



Dickinson College Children's Center April 2024



From the Director's Desk

DCCC: Children's Center staff participated in a professional development day on Friday, March 15th. Over half of the staff and a few substitutes renewed their Pediatric First Aid/AED & CPR Training Certificates. All staff members participated in a meeting addressing PBIS in the classrooms and the steps involved in dealing with challenging behaviors. Staff also spent time planning and reorganizing their classrooms. Half of the staff also had some fun doing a team bonding egg hunt and a race to complete a puzzle.

During March, Ms. Cheri and Ms. Ashley took part in The Foundations for Enhancing Communities Early Learning Conference (virtual). Teachers were able to earn additional training hours on a variety of topics. We also had Ms. Brittney attend a training PAT-TAN: Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference, *Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work!* Ms. Cathryn and Ms. Laci attended an OCDEL ECE Learning Conference titled: Stable and Secure: Supporting Children Through Trauma Sensitive Approaches.

The 2024-2025 DCCC Kindergarten Program is currently full. Please call the center (717-245-1088) if you are interested in being placed on a wait list.

The 2024 Summer School Age Programs still have a few openings. Special events such as field trips and special visitors are currently being planned. Please contact the center office if you are interested in learning more about the programs.

Update to DCCC Security

Facilities continues to work on implementing the hardware for the card access systems which include security cameras to also be installed for monitoring the main doors with card access.

Over the next few weeks we hope to have the center wide intercom installed. This installation will take place after hours so not to disturb the children and our daily schedules. Once things are ready to go, we will be sure to update all families and make sure all are aware of the procedures for center access. For now, we are in a holding phase for all the work to be completed.

Drop off/Pick up reminders:

A always please follow these reminders for drop off and pick up routines:

*Upon arrival (or on your way out), remember to sign your child in for the day

* DCCC closing time—5:30 p.m. Please arrive in enough time to sign your child out, gather your child and their belongings, and exit the building by 5:30.

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

April 18—DCCC Kindergarten Incoming Class visitation 9:00 a.m.

April 23, 24, 26—Daytime family conferences

April 25—Family conferences—evening

May 9—Trike-a-thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

May 24 & 27 — DCCC Closed for Memorial Day



Fundraising

Lil' Angels Pictures are IN, and they're super cute as always!

DCCC had a Panera Night out on April 5th!

Final amounts are still pending on Lil'Angels and Panera!

Check out the fundraising bulletin board in the hallway for final totals!

Total for the 2023-2024 school year so far: \$10,811.21!!

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Golf for DCCC!!



DCCC's 35th Anniversary will be celebrated with the very first Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Sunday, September 22nd 8-1pm at Carlisle Barracks Golf Course.

There are two main ways to support DCCC at this tournament:

- Form a team and come play!!
- Find a local business to help sponsor this event!



DUCKLINGS

This Month

It was a blustery March, and we didn't get outside as often as we were hoping for! We watched for the early signs of spring outside our classroom window. We saw birds, squirrels, and bushes beginning to bud. We enjoyed coloring with crayons this month and can't wait to do more art activities! We listened to Celtic music, and danced with shaker eggs. We will celebrated Read Across America with board book readings of fun, nonsensical, rhyming words, and lots of fun illustrations. We continue to label our body parts and our feelings, as we learn more about ourselves.

Reminders

- *Please continue to label all bottles and containers.
- *Remember to cut your infants table food into bite size pieces.

Our Favorite Toys This Month



Next Month

The month of April ushers in spring and a busy month of activities. As it gets warmer, please make sure your baby has appropriate clothing for outdoor play. Even though we don't worry too much about footwear indoors, we do need foot protection for outdoor play. Robeez, Pedipeds, or a similar soft sole protective shoe works well for non-walkers and something a little more supportive for walkers. We also ask that you send in sunscreen and sun hats at this time. The "big idea" of our April lesson plan revolves around spring. We will spend time on the playground observing the seasonal changes around us. We will also be exploring spring flowers, looking for bunnies and birds outside of our windows, and be creating art with a fun spring theme!

Helpful Feeding Information

Introduction of table foods and self-feeding are big happenings in the infant room right now. Feeding is not only a source of vital nutrition for your baby, but mealtimes are also important learning and social and emotional experiences for young children. Always make sure that foods are cut into small infant-bite size pieces. Review the choking hazard listed posted in the parent handbook. Meals should include choices that are infant size portions, as well as interesting and varied in terms of flavor, texture, and food groups. Remember, a young child may need to be introduced to a new food as many as 10 times or more before they begin to develop a taste for that food. Others may be more adventurous eaters. Learning to self-feed is a process that can take time and each child has his own preferences. What is important is to expose your baby to foods when they are developmentally ready and to be patient and supportive as they explore and develop this new skill.

