



Hello, Families!

May is known as "Get Caught Reading" in the early childhood world. So, what does that look like and mean for the children? It means many things because reading at these age levels is more than books in children's and teachers hands. It is looking at pictures, noticing print, turning pages, seeing familiar words: making connections, predicting outcomes in books and pictures, touching textures of books, falling asleep at night, pre-reading, reading, retelling, cultural representation, critical thinking, understanding and so much more...

And a very important part of the early years is the connection of children's play at the roots of reading. Play is children's work towards becoming literate. It teaches self-regulation, social skills, language, motivation, critical thinking, anti-bias awareness and actions, problem solving, languages, wellness, diversity, dreaming, planning and more. It integrates reading, writing, listening and speaking and opens up options and access to all learning areas.

So, in our busy family lives we may find ourselves feeling that we haven't had time in a day to sit and read to our children. Yet, if we broaden our thinking about reading, I am sure that you have been caught throughout the day sharing many of the experiences above. Enjoy "Getting Caught Reading" at home, in school, at the store, in the car and whatever your time and place presents for you and your children. And have fun!



Get Caught Reading

Respectfully,

Denise



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon, May 21

DICC Board Meeting 5:30-7pm

Mon, May 28

DICC CLOSED

Memorial Day



Thurs, May 31

DICC Staff Meeting 5:30-7pm

Fri, Jun 1

Ithaca Festival Parade (See page 2)

Fri, Jun 8

DICC CLOSED - Staff Professional Development & Parent-Teacher Conferences

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

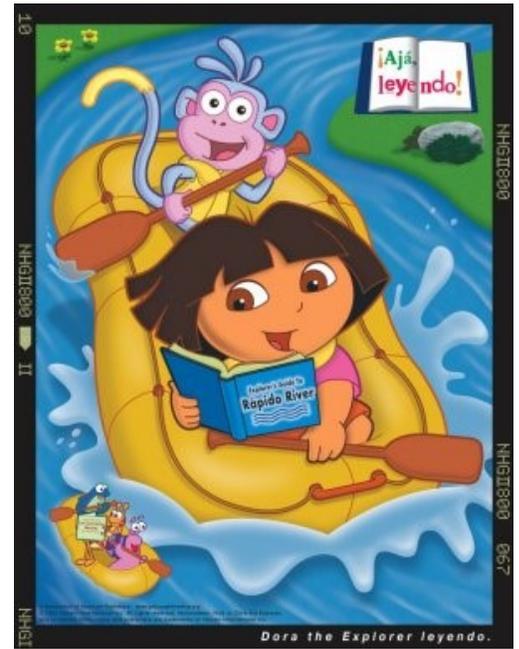
Visit us on the web at www.dicc.org • Like us on  at Downtown Ithaca Children's Center



JOIN US and march in the Ithaca Festival Parade on **Friday, June 1st**

Meeting place and time will be provided the week of the festival. Sign up in your child’s classroom—the more the merrier!! Don’t want to walk in the parade, attend

Looking forward to strong participation as we join our community to kick off Ithaca Fest 2018!



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Friday, June 8th beginning at 12:30pm
Sign-up in your child’s classroom



Spring Has Sprung!

Warmer days are finally here. 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 Muffin Room has many transitions occurring this month. Ms. Danielle has “moved-up” to the Butterfly Rm along with the smooth transitioning of Teddy and Aida to join her. We wish all of them the best as they spread their wings! Eugenia, Lidin and Kellianne are holding down the fort until mid-June when a new teacher joins them in the afternoon. (Watch for introduction to this new friendly face in June.)

Jack, Aliyah and Jackson are all movin’ and a groovin’. Orfeo is about to loose his status as our youngest with a new addition joining us at the end of the month. It is always amazing how quickly we grow!

Butterfly Room

With the warm weather finally making its way to us, the Butterfly Room children are able to enjoy the outdoors more often, They see many animals and talk about what sounds they make. They really love to see the ducks—QUACK! They also enjoy seeing the beautiful flowers and trees as we go for our walks. We are welcoming a couple new friends this month—Aida, Teddy and Ruth—and saying goodbyes to our older friends—Charlie and Penelope—as they transition to their new rooms. The Butterflies have done an amazing job adjusting to the many recent changes, including welcoming their new teachers—Danielle and Laken.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

In May the Dragonfly room is focusing on the garden. We are spending lots of time learning about vegetables and flower gardens.

