



Dear Families, Caregivers and Staff,

April is such a great month because its when we, nationally, celebrate the "Week of the Young Child"! It is encouraging and refreshing to see time, thinking and activities taking place to honor and affirm young children. Here are some happenings at DICC to create some celebrations.

Music Monday - Classrooms will be sharing various types of music and enjoy learning all about this. We also have visitors from the SPCA in the preschool classrooms.

Tasty Tuesday - We will focus on healthy eating choices. Arlene will prepare a Taco Tuesday and other choices so that children are exploring ingredients and foods that keep us happy and well.

Working Together Wednesday - Our Ithaca College students will focus on social and emotional skill development through literacy and books. There is also a focus on math and science on this day because we know that those learning areas create so many fun options for working and problem solving together.

Artsy Thursday - We have that everyday at DICC! Children will be tapping into their creative arts learning modes and we will add to the samples of their work throughout the building. The preschoolers are also invited to the Sciencenter to participate in the Touch Tank Program on this day.

Family Friday - Families will be a topic of conversation at breakfast time. Stop in the rooms and join in if you can work it into your schedules. The Fireflies are having a family breakfast and watching the video of the performances they did last week at our DICC Assembly. It was just great!

Classrooms will share what they have planned for the children throughout the week. It is an exciting time to reflect and have fun in honor of the children this month and always.

Enjoy, Denise



Mark
Your
Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon, Apr 16

DICC Board Meeting

Mon, Apr 16

SPCA Visit

Thurs, Apr 19
3:30-4:30pm

Sciencenter hosting Preschoolers to
Explore Touch Tank Animals

Wed, Apr 25

Cayuga Nature Center Visit

Thurs, Apr 26 10am

Firefighters Visit

Mon, Apr 30 2:45pm



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

Visit us on the web at www.dicc.org • Like us on  at Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

Transition to Kindergarten



What do I need to know about starting elementary school?

A panel of professionals from the Ithaca City School District will be on hand to share their knowledge and answer your questions.

Tuesday, April 24

At

**The Ithaca Community Childcare Center
579 Warren Road, Ithaca**

5:30-6:00 Pizza

6:00-7:00 Panel Discussion

Pizza & Childcare will be provided however you **MUST** sign up by Friday, April 20th by calling 607-257-0200



ATTENTION: Preschool and After-School Families

All Preschool and After-School families are asked to update the office (either directly or via their child's classroom) to indicate their intentions for attendance this summer and whether their child will remain enrolled Fall 2018. These updates will allow us to offer summer **ONLY** enrollments and determine how many new children may be enrolled beginning September 2018.

(NOTE: We cannot guarantee FALL enrollment if you withdraw your child for the summer.)

Are You Ready For Spring?



Warmer days are coming. Please be sure your child has weather appropriate clothing especially shoes for playing and extras within their classrooms.

What's Happening In The Classroom

Blueberry Muffin Room

The Blueberry Muffins are settling in—getting comfortable in their space and building skills. A couple of our friends have transitioned to the Butterfly Room. New additions are finally feeling at home. We are scooting when sitting, reaching out and discovering new and different things every day. Independence is blossoming for our older friends as more and more master feeding themselves sitting up in their high chairs. So proud!!

We appreciate our parents communication, their interest and attentiveness to how their children are growing every day. Once the sunny days become more regular, coats and clothing appropriate for afternoon strolls would be appreciated as well.

Butterfly Room

The Butterfly room is ready to come out of our winter cocoon and celebrate Spring. We will be learning about all the changes that take place around us as the earth warms up. There is now a bird feeder outside our classroom window that will hopefully attract some feathered friends.

Since we'll be spending extra time outside hunting for flowers and ducks and exploring playgrounds please be sure your child has warm outerwear to handle the variable weather of Spring.

We welcome a familiar face to our room as Ms. Danielle is transitioning to the Butterfly team.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

We are looking for some warmer weather, so we can enjoy the outside time even more.

In April we are focusing on Spring time weather. We are making many crafty projects that reflect the ever changing weather outside our window. There were cloudy days and rainy days, sometimes sunshine and sometimes snow. We are singing songs and reading some stories about the weather like: "Oh Mr. Sun, Sun, Mr. Golden Sun", or "Rain, Rain Go Away".

