



Dickinson College Children's Center August 2025



From the Director's Desk...

August is here and we all seem to be asking ourselves the same question, "where has the summer gone?" I like to have a few items on my bucket list for the summer so I can tell myself I did do some of my favorite things, like going to the beach, baseball games and visiting family!

We are managing to keep the children excited and busy throughout the last few weeks of summer. The school-age children (Dragons 2 at the Ritner Hwy Location) participated in lots of fun events! The days were hot but we managed to enjoy the time we did have outside. Sprinkler days were a highlight for all the rooms!

We are set to welcome new children at the start of our school year, lots of new families and a few new teachers and substitutes. We are looking forward to a great school year 2025-26! We hope to post our updated waiting list on our website within the next few weeks. We do currently have a few Kindergarten and toddler openings! If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them call the center office.

The center will be closed on Friday, August 15th. The teachers will be having a Professional Development Day that will consist of preparing for your child to be a part of their new classroom, a staff meeting and a training on AI and Canva. Open house will be from 3-4 PM. Please feel free to come and meet your child's new teachers and take a quick tour of their classroom. Please keep in mind that the first few weeks in the new classrooms consist of reviewing expectations and getting to know your child. We are excited to once again kick off our Center Wide Expectations (Be Kind, Be Safe and Be Responsible). Be on the lookout for info on our center wide bulletin boards as we start the new school year! We will share more about our DCCC expectations at our upcoming Parent Meeting and our fall Parent Conferences.

-Gina VanKirk, Director

**safe, kind,
responsible**

Dates to Remember:

August 8—Last
day of summer
school-age Pro-
gram

August 15—
DCCC Closed
Staff Training
Day

August 15—
DCCC Open
House
3:00—4:00 p.m.

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



Fundraising

BE SURE TO CHECKOUT OUR FUNDRAISING BULLETIN BOARD TO
FIND OUT WHAT'S COMING FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

NO EFFORT FUNDRAISERS:

Be sure to link your Weis Card To DCCC!

Click HERE: [weis4school](#)

Box Tops still exists! It's now an app!
Scan your receipts to get credit to DCCC!

Earn points, win contests! Check it out:

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>

Panera Night Out!

Thursday, August 14th 4-8pm 25% of sales will benefit
DCCC!

*In cafe * drive-thru * pick up *delivery

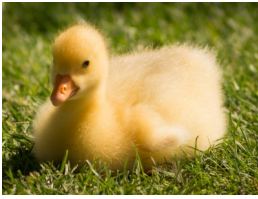
Use Code FUND4U at online checkout!

Coming this Fall:

September: Pick an Envelope!

October: Chicken BBQ Oct. 4th

Charleston Wrap Oct 1-30



Duckling News

This Month

What a busy month in our classroom. We spent a lot of time outside enjoying the summer sunshine! We've spent time exploring balls, toys, and every corner of our playground. We've been busy preparing for our transitions to our new classrooms. We've been practicing with our spoons and forks, using plates, drinking from cups, sitting in big toddler chairs, and helping to clean up.

Reminders

*Please continue to label all containers.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

* August 15—DCCC CLOSED & OPEN House 3:00—4:00

* August 18—First day in new classrooms!

Next Month

August is a short month together for us, but it will be packed full of fun! We will spend some time visiting with our teachers before our big transition! The transition to a new room may seem a bit overwhelming at first, but is an exciting time of discovery, and increased independence! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We have loved sharing this year of growth, exploration, and development with you and your baby. We are honored that you shared your baby with us for this first fun phase of their lives. We enjoyed spending time with them playing, singing, laughing, and learning. They learn so much during our time together, and so do we!

Please stop in and say “hi” from time to time!

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>



YELLOW PUPS

During July we tried out some water play days. Some puppies enjoyed it more than others, but everyone liked to splash in the puddles. We have been enjoying our early mornings on the play-ground climbing and running around.

Yellow Puppy Favorites

Art- Coloring with Markers, painting our hands, and Painting Outside

Songs- Freeze Dance, Teddy Bear Teddy Bear turn around, Baby Turtle, and Ants Go Marching

Books- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Race Car Count, I thought I Saw a Crocodile



**DCCC Big 3
Be Kind- Welcome
New Friends**

Welcome New Yellow Pups and Families

We are so excited to start this school year with a new class of Yellow Pups. We have a fun filled year planned with lots of exploring and learning of new skills. It will take a few weeks for your child to get used to drop off and our routine. We rotate toys, activities, and art projects throughout the week, but our basic schedule stays the same. Our schedule helps the yellow pups know what activity is coming next. Ms. Alisha and I are ready to get to know your child and your family. Please join us for our open house on August 15th.

We will Miss You!!!

As we wrap up our last weeks with this group of Yellow Pups, we will be exploring our favorite toys and activities. We want to thank you for a great year, and we had so much fun watching them grow. It's amazing to see what a difference a year makes. We wish you luck in your new classes as Blue Puppies and Yellow Bees.