Baby Signs

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

- LACI & MARYGRACE



YELLOW PUPS

March was a month full of books! We spent time listening to books by Dr. Seuss, Sandra Boynton, and Eric Carle. We read so many books over and over again that Lindsay and Alisha might just recite them while they are sleeping! We created a beautiful “Original Artworks”, and all of the animals from Brown Bear, Brown Bear! We also developed a love of singing in the month of March. We sing “Row, row, row your boat”, “We Are the Dinosaurs”, “Polar Bear, Polar Bear”, and “Ring Around the Rosie” using the motions! We are growing by leaps and bounds and saying new words every day!



The theme for April is Spring has Sprung! We welcomed Miss Bri to the classroom! We will be talking about changes in the season, exploring flowers and dirt. April also brings Earth day. We will be playing with bubbles outside and chasing them. On the playground we will see birds and lots of new things growing. For art we will be painting fun spring projects. The week of April 6-12th is one of our favorite weeks, The Week of The Young Child. We will have some special themed days, that will be filled with fun activities. Most importantly, we will be outside much more now that the days are warmer!

- **LINDSAY & BRI**

Family Reminders:

- * Please check your child’s extra clothing to make sure it is seasonally appropriate.
- Please make sure to send in a lightweight jacket for outside time.
- Please send in a water bottle for the warm outside days ahead.



BLUE PUPPIES



We are welcoming Ms. Tessa to the room! It will be very exciting as we get to know each other and the routine.

We said "see you later" to Ms. Bri as she moved next door to the yellow pups. We can wave to her out our window and see her on the playground!

PBIS

We are focusing on being SAFE this month. We make sure we are taking care of ourself by using walking feet inside, sitting in our chairs, eating with a calm body and in other ways so we don't get hurt.

The puppies had so much fun listening to books from different authors, our favorite was Eric Carle.

This month will have us looking at the signs of spring with rain and things growing.

Conferences will be April 25, be on the look out for pre conference forms and sign-up sheets.

*Cathryn &
Tessa*

REMINDERS

- ~Please check mail box folders for papers
- ~Please check Lillio for items needed
- ~Mangos are in the tree nut family, please check yogurts and fruit pouches
- ~When dressing in the morning, please keep the weather in mind, cool mornings and warmer afternoons

YELLOW HONEY BEES

hello
APRIL

The month of March we enjoyed reading books by different authors. We continued to practice our counting and colors, which they are getting very good at. The month is ending with Ms. Barb moving to her new position monitoring the front

door. She is looking forward to still seeing everyone's smiling faces each day as she greets you!



Ms. BARB & Ms. MIMI

April will be filled with spring activities, books and art. We will be looking at all the new life in nature outside. We are hoping for some more nice weather where we can take advantage of the Education Station outside the big room; doing coloring, and science activities.



Family Reminders:

- If you have not had a chance to send in a helmet for your child to ride a bike on the playground, please do so!
- Please, keep a light wait jacket or sweatshirt for your child to wear outside when it is cold in the morning but warmer in the afternoons.

Ms. ALISHA & Ms. MIMI



BLUE BUSY BEES

March Highlights:

- *Flannel board stories (Brown Bear, Brown Bear and The Very Hungry Caterpillar)
- *Trying green eggs
- *Making and decorating cupcakes after reading If

You Give A Cat A Cupcake

- *Making paper tacos after reading Dragons Love Tacos

- *Learning about authors and illustrators and what their job is
- *Popsicles for Ms. Sondra's last day
- *Ms. Cassie came back!!



What is coming up in April:

During the month of April, the blue bees will talk about spring. We will explore the sights and sounds of spring and all the changes that we see occur as the days become longer and warmer. We will talk about flowering plants, fruits and vegetables and do fun planting of our own. We will observe our plants closely watching them as they grow, taking measurements and keeping records of how fast and tall they grow. We will talk about changes that occur to animals in the spring and explore animals that hatch from eggs and do other fun things with eggs. We will also have a week called **The Week of the Young Child**, a celebration of children and all the fun and beauty they bring into our lives.



Some other fun changes in April we will begin to watch the Falcon cam in Harrisburg to observe new life and to see the beautiful baby birds grow and eventually leave their nest.

Family Reminders:

- *Please, keep a light wait jacket or sweatshirt for your child to wear outside when it is cold in the morning but warmer in the afternoons.
- *A pair of extra shoes or rain boots would be a good idea for spring muddy days outside.