In the month of May are planning to talk about baby animals. We will sing songs about five little ducks and Mary's little lamb. Our projects will include baby birds hatching out of eggs and mother animals with their babies. Toward the end of May we are going to learn about many kinds of musical instruments and the sounds they are making. We are going to explore various types of music like Folk, Jazz, Blues and Rock. We also will be able to create some music ourselves using the drum and maracas. We may also try to dance!

Grasshopper Room

The grasshoppers have been working hard on their oceans and seas unit. Together we have investigated the following questions:

Which animals live on land and which in the water? What things in the ocean are living? What things in the ocean are non-living? Does the ocean freeze in the winter seasons? Why or why not?

Keeping with the theme the classroom has welcomed a new pet—fish!!! Together we will learn how to care for them. Stay tuned!

TCPL Story Time Visits 10-11am

Infants & Waddlers— 3rd Wednesday

Preschoolers—4th Wednesday

Coming in June—Toddlers on 2nd Wednesday



Rainbow Room

Happy Spring! This April our toddler room will be exploring the season of Spring. We will begin this month learning about animals, their sounds and habitats. In the middle of the month we will begin to explore flowers and everything else that comes alive with the change in the spring weather. Our daily walks will allow us to explore the many colors and smells of flowers as they bloom. Please be sure to send appropriate clothing for the weather each day – as we will enjoy the outdoors every day.

Firefly Room

The Fireflies are loving acting out stories, performing musicals and shows together. They loved performing for the April Assembly and are planning a breakfast performance for their families!

Where did Spring go? We are finding flowers on our walks. We are happy to hear the birds sing. Looking forward to the warm weather when Mike and Julian can ride their motorcycles to school!

Orange Ladybug Room

Our class room has had a lot of fun! This past month we continued to work on fort building! Every morning we have to make a new one with different aspects. The last week of the month, we were able to have a full room all day! Our room is a little different than the other preschool rooms because we also have an afterschool program that joins us later in the day. However, when school is out we have the whole group together! We were able to have a camping day/pajama day! That was a HUGE success! We worked on papier-mâché bowls, poppers for confetti and different types of camping food. We also continue to have Molly, our IC student come in on Wednesdays for a book and activity with the kids. Check out our projects so far!

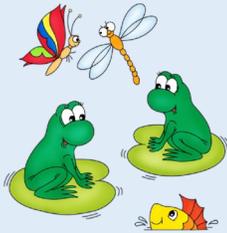
This month we started a new way of playing in our room. We have taken pictures of all of our kids and cut out their faces. They use their face to choose an activity in the room. This way there are not too many kids doing the same activity in our not so big space. We are also working with the science center for a few fun preschool activities.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Yellow Bumblebee Room

Now that the weather is improving, our after-school program is finding more ways to take advantage of the sunshine! We have toured the Ithaca Bakery and learned about how they make their amazing food. We took a trip to the SPCA and met some adorable animals (look for the SPCA collection boxes in various classrooms!) and we are busy making our Summer Camp plans already!



Community Health Outreach Access Coming to DICC

The Community Health Outreach Program of the Human Services Coalition is available to help Medicaid recipients with utilizing their benefits and finding services that fit their needs.

Cassandra Landes is the Community Health Outreach Specialist who works one-on-one with individuals and families to guide them towards a healthier lifestyle. She can be reached at the Human Services Coalition, (607) 273-8686 ext. 226, or the second Monday of each month beginning May 14 4-5pm at DICC.

Strict confidentiality will be maintained.

DICC Pet Supply Drive

to benefit



SPCA of Tompkins County

The Yellow Bumble Bees have inspired a building-wide project to collect donated items to benefit our local SPCA.

All participating classrooms have collection boxes personally created by our DICC after-school students. Flyers with suggested items have been distributed through the classrooms.

The classroom who fills their collection box first will receive a prize!

Suggested items the SPCA uses everyday are:



- Scoopable/Clumping Cat Litter
- New litter boxes (all sizes)
- Cat Wand Toys, Cage mounted cat scratchers
- Kitten Nursing Bottles
- Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR)
- Meat Flavored Baby Food (no onion or garlic)
- Canned Dog Food
- Dog Toys (no tennis balls please), Kongs
- Squeeze or Spray Cheese
- Low-fat Mozzarella Cheese Sticks
- Leashes, Collars, and Harnesses
- Gallon and Sandwich size Ziploc Bags
- 13 Gallon Trash Bags
- Small paper plates, Paper Towels
- Liquid Laundry Soap, Dish Soap
- BLEACH
- Used baby blankets and/or towels

