feelings.

We will also be welcoming our new Blue Bear teacher, Mr. Gunner, into our classroom during the first week of September!

We are off to a great start and looking forward to a wonderful year in the Blue Bear Room!



~Ms. ASHLEY & MR. GUNNER

BUNNIES



August came and went in the 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! Everyone is transitioning so well into the BIG Bunny room! We've had some new challenges to overcome but we are learning that for every problem there is a solution. We are already showing an understanding of these new routines and before we know it, it will all become second nature to us!

We also introduced and implemented our classroom management strategy! It's titled "Get your game on!" The children were reminded about DCCC and our classroom's Big 3 (Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible). When they display an understanding and actively show that they are completing any of the Big 3, 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". Here they have ample materials and visuals on how to help them calm their bodies so that they can 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 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!



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 us! We will also dive feet first into our Handwriting Without Tears workbooks. We are eager to explore these new activities with your children!

September 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!

Before we get started with our first Creative Curriculum study, we'll spend an extra week building some necessary social/emotional groundwork with a furry classroom friend named "Pip". Pip is a stuffed animal dalmatian dog who will walk us through classroom rules and expectations before we dive into our kindergarten readiness learning. Pip will also teach us about BIG and small problems and help give us some tools to become problem solvers!

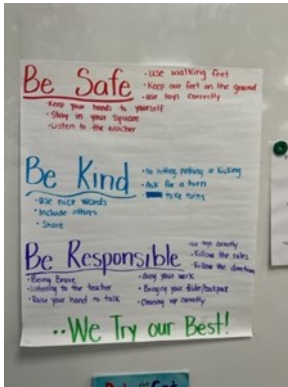


A few friendly reminders:

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!

SARAH & CARLY

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



Kindergarten is off to a great start this year! It is always hard when you move to a new classroom or a new school and have to get to know new people, so we are really practicing being kind friends to each other as we get to know everyone.

We have been working learning about our classroom routines and rules, DCCC's Big 3. The Big 3 include Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible. In kindergarten we also practice trying our best!

We have been learning our names and learning how to use the different classrooms

tools like pencils, markers, scissors and glue during our kindergarten boot camp.



We started talking about our first SEL superhero, her name is Harper and she helps us with being kind to others. In kindergarten we are always looking for ways to help others at school. We ask people how their days are going, clean up, hold the door, be good listeners and more!



Kindergarten Challenge

The kindergarten dolphins challenge you to find 3 ways this month where you can be a helper to someone else and let us know what you do!

Ms. BRITTNEY & Ms. TESSA