JODY & CASSIE

Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS

We had a blast climbing the rainbow! I think our favorite part was painting! The entire group was so excited about our color mixing and exploring, it brought about some great conversations!



weather turns warm throughout the day, they may be comfortable.

Replace the extra clothes in your child's bin, one pair of pants, shorts, short sleeve shirt, long sleeve shirt, socks and underwear!

We will spend a majority of April with a focus on the Spring changes, as well as an eye on our environment and how we can make a healthy impact through recycling. Starting with Frog and Toad week, followed by a week focused on The Young Child. Conferences will be coming up in April as well, I can't wait to share the growth that has occurred with your child since the fall conferences!



MANDY

Teddy Bear Reminders:



- The weather is transferring to spring, dress your children in layers so as the



BLUE BEARS



Yay for Spring!!! The Blue Bears are so happy for warmer weather and cannot wait to do more activities outside!

To kick off the month of April we will be focusing on our first spring theme, April Showers. This theme will focus on the changes we see in the season of spring related to plants and weather.

The second week of April is NAEYC's Week of the Young Child (WOYC) to celebrate

early childhood education! Each day this week will be a different theme: Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday!



Then we will move into our ball theme. We will experiment with the different ways they move and compare and contrast different types of balls. We will also take some time this week to discuss different types of sports! Our last theme for the month will be Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR). We will learn different ways to keep our planet clean/beautiful!

Our letters for the month of April will be V, W, and X. It's crazy to think that we've almost learned all 26 letters! Spring conferences will be the last full week of April. More information will be sent out at a later date.

Please continue to practice **DCCC'S BIG 3: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible!** We are also encouraging self-help skills such as putting on jackets independently, independence in the bathroom (including handwashing), and opening lunch items.

ASHLEY & GUNNER

**BE
KIND**

be safe.



BUNNIES

It's a new month and we are all excited about learning new things! Here are some NEW things the Bunnies have learned!

Hello April



Amelia learned how plants grow! Verena learned new ways to create art! Harrison learned that frogs are bigger than toads! Sophia is learning math at school! Sydney learned it's okay to get upset and mad, but we don't scream! Dylan learned about planets! Charlie learned it is always good to be kind!

Learning new things is fun! April will give us a lot of opportunities to keep learning and discovering new things! Reviewing our Big 3 rules of Be Safe, Kinde, and Responsible is something we'll take the first week of April to do. We opened the month celebrating a silly holiday we know as April Fool's Day. We facilitated ways to have fun without being hurtful (being kind & safe). We also took it as a chance to discuss the difference between true and false and why it's responsible to tell the truth.

We will celebrate all the learning that is happening during The Week of the Young Child. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by NAEYC to spotlight early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities. We'll celebrate Earth Day by learning how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Lastly, we'll explore the farm. We'll talk about what farmers' responsibilities are. We'll also talk about the animals that live there. We are looking forward to Spring conferences and getting to meet with you all to discuss your child's progress and readiness for kindergarten!

Important dates:

Thursday April 18th: Kindergarten visitation @9am (more details will be sent later this week!)

Thursday April 25th & 26th: Parent/teacher conferences (look for a sign up sheet toward the end of this week!)

~CARLY & SARAH

KINDERGARTEN DOLPHINS



Kindergarten is flying by, and we only have around 40 days left! I cannot believe it! We are wrapping up our final units on Spring, flowers, birds, etc. before we move on to our end of the year and graduation activities. So far, we have learned about Spring and weather. We talked about different types of weather and clouds. We are currently learning about chickens, eggs, and nests. We are learning about the

life cycle of chickens and have been doing some research on them. Learning how to research will help us in our final project which is a research project about endangered animals. The endangered animals' projects are always a big hit! We have been enjoying our language and culture lessons with Ms. Rachel too!

We will end April with learning about the Earth, how to take care of it by reducing, reusing, and recycling things and sharing what we learn about endangered animals.



Here is a fun idea to do at home: Egg Carton Bird Feeders

Materials Needed: Markers/crayons, Scissors, String, Egg Carton, and Bird Feed

1. Cut the lid off the egg box
2. Decorate the egg carton to your liking with markers or crayons (or paint if you are willing to get a bit messier)
3. Add the string so it can be hung outside in a tree. Feed the string through the holes that are already in your egg carton OR cut your own holes. Once the string is added find a place to hang it outside

(somewhere you can see it is always fun so you can watch the birds eating from it)

4. Now just add the bird seed and watch!

If you make one of these don't forget to post it and tag us on Facebook and Instagram @dcchildrencenter

Get Outside. Move your Body. Enjoy Nature.

MS. BRITTNEY & MS. TESSA