



Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

October 2018



Dear Families and Caregivers,

On behalf of the DICC Board of Directors, we would like to hear from you—our parents and caregivers. How are we doing? Where can we be better? Would you like to be more involved? How? Etc. Please participate through this poll:

tinyurl.com/y7ypz8b5

We would like to also extend our most sincere thanks to Cal Walker (Ithaca Is Books ambassador), Brigid Hubberman and Lisa Swayze for joining us as special guests at our October Assembly. Their visit included Cal reading poems from “Bookjoy Wordjoy” by Pat Mora, and “I Am Enough” by Grace Byers. Cal extended to DICC a generous gift from Ithaca Is Books for \$100 to Buffalo Street Books for us to continue the growth of our center library.

Thank you, Thank you to Cal, Ithaca Is Books and Buffalo Street Books for your support and inspiration ever encouraging our children to enjoy reading.

What's Happening



- Mon, Oct 15 Monthly Assembly 10am
Guest Story Teller —Cal Walker
- Mon, Oct 15 DICC Board Meeting 5:30-7pm
- Fri Oct 19 School-Age Rooms Open FULL Day
- Fri, Oct 19 Apple Picking Field Trip— 9:30-11:30am Preschool & School Age Classes
- Thurs, Oct 25 DICC Staff Meeting 5:30-7pm
- Wed, Oct 31 Halloween - Watch for details 
- Tues, Nov 6  Picture Day 9-11am



5:30-8:00 pm

MUST Pre-Register - Dinner Provided

\$20 per child, \$30 for two children

October 27 •

November 17 • December 15

Note: Some dates have changed. Also, watch for potential extended hours and themes for November & December

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



**TCPL Story
Time Visits
10 -11:00 am**

Infants & Waddlers—

2nd Wednesday

Toddlers & Preschoolers—

3rd Wednesday



October Happenings

Friday, October 19, 9:30-11:30am

DICC Preschool and School-Age classes will be visiting Indian Creek Farm for apple and pumpkin picking. (Transportation via ICSD school bus.) Parents welcome to meet classes at the Farm (limited seats on bus).



HALLOWEEN

Wednesday, October 31

10:00-10:30 am

Most classes will participate in the DICC Neighborhood Costume Parade. Watch your classroom for specifics.

What's Happening In The Classroom

Blueberry Muffin Room

We were successful! All our babies are movers! We are working closely with the Butterfly room to make sure that the babies who are ready to move up are well prepared! We are enjoying our visits from our Tompkins County Public Library friend who reads, sings, and shows us all different kinds of animals. We also have added new books to the classroom library.



Butterfly Room

We have just wrapped up our fall unit now that we have officially welcomed fall. Some of our upcoming themes for October include pumpkins, farm animals and Halloween - BOO! We are reminding parents to bring in warmer clothing and hats, as we are still trying to get out as much as we possibly can. Please bring in clothing that you wouldn't mind your child getting a little dirty in - they love to explore nature and it can get quite messy. Towards the end of the month we will be participating in the DICC Halloween parade at the DMV plaza so be sure to bring in your child's costumes for this occasion. Reminders will be posted in the classroom.

Rainbow Room

Autumn has arrived; the leaves are changing colors, the days are getting cooler and Halloween decorations are everywhere—including pumpkins.

As we wrapped up our transportation unit we took a ride around our neighborhood on the TCAT bus. We also took a walking trip to the Apple Festival. Look for special moments of our travels and activities in the photos updated regularly throughout our room and bulletin board.

This month we will be focusing on everything FALL. From collecting leaves & pinecones, to watching trees change colors, to painting pumpkins for Halloween. During our walks we play "I Spy A Pumpkins" and see how many we can find each day. Our art projects will be based around our observations this colorful season as well.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

During October, we are focused on fall and Halloween. The Dragonflies hear stories, sing songs, and create many art projects relating to these two topics. We will make beautiful trees, colorful leaves, ghosts, and bats just to name a few. For the sensory, we will explore touching the gooey inside of a pumpkin, and feel the very crunchy leaves.

