



Dear Families and Caregivers,

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend the Harvest Dinner. For those who could not be there, you were with us in spirit and we hope to see you at other future gatherings. It was a wonderful event. Thank you to: the planning committee members - Krista, Ysabel, Kait and Chris; the Cornell Men's Soccer team for the set up, serving and clean up; the children and staff for the decorations and flexibility as we arranged rooms and spaces.

The upcoming months present many happenings in our DICC community. Please share with us what is meaningful to you in terms of your culture, beliefs and ways of being throughout Holidays (celebrated or not, how and why) and the approaching new year. We are eager to learn and understand that there is so much to know about each child, family and all who surround us. It is interesting and exciting to deepen our awareness and knowledge about the diversity within each classroom.

We start the season with a reflection of growth and gratitude. Thank you for the honor to provide care and education with and for your children. It is work that is so important at this early phase of their lives. It really is a joy to be part of it and in partnership with you. As a whole staff, we have recently talked about ways to work on two way communication and ideas for sharing all about teaching and learning at school and at home. We will be talking and writing more about this as we move forward and ask for input.

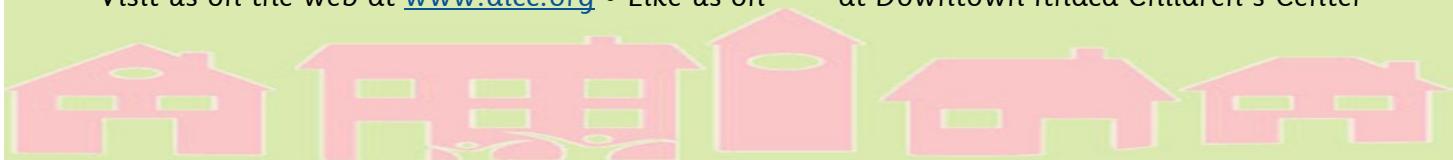
The children are learning through varied ways including: art and music, science and math activities, literature and language experiences, outdoor exploration, author studies, yoga and so much more to stimulate thinking, inquiry, curiosity and continuous growth. What are you seeing and experiencing? Please let the teachers know. Please ask and tell us about classroom ideas and activities. We try to capture it through seeing what takes place in the environments, looking at displays in the hallways, talking with you, writing notes... These are exciting times!

Take good care, stay healthy during this time of year and enjoy.

Peace, Denise

506 First St, Ithaca, NY • 607-272-7117

Visit us on the web at [www.dicc.org](http://www.dicc.org) • Like us on  at Downtown Ithaca Children's Center





## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, Dec 9  
12–2 pm

DICC Art Show at  
Mama Goose—  
Lunch Provided

Dec 25 thru  
Jan 1, 2018

DICC CLOSED—  
Winter Break



### Welcome Winter Weather

Please bring your children in clothing appropriate for walks and play outdoors



- \* Coats
- \* Hats and mittens/gloves
- \* Weather appropriate shoes/boots

When possible, an extra pair of sneakers or slippers to be kept in their cubby or backpack for use when the outdoors get their shoes cold and wet would be appreciated as well.



### Note to Parents:

Please DO NOT send snacks (especially sugary/candy) with your child to school/daycare.

When children have snacks in their cubbies and/or coats that teachers are unaware of they can both pose a choking hazard and be difficult to manage.

### What's Happening In The Classroom

#### Blue Room

The Blue Room is settling down quite nicely. A few of our older babies are have just transitioned to the butterfly room. We have worked hard on movement, and eating solid foods, these past few months now that we have a classroom of mostly crawlers and scooters we have a much happier bunch. We are also working closely with therapist and specialist to help a few of our babies reach their full potential. They have really come a long way and we are very proud to them progress. We have also gotten the opportunity to visit another center's baby room which was a great experience.

#### Butterfly Room

The Butterflies are happy to welcome Medellin, Charlie and Jax to our class and are excited for Payton and Kiowa as they begin their new adventures in the Dragonfly and Rainbow rooms!

Our room has had some new acquisitions in the last month, most notably our large carpet and many toys, including kitchen equipment, vehicles, magnadoodles, and beanbags. As always, our main focus is teaching the children to interact in kind and respectful ways while having fun with their new toys and their friends.



## What's Happening In The Classroom

### **Dragonfly Room.**

The Dragonfly Room welcomes Meriel (Ithaca College student). We are excited to explore all of the literacy activities she will be bringing into the classroom. Our class has also welcomed many new faces, which has brought changes to our daily routine. Mindfulness, patience and love are a few of the aspects that make our transitions possible.

### **Firefly Room**

They are sharing stories about themselves and learning to accept each other and others ideas. Our theme is "All About Me" we are going back to "baby hood" and the kids are playing baby, visiting the baby room and participating in some fun activities- Baby food tasting, playing the parent, and caring for baby dolls in the room. They are also learning about themselves and how their bodies have developed from babies to who they are now and what they are capable of doing now. The discussions between the kids have been awesome! They are sharing great ideas and practicing team work. We will be sharing sharing how their families celebrate the holidays.

### **Orange Ladybug Room**

This wonderful month we are exploring how many different cultures celebrate the holiday season. The children are decorating the classroom, creating all sorts of winter animals and discussing the differences in foods enjoyed at these celebrations. Most importantly celebrating our families.

### **Rainbow Room**

We are having so much fun this winter and its just the beginning. The Rainbow Rm is exploring holidays around the world—France (kids find toys in their shoes), Mexico (we made poinsettias) and Germany just to name a few. We love learning about other cultures! Elmo has helped the children understand that people celebrate holidays differently and are all special in their own way.

### **Grasshopper Room**

The grasshoppers have been exploring and understanding our feelings through art, music, sharing, and role play. We have been discussing gentle touches and kind words as well. Our themes have included the changing of the seasons, manners, and the different ways families celebrate holidays. As always we continue to work on fine motor skills with activities such as cutting paper with scissors, play-doh, and coloring. They have been using their imaginations by building structures with blocks and mazes with our marble run.

### **Yellow Bumble Bee Room**

The Bumble Bees have been talking about friendship and what it means to be a good friend, as well as, how we treat our friends. We are decorating our classroom and creating art projects related to the holidays. The children are very excited and looking forward to the holiday season.