During our daily walks we have been closely watching gardens in our neighborhood. We are very excited about the colors and variety of different plants around us, so we decided to create a mini garden just outside of our classroom window. The children did a great job putting the cucumbers and carrots seeds together with the tomato plants in the soil. We also take turns watering them. We hope to grow some yummy and fresh vegetables in a month or two, so we can munch on them during our snack time. This month we celebrated Mother's Day by honoring our Dragonfly Moms with a special gift made by their children!

In June, the Dragonflies will discover life under the sea and on the beach. We are looking forward to many interesting art projects. Keep an eye out for bright fish, jiggly jellyfish, sandy crabs, beach balls, colorful umbrellas and many more. We are also planning some sensory experiences with water, sand and seashells. As usual, we will read lots of books related to this subject during our daily circle time.

Rainbow Room

The Rainbow Rm is looking forward to the warmer weather. We've been spending a lot of time outside exploring the flowers and different plants while on our daily walks. We are learning about how plants grow and will be preparing our very own vegetable garden in the coming weeks.

Grasshopper Room

This past month has been filled with excitement in the grasshopper room! Some of the highlights include the Ithaca fire department visiting, FULL days of sunshine on the playground and learning about outer space!

Together - we are working on conquering our classroom fear of bumble bees. We've watched videos of bees, colored bees, made bees out of play dough, discussed the importance of bees and pretended to be bees. We are continuing this process together, as the summer bees become ever so abundant. What's life with out a little fear?

Lastly the room has had some staffing changes! We welcome Quane into our class full time, as we wish Laken the best in her new butterfly position. Xiomara and Lynne will continue as our afternoon wonder team. We are so thankful for seamless transitions and

Firefly Room

Yes! We are excited the warm weather has finally come. We are exploring BUGS! There are so many—when we look up at the flowering trees we can see the bees sipping nectar. When we drop the tiniest spec of food on the floor the ants come running. And those mayflies can drive us crazy!

The Fireflies are reading lots of books, learning to use magnifying glasses and always, we get to come to our own conclusions.

TCPL Story Time Visits 10-11 am

Infants/Waddlers— 3rd Wednesday

Preschoolers—4th Wednesday

Coming in June—Toddlers on 2nd
Wednesday



What's Happening In The Classroom

Orange Ladybug Room

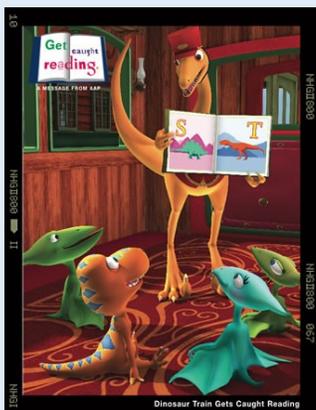
The Ladybugs kicked off May with their own rendition of “3 Little Pigs” highlighting their fort building skills for the DICC building-wide assembly. We’ve been studying Australia—exploring its animals, culture, music, etc. The children especially enjoyed learning about kangaroos. As we head into the end of May, we will shift our focus towards Spring and all that is growing—coming alive around us.

Hmm...wonder how the change in season may effect their fort building skills? These budding engineers and builders never cease to amaze.

Yellow Bumblebee Room

The after-school class is happy spring has finally arrived. We will be starting our gardening unit next week. The kids are really excited to be getting outside finally. We will do a couple walks to some local gardens to explore different plant and animal life.

Donations for the SPCA have been extended through the end of May—THANK YOU to all who have participated!!



TCPL Announces Schedule of Summer Storytimes

ITHACA—Tompkins County Public Library will resume its schedule of children’s story times the week of June 10, 2018. Stories in the Park will take place Tuesdays, from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM in Dewitt Park, starting June 12; Baby Storytime will resume on Fridays, from 10:30 to 11:00 AM in the Library’s Thaler/Howell Programming Room, starting June 15; and Family Storytime will return on Saturdays, from 11:00 to 11:30 AM, in the Library’s Thaler/Howell Programming Room, beginning June 16.

At **Stories in the Park**, children and families meet at Dewitt Park for stories, music and family fun. In the event of inclement weather, we will meet in the Library's Thaler/Howell Programming Room. To verify the meeting place, please call the Youth Services Reference Desk at (607) 272-4557 ext. 275.

At **Baby Storytime**, caregivers and babies up to 24 months embrace early literacy through books, music, movement and rhyming. This storytime is followed by an hour-long “Baby & Toddler Playtime” at 11:00 AM.

At **Summer Family Storytime**, children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to celebrate reading and build their early-literacy skills. We meet each Saturday for stories, songs and family fun.

Contact TCPL Youth Services for more information at 607 272-4557, extension 275.

Tompkins County Public Library Media Release, May 16, 2018, Media Contact: Susanna Drbal at sdrbal@tcpl.org or (607) 272-4557, ext. 261