



## Dickinson College Children's Center April 2025



### From the Director's Desk

We are excited for spring weather! It really seems to bring a bit of extra pep in everyone's step when that sunshine peeks through the clouds! There is a lot happening here at DCCC during the month of April so please keep an eye on our Calendar of Events, the Week of the Young Child flier that was sent through Lillio and that is posted throughout the Center, and other reminders that will be classroom specific. As always, let us know if you have any questions!

#### **DCCC staff:**

Children's Center staff participated in a professional development day on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Over half of the staff and a few substitutes renewed their Pediatric First Aid/AED & CPR Training Certificates. All staff members participated in a course titled: Positive Approach to Children with Big Feelings presented by: Jennifer Poole from the Pennsylvania Key. Staff also spent time planning and reorganizing their classrooms. Half of the staff also had some fun doing a team bonding cooking projects (playdough and slime recipe testing for classrooms!)

In March, Ms. Cathryn and Ms. Sarah attended the Capital Area Chapter of PennAEYC in Harrisburg. One workshop explored different parenting styles and how we can understand and support them. The other was learning about different types of play children exhibit at specific ages and stages of development. The keynote speaker engaged attendees in music mindfulness, he was the former drummer in the band Rusted Root!!

A few preschool teachers (Ashley K, Sarah B, and Erica) participated in "The Foundation for Enhancing Communities" virtual conference sessions

#### **DCCC Kindergarten & Summer School Age Program:**

The 2025-2026 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 2025 Summer School Age Program is also full! Special events such as field trips and special visitors are currently being planned and we are excited for what is to come!

#### **Drop off/Pick up reminders:**

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 7-11 - Week of the Young Child

April 11—Family Café  
7:15—9:30

April 17—DCCC Kindergarten Incoming Class visitation  
9:00 a.m.

April 22—Family conferences—evening

May 15—Trike-athon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital

May 26 —DCCC Closed for Memorial Day



# Fundraising

## **April Fundraising Opportunities!**

**So many possibilities to participate!**

**As always, check out the fundraising board in the hallway for details!**

**Thank you to those who participated in the Panera Night Out fundraiser!**

**Original Works - YOUR KIDS ART:**

**Orders Due April 11th**

**Check out the samples in the hallway**

**Senators Game**

**Trick or Treat Night**

**April 26th**

**Click here to learn more:**

**<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Dickinsoncollege2>**



## PBIS Corner

Spring brings us the wonderful gift of time change, and with the time change come longer evening daylight! The longer daylight hours allow for more activities, which may create later bed-times, or just an increase in tiredness from the daily activities. Keep in mind the change in bedtime and the added tiredness may increase the emotional meltdown therefore needing some emotional regulation.

***On the PBIS Board this month will be emotional regulation handouts (Infants, Toddlers, Preschool, and even one for parents)***

Enjoy the Spring weather and time together!





## DUCKLINGS

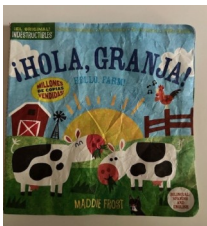
### This Month

It was a blustery March, and we didn't get outside as often as we were hoping for but we watched for the early signs of spring outside our classroom window. We saw birds, squirrels, and bushes beginning to bud. We enjoyed fingerpainting this month and can't wait to do more art activities! We listened to Celtic music, and danced with shaker eggs. We 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.
- \*If your baby is over 1 year of age, a small blanket is welcome for in their crib during nap

### 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 (no sprays) 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**

During March we spent a lot of our day Reading books from different authors. Our favorite book was Brown Bear ,Brown Bear. The yellow puppies are starting to recognize animals/colors and help us read along. We used crayons, markers, and paint to create fun art projects.

### **Important Dates:**

4/7 - Week of the Young Child (details posted outside of our classroom)  
4/22- Conference Night



April brings some fun themes that we are excited to explore. Rain, Eggs, Bunnies, Weather and Earth Day are just a few things we will be learning about. The Week of the Young Child starts on 4/7 and we have a lots of new activities lined up. The start of the week we will be having a rainbow lunch. Conferences will be on 4/22 in the evening to go over your child's progress. A pre conference form is in your child's folder to fill out and return and a sign up sheet will be posted next week.

### **PBIS-**

**Be Safe-** We are working on the puppies going up the steps and down the slide so no one gets kicked.

\*Walking feet in the classroom. We can walk, march, or crawl

\* Holding hands and walking feet in the hallway when we take helpers for supplies. Also holding the rope for classroom walks.

**Be Responsible-** Help clean up our toys- We use the Clean up song and have the puppy's bring us toys or fill up the bin with the toys.

**Be Kind-** We have been working on taking turn , gentle touches/nice hands, and using our words/sign language

**BRI & ALISHA**



## **BLUE PUPPIES**



Now that the weather is getting a little bit warmer, please bring in a water bottle for your child. Please make sure to labeled with their name.

Conferences will be April 22, be on the look out for pre conference papers and sign-ups.

### **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 favorites were Jane Carbera-Twinkle Little Star, Old MacDonald and If you're Happy and you Know It. This month will have us looking at the signs of spring with rain and things growing.

*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 for that ingredient
- ~Keep the weather in mind, cool mornings and warmer afternoons
- ~Check child's extra clothes to see if needed/restock

## **YELLOW HONEY BEES**



Greetings Families! March has been so nice for us to mostly be playing outside in the morning and the afternoon. The children even have gotten to play in the sandbox, which they love! Some of the children have been practicing climbing the ladder up onto the playset and are getting pretty good at it. We've been em-



phasizing the importance of coming right to line when we are outside and we call them. We have talked about how if we have a fire drill or if it starts to rain outside, they need to listen right away.



