



Dickinson College Children's Center July 2025



From the Director's Desk...

It has been great to be back here at DCCC. All the kids seem like they grew while I was out! We have been enjoying the summer here at DCCC. Lately, we fill our days with early outside times, playtime and lots of movement time within the classrooms in the afternoons. Hopefully we soon get a break from the higher temperatures so we can get back to spending most of our days outside.

As a staff, we continue to work together to help cover vacation days throughout the classrooms for the month. We appreciate our truly dedicated substitutes who sub year-round but also go out of their way to step in for the summer to help as well. Our summer substitute teachers and aides are also wonderful too! We are proud to have the most amazing teachers and substitutes here at DCCC. We do have to share some teacher changes coming up starting this fall within our classrooms. Miss Sam will be resigning as the Assistant Teacher in the Bunny classroom and will join our substitute group until her sweet baby girl arrives. Abby Beecher will be also joining our substitute group starting this fall, her oldest is currently in blue bears and her youngest will be joining our yellow pups. As always, consistency and quality care are our priority in the classrooms. Once we work through these teacher/classroom changes and new hires within the next two weeks, we will be sure to share all info with our families.

The School Age camp program continues to increase the number of indoor group games keeping the children engaged and busy. We will be sending out our Summer Camp Surveys for families to provide feedback. Please be sure to participate as we like to hear what is working and identify areas that we can improve upon. Being flexible in the summer is very important as you can see the weather can be pretty unpredictable. The teachers have been working extra hard in providing additional activities for the school agers when it has been too hot to go outside. We also continue to buy additional craft supplies and games for the groups. Thank you teachers for a job well done!

The DCCC July staff meeting will be held in the evening at the Dickinson Farm. We are excited for all teachers and substitutes to come together for a potluck dinner, team games, and a relaxing time enjoying the outdoors at one of Dickinson's beautiful venues! We are gearing up for a fun filled staff day of organization and training on August 15th. DCCC will be closed however, we will also be holding an Open House from 3-4 for all new and existing families as an opportunity to meet with their new teachers and classrooms.

We are excited to announce that we will be bring back the bi-monthly family meetings starting in August. These meetings are held at 4:15 PM and are open to all families and are a great way to here about center events, learn more about the DCCC curriculum and to be a part of our fundraising efforts. More info to come soon!

-Gina VanKirk, Director

Dates to Remember:

August 8—Last
day of summer
school-age
Program

August 14—
Kindergarten
Parent Meeting
3:00—4:00 p.m.

August 15—
DCCC Closed
(staff training &
center clean-up
day)

August 18—First
day in new
classrooms &
First day of
Kindergarten!



Fundraising Update!

2025-2026 will have some new fundraisers, and a few all time favorites!

New: Noah's Ark Workshop—Build your own stuffie!

**Returning
Favorites:**

Chicken BBQ!!

Charleston Wrap
Rita's Italian Ice
Envelope fundraiser
Family Turkey Trot
Pancake Breakfast
Li'l Angels Portraits



**Easy, No-Effort Fundrais-
ing:** Weis4Schools



Get your Box Tops App Here!

**BE SURE TO CHECKOUT OUR FUNDRAISING BULLETIN BOARD
AND LILLIO MESSAGES TO KNOW EXACT DATES FOR THE
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!**



Duckling News

This Month

We have had a great month spending time playing on the playground in the cool shade of our big, blue awning. We are getting skilled at sitting in real toddler-size chairs, feeding ourselves table foods with utensils and cups, and most of us have already decided that we don't need morning naps anymore! We are also starting to put away our own toys, which is a big help!

Reminders

- *Please continue to label all containers.
- *If your baby has celebrated their first birthday this is a great time of year to begin transitioning to blankets for nap time. It may be helpful to send in both a sleep sack and blanket in the beginning of this process.

Baby Signs

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

This sign is great to use as babies get older and turn into toddlers!

Next Month

In July, we will celebrate "Summer Days" in story books and in song. We'll talk about the exciting experiences associated with this wonderful time of year: outdoor picnics, tent play, beach balls, painting with water, and more! As we continue to explore and learn through play, we will also continue our focus on supporting growing independence and helping the infants prepare for their transitions to their new classrooms next month. This includes continued practice with self-feeding table foods using spoons and forks; drinking from cups, sitting in big toddler chairs, helping to clean up, washing our hands, weaning from bottle feedings, elimination of morning naps and beginning to use blankets instead of sleep sacks. Remembering that each child moves at their own pace, rest assured that each one will be well prepared for their exciting move up to their new classrooms in August. We look forward to fun, summer days together!

Our Favorite Toys This Month



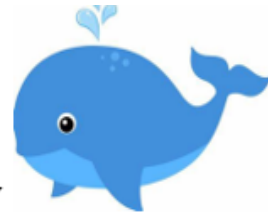
Helpful Feeding Information

This website has some ads on it, but it has a bunch of toddler friendly ideas and recipes that you may find to be helpful!