In early November, we will be focusing on two project approach topics. The first one is "My Family and My Pets".

We will learn about our body parts and put together a picture of our face. Please bring in a family photo for our project approach.

We will be also covering the different types of pets and how to care for them. So if your family has a pet, please bring in a picture to share with the class.

Grasshopper Room

The grasshoppers has a very productive month! Together we took advantage of our grant money, and worked together with Buffalo Street books to not only visit, but pick out our own books! We are now enjoying our more diverse library, and are so thankful for the grant! As well, we are wrapping up our focus on reading by visiting the public Library together on October 25th! We have had such fun taking advantage of all the literary resources at our finger tips.

As we move into the new month, our focus will be shifting towards writing our names, and counting/recognizing numbers!

Happy Fall everyone!

Orange Ladybug Room

Welcome Cassie and Molly to the Ladybug Rm afternoon staff! They are wonderful with the kids and the kids love them.

In September the Ladybugs studied buildings and building materials. They finished the unit by making graham cracker houses with sun butter, pretzels and sunflower seeds.

In October the kids are studying the Four Seasons we see here in NY. We tend to see all four of them this month too, so we might be lucky. The kids began their exploration with winter and will finish with fall the last full week of the month. The final three days—October 29 thru October 31—will be geared towards Halloween with dressing up activities as well as crafts.

Firefly Room

Do you know why they call it Fall? Because all the leaves are falling from the trees and all the leaves are changing colors and Halloween! Who can think of anything else?!

The Fireflies are taking mindful walks and learning about caring for the earth. They are taking imagination walks, creating their own stories and songs—the parks have pirate ships or magic castles or just climbers and swings—everyday a different adventure. Life is good, playful and kind ... and sometimes a good walk helps you unwind.

Did we mention Halloween? There will be lots of decorating going on as we prepare for our classroom Halloween Party on October 30th.



Warmer Clothing: As the weather cools down, we ask that you **bring a jacket or sweater** for your child daily and send in appropriate clothing as the weather changes.

A Tree In Fall

Leaves fall off the tree

All red, orange, green & yellow.

The tree stands tall & strong, and has roots down low in the dirt.

Some trees grow fruits, like apples, pears and cherries.

Animals climb trees like squirrels and cats

And birds fly onto branches

Owls hide in trees at night.

A Tree in Fall.

by the Fireflies



What's Happening In The Classroom

Yellow (School-Age) Room

Yellow Room recently walked to Buffalo Street Books and utilized grant money to go book shopping. Every child was able to pick new books for our classroom. We use them every day!

We are also very excited for all of the upcoming holidays and are busy planning fun field trips and activities this month.

Staff Development Update:

Beliefs Matter, Connections Matter, and Language Matters

With support from the Park Foundation, DICC is continuing its staff development themes: "Beliefs Matter, Connections Matter, and Language Matters This year we will read The Power of Our Words by Paula Denton. Each month we will have a specific focus that emphasizes one aspect of how and why words matter.

October's focus is -
OUR WORDS MATTER

Here are the 12 guidelines recommended for teacher language, and really any adult who has contact with children can benefit from these guidelines. They might help you at home. They might also help you at work or in relationships with other adults.

Guidelines for Teacher (and Adult) Language:

- Be direct and genuine.
- Convey faith in children's abilities and intention.
- Focus on action.
- Keep it brief.
- Know when to be silent.
- Choose direct and honest over indirect and dishonest. Always.
- Sarcasm with children is NEVER appropriate.
- Keep your word by following through on what you said.
- Avoid generalizations and exaggerations.
- Slow down our speaking pace, especially with children and especially if anyone is upset.



- When a child speaks, do not repeat the student's idea. Voiceovers are not necessary. They take away a child's power. Children can repeat what they said themselves, or restate it, or explain or make it LOUDER. They do not need us to interpret for them. When we use voiceovers, we actually take away or diminish the child's power.
- Our bodies speak a language too. Be aware of the signals your body sends and have your words and body language match.