August 14th – Last Day

Hawaiian Luau /Popsicle Party!!

For our last day please dress in a Hawaiian Outfit (flowers or bright colors). We are going to be having a special popsicle snack as well.

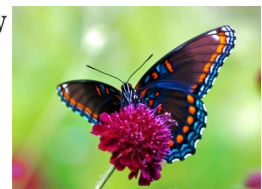
Important Days:

August 14th- Last Day – Hawaiian Luau

August 15th- Closed for Staff Training & Open House 3-4

August 18th- 1st Day of New Class

“And suddenly you know... It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”



BRI & ALISHA



BLUE PUPPY HIGHLIGHTS!

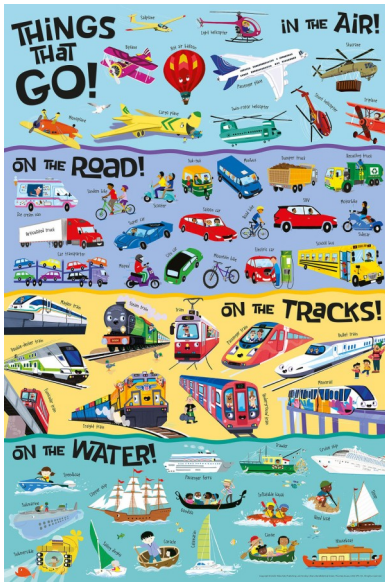
It has been such a fun year in the blue puppy room! A little bit of change, and so much growth! We are having conversations with our teacher and friends, playing and interacting with each other, doing things independently, identifying colors, some shapes and beginning to count!

The puppies had fun ending the month with “things that go”, rolling them in play-doh, and coloring a car. We also introduced letters and focused on the first letter of our name! We celebrated the end of our puppy year



with a luau and a yummy popsicle treat!

Thank you parents for allowing us to have so much fun and take care of these amazing children! We will miss them dearly, but excited to see them grow in their next class!



Reminders:

- DCCC Closed August 15 for staff training/center clean-up day
- Open House 3:00—4:00—we look forward to meeting some of our new families!

Cathryn &
Tessa

YELLOW HONEY BEES

Greetings Families!

I'm sad to say the Summer has flown by, and we are getting ready to say goodbye. These two weeks together we will be enjoying our favorite things inside and outside. We will be



finetuning our fine motor skills of holding scissors and cutting paper, as well as playing with play dough and making shapes with it, coloring, and painting. We will also be talking about how much they've grown up!

Outside, we will be riding bikes, playing in the sandbox, taking walks to the Education Station, and around the block. I also plan on taking the children for walks to visit their new classroom a couple of times. Ms. Erica will be able to see the children across the fence outside and say Hi, and talk to them so they get familiar with her face before the first day.



To all the new families and children starting in Yellow Bees August 18, welcome! I look forward to seeing you at the Open House on August 15. Any questions you have about the new room and routine, we can talk about then. Please know anytime you have questions or suggestions, you can talk to me or message me.

~**MIMI**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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- August 18—First day in new classrooms!





BLUE BUSY BEES



As this year quickly ends, Ms. Ashley and Ms. Jody would like to thank all the parents and children of the blue bee room for all the fun we had this year. It is always exciting to watch the children each year grow and learn from the end of August when they start in the blue bee room till the beginning of August when they move onto be bears. During the last couple of weeks, the blue bees will be talking about Babies, and Preschool Bound. Some of the activities we will do are measuring to see how much we grew this year, talking about what we can do now that we could not do as a baby, meeting and talking to our new teachers Ms. Ashley and Ms. and Kari and checking out the new blue bear room We will also read, play, and have fun being together and have a countdown chain to help the children visualize how long they have till they become Blue Bears.

“SEE YOU OVER THE FENCE AND HAVE A GREAT TIME BEING BEARS”

We also welcome the new blue bees and their families that we will get to know this school year. Ashley and Jody will spend the first two weeks with the new bees getting to know their likes, dislikes, what skills they have mastered and the skills that we can help them work on this year.

At the beginning of each month, you will receive a monthly lesson plan that will go over the standards/goals that we will be working on each month, parent involvement as well as the PBIS (Be Safe, Be Kind and Be Responsible) goal that we will be talking about for that month. Each week you will receive a lesson plan that will highlight the theme for the week, special activities, books, songs, and lessons that we will be doing for that week.

WELCOME TO THE BLUE BEE ROOM, IT IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR!

Parent Reminders:

*Please be sure your child has two extra changes of clothing (shirt, pants/shorts, socks, underwear if applicable)

* If your child needs a fork for their lunch, you will need to send one in their lunch box

*Please provide a bike helmet for your child, check for proper sizing, and label the helmet with your child's name.



Thank you...**ASHLEY AND JODY**

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Preschool Pages...