<https://www.yummytoddlerfood.com/recipe-in>

LACI & MARYGRACE

YELLOW PUPS



Yellow Puppy

July Newsletter



June was filled with lots of story time, singing, meeting new substitute teachers, and having fun outside. Some of our favorite activities were- getting are feet painted, painting sunflowers, and dance parties.

During the Month of July, we will be exploring new toys such as fake insects, ocean animals and a number train. We will be reading books about ocean life and summer fun. We will be making stars and stripes crafts for the 4th of July and singing new songs. We also have some fun beach and ocean animal crafts planned.

Reminders:

- * Pizza Friday is \$2 per child, feel free to pay ahead.
- *Check Lillio app daily for needed supplies
- *Check your folder for important paper work

PBIS

Be Safe- Stay with Teacher,
Hold the rope on walks, Feet
on the floor

Be Responsible- Pushing our
Chair in and Cleaning up toys

Be Kind- Waiting our Turn,
Using our Words , Helping a
friend

~**BRI & ALISHA**

BLUE PUPPY HIGHLIGHTS!



If your family is going to be out for a few days or a week for trips or get-aways, please let us know.

We love pizza Fridays! Please remember to bring in a side or two such as fruit/veggie, applesauce, pouch, or yogurt. And \$2 for pizza!

The puppies have been busy painting with water, catching bubbles, looking for bugs, playing with beach balls, dancing with scarves and going for walks! We are hearing so much conversations between peers and using helping hands with clean up. Some of us have started using the ladder on the playground.

PBIS

We will be reviewing all 3-being KIND, SAFE and RESPONSIBLE this month. Using kind words and gentle hands, staying safe on the playground, and being responsible at clean up.

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.

Cathryn &
Tessa

YELLOW HONEY BEES



Greetings Families!

I hope you all had a wonderful week off together for the 4th of July. July always seems to fly by, we will probably do another water play day in July and then again in August before the class-



room switch. We continue to work on listening ears, especially the direction “voices off” for in the hallway, naptime, story time, circle time, and waiting for their names to be called to line up for outside. We also are still working on shapes, another thing you can also work on at home.

In July we will also be talking about the beach and ocean animals, zoo animals and camping. We will be getting the glue sticks out more for them to practice with as well as the scissors.



Quick reminder that we are all in this together! We are working on potty training here at DCCC in order to get ready for the transition to their next classroom so we hope that you are doing the same at home! We do have a closed week coming up and this can often be a good time to really focus on getting the kiddos in their underwear! Please let us know if you have any questions about resources for toilet training!

~MIMI





BLUE BUSY BEES

June Highlights:

*Sun Safety Activities, seeing how the sun made the black paper fade.

*We have been having a fun time using the big playground also.

*Sprinkler Day and making Ice cream

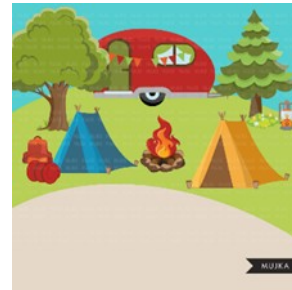
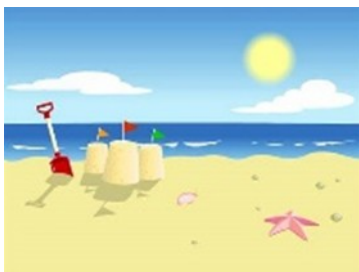


What is Coming Up in July:

VACATION FUN

July will be a short month in the Blue Bee room but we plan to talk about places you may go on a vacation to such as, the beach, the zoo, camping.

If your child has already had their vacation or you went somewhere last year, please bring in pictures for your child to share with their friends. We would also like to start water play in the sprinkler at least one day a week. Please bring in a swimsuit, towel and water shoes on Monday and we will send it home on Friday.



Family Reminders:

*Be sure to bring water play stuff each week (towel, water shoes, and swimsuit). Check the lesson plan to see which day we will be doing Sprinkler Fun.

*Check your child's cubby for extra change of clothing (shirt, shorts, socks, and underwear)

*Please be sure to wear close toed shoes on your child for safety reasons playing on the climber and riding bikes.

*Pizza Fridays (bring \$2.00 and two sides)

Thank you,

JODY & ASHLEY

Preschool Pages...

YELLOW BEAR CUBS



“Summer, Summer, Summertime!” And boy is it ever! It appears Mother Nature wanted to jump right into the summer heat. Because of that, there may be a chance on some mornings that Yellow Bears will have the opportunity to go outside on the playground earlier in the morning rather

than our regularly scheduled 11 AM time in order to get some fresh air and run around, so please be sure to apply sunscreen to your child before coming to the Center.