April will be sunny and warmer, so please send in water bottles for your child to use throughout the day if you have one. We will start to practice riding the tricycles and scooters we have in our shed. The children all need a helmet with their name on it in order to ride these.

April 7-11 is the Week of The Young Child and there are center wide special days. Monday will be Rainbow lunch day in which we will have a sign up sheet for parents to send in store bought fruit, veggies, or crackers for us to share together. Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> is big room day with parachute play. Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> is PJ Day. Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> we will be using the Education Station outside and doing art, and Friday will be the family café in the big room and we have MaryGrace, the infant teacher doing music with us in our rooms.



One final note: conferences are April 22 in the evening. A sign up sheet will be posted for those interested in a conference.

**Ms. MIMI & Ms. SONDR**

4-1-2025  
April Newsletter

# BLUE BEES

MS. JODY  
MS. ASHLEY

## What are we up to?

We have been quite the busy bees this past month! Every week we have been talking about different child book authors! We have also been enjoying afternoon snacks outside and having the sandbox out again! Our favorite toys have been the sorting bears, and insects! One of our butterflies woke up early this month, we enjoyed letting her free!



## Reminders & Upcoming Dates

**April 7-11: Week of the Young Child**

Please remember to empty your child's mailbox weekly! The first week of May will be Pet Week! I will send more information about that shortly.



# Preschool Pages...



## YELLOW BEAR CUBS



SPRING IS HERE!!! We are super excited for warmer temperatures and for flowers to bloom so that we can see pops of color all around us!



The first theme of April we will be focusing on gardens and habitats- what do flowers need to grow, comparing different types of seeds, as well as planting seeds and taking care of them.



The second theme of April is The Week of the Young Child™ which is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. The week of the young child is to celebrate the WHOLE child in respect for their social, emotional, cognitive, physical, artistic, and scientific development!

### April 7- 11

Monday – rainbow lunch day

Tuesday – parachute play day with stuffies (bring a small stuffed animal!)

Wednesday – Center-wide PJ Day!

Thursday – special art time in education station

Friday – Family Café in Big room at drop off 7:15 – 9:30 & musical visit with MaryGrace!

The third theme of April is Eggstravaganza! We will be learning all about eggs and the many different things we can do with eggs (both real and plastic).

For the last theme of April, we will be celebrating the Earth by learning about how to Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse items all around us in order to help keep our Earth clean.

As you can see, we have many exciting themes for the month of April. We will also be learning how to identify and write letters of the alphabet that have curved features such as “C, G, O, and Q.”

## REMINDERS:



April 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>: Week of the Young Child



April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences

**MS. ERICA**

# **BLUE BEARS**



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

During the month of March, the Blue Bears learned about fairy tales and wanted to share their favorites!

**Eli-** Three Little Pigs

**Blair-** Frozen

**Dean-** Cars

**Grant-** Goldilocks

**Kat-** Puss and Boots

**Amani-** Rapunzel

**Ms. Ashley-** Little Mermaid

**George-** Three Little Pigs

**Everlea-** Frozen

**Valerie-** Frozen

**Kennadee-** Three Little Pigs

**Ada-** Beauty and the Beast

**Beckett-** Gingerbread Man

**Micah-** Goldilocks

**Armond-** Three Little Pigs

**Mackenzie-** Little Mermaid

**Sigrid-** Sleeping Beauty

**Luke-** a unicorn fairy tale

**Hugo-** Frozen

**Ms. Alex-** Little Mermaid



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

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



## April 7- 11

Monday – rainbow lunch day

Tuesday – parachute play day with stuffies (bring a small stuffed animal!),

Wednesday – Center-wide PJ Day

Thursday – special art time in education station

Friday – Family Café in Big room at drop off 7:15 – 9:30 & musical visit with MaryGrace!

Next 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 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 N, V, and W. It's crazy to think that we've almost learned all 26 letters of the alphabet! Spring conferences will be the last full week of April. More information will be sent out later.

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 & ALEX**

## **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



### **I liked learning about-**

Juliette- Shapes, hearts are my favorite.  
Hudson- Seasons, I'm excited for summer.  
Dawson- Frogs, hop hop hop.  
Hannah- Spring and flowers.  
Leo- Seasons, summer is such a fun season.  
Vivian- Planting flowers.  
Sophia- Planting flowers.  
Anders- Planting seeds.  
Jude- Planting seeds.  
William- I am just so happy.  
Brave- Poison frogs.

Learning new things is fun! April will give us a lot of opportunities to keep learning and discovering new things! Reviewing our DCCC Big 3 rules is something we'll take the first week of April to do. We will open the month celebrating a silly holiday we know as April Fool's Day. We'll facilitate ways to have fun without being hurtful (being kind & safe). We'll also take 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:**

Mon April 7- Rainbow Lunch Day (sign up on door)  
Tues April 8- Parachute Play Day with Stuffedies (child can bring 1 stuffed animal)  
Wed April 9- PJ Day  
Thurs April 10- Special Art Day in Education Station  
Fri April 11- Family Café in Big Room 7:15-930am & Special music with MaryGrace  
Thurs April 17- Kindergarten visitation day  
Tues April 22 & Thurs April 24- Spring conferences

**MS. SARAH & MS. SAM**

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

We are continuing to work on our problem-solving skills by working through our problems and sharing our ideas and opinions in a kind and respectful way. We continue to practice identifying our emotions and using our skills and toolboxes to calm our bodies when we need to.



## **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. MANDY**