YELLOW BEAR CUBS



“Fly, Yellow Bears, Fly!” I can’t believe our time together is coming to an end, and I must release you to new teachers so that you can spread your wings and expand your beautiful brains! BUT, before you move into another classroom, we will take the next few weeks to celebrate our time together with lots of fun activities.

The first week of August, we will learn more about nursery rhymes and folk tales. However, we will focus on choosing characters and acting out their parts in the story. This will help us learn more about a character’s perspective and identify how the characters are feeling in the stories.

The final week that we are together will be Circus/ Superhero week! We will share our talents and superpowers that we developed this year with each other, and play some of our favorite games. We will also talk about the Blue Bear and Bunny Rooms- what are some of the things they are excited about with going to a new room; what are some things that are making them a little nervous or scared? Either way, I will remind them that I love them with all my heart and how I am super proud of them with just how much they have grown physically, socially, emotionally, and academically. I will reassure them that I will either be next door to them or across the hall, so if they get nervous or scared, I am not far away.

Thank you so much for entrusting us at DCCC with your precious cargo. It has been a pleasure being your child’s teacher, and I hope that they have enjoyed being in this class just as much as I have enjoyed having them as my students. Best of luck in the Blue Bear and Bunny Rooms!

With much love and gratitude,
MS. ERICA

***Don’t forget the Center is closed
Friday, August 15th for teacher in-service & Open House 3-4!**

BLUE BEARS

It's hard to believe our time in Blue Bears is winding down and they will be heading off to Bunnies or Kindergarten! They have all learned and grown so much this past year, we know they will do amazing things wherever they are headed next!

The last two weeks of Blue Bears will be tons of fun! The first full week of August will be all about dinosaurs! A lot of friends have shown interest in them throughout the year, so we're going to take the opportunity to learn as much as we can!



The last week will be all about Blue Bear Fun! We will do some activities that were huge hits throughout the year, as well as some new and exciting ideas! We will also take time this week to talk about the Bunny and Kindergarten rooms to

help them prepare for the transition on August 18th.

It has been a pleasure to be your child's teacher this past year. We hope that you have enjoyed them being in this class as much as we have enjoyed having them. We wish them the best of luck in Bunnies and Kindergarten.

Thank you for all the support and understanding you have given throughout the year. We couldn't have done it without you!



Blue Bear Favorites

Armond- tiger shark toy
Blair- coloring
Luke- playing with cars
Grant- tool toys
Hugo- house center
Beckett- dinosaur toys
Micah- house center

Elias- whale shark toy
Ada- house center
George- glow in the dark week
Ekaterina- art center
Sigrid- painting
Dean- magnet cubes
Mackenzie- house center

***Don't forget DCCC is closed Friday, August 15th for teacher in-service & OPEN HOUSE 3:00—4:00!! ***

MS. ASHLEY AND MS. ALEX

**Ms. Ashley and Ms.
Kari are so excited to
meet our new Blue
Bears!**

BUNNIES

In a million words or less, it's hard to believe the bunny classroom is closing a door to a very unforgettable year! We gave it TWO THUMBS UP! Nevertheless, when one door closes, another opens! We are very excited to see what 2025-2026 has in store for us!

There aren't words to adequately describe the nature of the relationship between a teacher and a student, but as this year comes to an end, we would like to convey just how much we appreciate being your child's teacher!

Day in and day out, we shared space, knowledge, hopes, disappointments, joys, and many parts of ourselves. Their brilliant smiles brought light to our days, and their selfless nature warmed our hearts. We won't ever forget seeing their faces each morning as we began our daily routine.

We are proud of the bunnies and their achievements, and we marvel at the confidence everyone has gained this year, both academically and socially! We are certain that this confidence will continue to prepare your children for whatever path they choose for their future.



We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for entrusting us with a piece of yours. It is not easy to place your son or daughter's care in the hands of another. To that end, it has been an absolute privilege for us to play such an important role in their lives this year.

As the days, weeks, and months, and years continue to pass, we will never forget the time with your children and hope that they continue to thrive! If there is ever anything we can do to help them in the future, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Humble and grateful,

Ms. SARAH AND Ms. SAM

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DRAGONS 2



Where has the summer gone? July's favorite activities included the Leo's Ice Cream Shop Field Trip, the Build-a-Bear (Dragon), making the potholder/coaster band weavings! The Space theme received the most excitement and enthusiasm from the campers. Bosler Library brought us a special gift for accomplishing our goal of 800 reading minutes!

We want to thank you all for sharing your children with us this summer! We will have a walking field trip to Massey's the last week of Camp! To help us continue to improve our summer camp, the children will be completing a survey with us, and we would encourage you all to complete the parent survey as well!

REMINDERS:

Empty/Check the campers' hanging folder for any papers or artwork!

Take home your camper's sunscreen on their last day

Take home anything in their cubby on their last day

Thanks for making it a great summer for us and for your child! We hope everyone has a wonderful school year <3



Please complete our camp survey!

<https://forms.office.com/r/jHq4epL4Js>