Before I get into sharing what our themes are for the summer, I want to congratulate our Yellow Bears for completing the letters of the alphabet. They have worked hard this year trying to identify each letter, as well as their sounds. They even practiced working on their fine motor skills by tracing each letter. I am super proud of all of their efforts. Well Done and keep practicing!

Moving on to our fun-filled themes for this month. The first theme for July will be about pirates! We will go on treasure hunts and make pirate hats and eye patches. We will also learn more about maps and how to follow one to find the buried treasure

Our second theme of the month will focus on science experiments. We will learn about static electricity, as well as the chemical reactions between baking soda and vinegar. We will also experiment with magnet magic.

The third theme for July will focus on the many activities and supplies that are involved with camping such as making S'Mores on a pretend campfire or going on a pretend hike within the classroom and stopping by a stream to go fishing.

Finally, we will end the month with a theme that is very exciting- GLOW WEEK. We will discover which colors glow using blacklights. We will also play games and have a Glow in the Dark dance party!

During the summer months, we will also look to have some designated days for water play. We will try to alternate the days between Thursdays and Fridays so that our part-time classmates can patriciate in the fun as well. Please be on the lookout for those special days on our lesson plans and announcements on Lillio. We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer!

ERICA

BLUE BEARS

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a much needed rest over the Fourth of July holiday with friends and family! It's crazy to think about the fact that we are nearing the end of our time together in the Blue Bear Room and getting ready to move on to Bunnies/Kindergarten!



We have lots of exciting activities during the month of July! The first week we are back in July is all about science! We will learn about what a scientist does and what tools they use. We will also take some time that week to do some experiments of our own! We will then jump into a class favorite theme: GLOW WEEK! Glow week is a personal favorite of Ms. Ashley's and she is pretty excited about all the fun activities planned for the week! We will spend center time in the dark underneath blacklights all week!



The last full week of July we will have a pirate theme, which is another Blue Bear favorite! We will give ourselves pirate names and even search for buried treasure! We will end the month of July with a camping theme. We will pretend to fish, hike, and make s'mores by the campfire!



Starting this month, we will plan for a water day once a week until the end of the summer! We will alternate between Thursdays and Fridays to allow our part time friends to participate. The day will be planned ahead of time on the lesson plan, but may change due to the weather, so please keep an eye out on Lillio for any updates/changes

~ASHLEY & ALEX

BUNNIES

Happy July and welcome back from a fun holiday break! We came back to school and dove right in to our ocean theme, exploring ocean animals. Here is your child's favorite ocean animal to learn about!

Sophia- Sea Turtle

Khalil- Shark

Hudson- Whales

Dawson- HammerHead Shark

Anders- Blue Whale

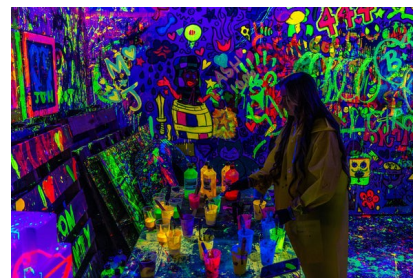
Charlie- Stingray

Tessa- Narwhal

Will- Sharks

Avianna- Fish

Finley- Dolphin & Narwhal



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

Next week we take on a week about Pirates where we will do a fun pirate yoga day on Tuesday and a movie day with a treasure “popcorn” snack that Friday! We will then take a week to explore science with experiments and things that glow! We will finish out July with a fun summer Olympic week. Even though it's summer we are still getting our learning in with letters and numbers, following directions, building social skills, problem solving, and building positive relationships with peers and adults!

We have some more fun summer activities planned for the summer, including water days, picnic lunches and more!

On August 8 Ms. Sam will have her last day as a Bunny room teacher but will be returning to substitute throughout DCCC during the next couple of months. She will be missed in the room but we are glad she is staying on for a while longer!

SARAH & SAM

DRAGONS 1



June went by so fast!

The favorite activities so far have been our Alpaca Visit and the Waterslide, even though the weather was cool. Inside they have enjoyed learning new games such as Spoons, Dutch Blitz, Trash and War.

So far, we have completed 3 S'mores on our reward chart! Two more and we will earn a class reward (ice pops, special visitor, extra park time, etc.)



July activities include a Leo's Ice Cream Shop Field Trip, two Library Visits, we will Build-a-Bear (Dragon), and we will have a Special Day with several Crafts! The themes in July will be Space and Cave/Castles.

REMINDERS:

Check the campers' hanging folder for any papers or artwork!
Pick up a July lesson Plan beside the hanging folders!



A Special Thank you!

Thank you to our brand new college student helpers Ms. Grace and Ms. Kyra who helped out in our program this summer! We could not have done it without them and hope they plan to return for some more fun next summer!

