



Dear Families and Caregivers,

I am happy to share that we had an excellent annual meeting event on September 13th. It was great to see the children, staff and families interacting in a relaxed and fun setting. Thank you to the Board Members and Staff who created this opportunity. Thank you to all who were able to participate . For those who could not, there will be plenty more community happenings.

We gained very good information regarding what is going well at DICC and suggestions for growth and improvement. There will be a survey coming to each of you electronically to share your insights and ideas to best provide for everyone. Please take some time to complete it. It is so important to know details about your child and family experiences.

We have accomplished so much in all areas of what it takes to assure quality early childhood care and education. And there is always more and/or different ways to grow. Thank you for being integral to all of this.

Be well. I look forward to every day at DICC and hearing from you through the survey!

Respectfully,
Denise



Mark Your Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs, Sept 27 DICC Staff Meeting 5:30-7pm
- Mon, Oct 1 Monthly Assembly @ 10am
- Mon, Oct 8 CLOSED — Staff Professional Development Day
- Mon, Oct 15 DICC Board Meeting 5:30-7pm
- Thurs, Oct 25 DICC Staff Meeting 5:30-7pm



TCPL Story Time Visits
10 -11:00 am

Infants & Waddlers—
2nd Wednesday
Toddlers & Preschoolers—
3rd Wednesday



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

Books on Diversity, Imagination and Relationships

The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center, in collaboration with Buffalo Street Books, received a grant from The Community Foundation funding our grant proposal, "Turning Pages, Growing Minds.". The primary purpose of the grant is to increase our purchasing power of new books and learning materials for our children. The Pre-K classrooms are planning shopping field trips. Staff at Buffalo Street Books will prepare little book talks to feature certain age appropriate books that address life issues, fiction and non-fiction. In addition, other lead and assistant teachers will shop for books as well.

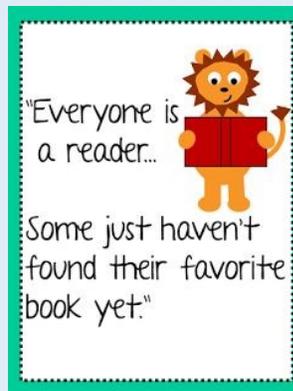
Certain classrooms are also helping children get library cards and planning field trips to Tompkins County Public Library.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Blueberry Muffin Room

We are on the move! We are using more "push" toys this month so that the babies can get used to standing. We are also using walking toys for the ones that are ready to stand and walk. We have a few new friends that we have welcomed into the fry. They are fun smiley kiddos.



Rainbow Room

As summer is winding down the rainbows are wrapping up our camping unit. We had a lot of fun making our own fishing poles and going down to the water to see what we can catch. We are working hard on becoming a team and learning better ways to communicate with our friends. During the month of September we will be learning about transportation and harvest time. We will be taking a trip to the Apple Festival.

Butterfly Room

With fall-like weather slowly creeping up on us, the Butterfly room is getting ready for cooler days. We still want to get outside as much as the weather permits us to. We now ask that the parents start checking their child's cubby and bring in weather appropriate clothing such as sweaters and jackets, longer pants and shirts and like always, extra clothes.

Some upcoming themes for this month include fall and apple themes. Hopefully we will be able to start to see the leaves change colors, touch them to see how they feel, and listen to them to see how they sound and incorporate them into our daily lessons. At the end of the month we are also planning a trip to the Commons for the Apple Festival to coincide with apple week.

In the next couple weeks, we will be focusing on getting to know each other, as there are many new faces to the room - and provide a warm welcome to our newest friend, Liani. Change is good but we want to make sure the children are all adjusting to these changes.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

Fall has arrived, and we are getting ready for some wonderful, crisp days. During September, our investigation has been on transportation and the farm. We've read several stories, and sang songs relating to our topics. We had so much fun creating art that represents different types of transportation and different aspects of the farm, which we have displayed all over our room.

In October, we will be focusing on Fall. We will discuss the changing weather, fall harvesting and animals preparing for winter. We also look forward to exploring pumpkins from inside out. We will be learning songs, making lots of arts and crafts and exposing the Dragonflies to the colorful sights of this time of year. We will use every opportunity to go outside, so we can discover new things of this season such as crunchy leaves, pinecones and cool breezes.

Also, keep a lookout for the bats, ghosts and spiders that will be "creeping" into our room as the month draws on and Halloween approaches!

Grasshopper Room

As we enter the fall season the grasshoppers are incredibly excited to welcome new class member Perla! We took the time to celebrate the children who were moving on, Ellis, Alder and Jordan. Though we will miss them, the teachers are so proud of all the work they've done and are excited to see them grow! We are also welcoming a new member to our team, Welcome Emily!

Together in September the grasshoppers will be investigating harvesting, and other aspects of farming. Using the change of nature around the center, we look forward to being in tune with the falling leaves, changing temperatures and welcome fall.

Orange Ladybug Room

Summer ended with our Camping/Pajama Day where the kids were able to enjoy making "worms in dirt" (chocolate pudding) as well as "worms in sand" (vanilla pudding). They were delighted to be able to taste both flavors for snack. We also enjoyed our last big group of kids before returning to the school year routine.

This month we are learning about building and constructing. Having Pre-K children means there are millions of possibilities of things to make. Using different mediums, we are discovering many different types of structures. Structures are made using two or more building mediums. Did you know zippers are structures? The possibilities seem endless. Ask your kiddos what structures/buildings we have made.

Firefly Room

The fireflies wish all their friends who moved on good luck and good fun! The kids are looking forward to being large and in charge and ready to help. They are the big kids now, and they're certainly showing their independence and curiosity! We have started our 2nd step program assisting in the powerful emotions of 3-5 year olds, so empowering to learn about feelings and how they are lessons. To think, we can bring sadness to happiness, WOW! We will be saying goodbye to summer and welcoming fall as we take our mindful walks around town, leaves changing colors, apples on the ground and the weather changing, the days getting darker earlier, so much to talk and sing about!

Please Check Your Cubby



As the weather begins to cool down, we ask that you bring a jacket or sweater for your child daily. Also, remember to check cubbies for extra clothes and send in appropriate clothing as the weather changes.