



### Happy New Year Parents and Caregivers,

We are having a productive and positive beginning of 2019. The children are transitioning well to the return and it is great to have everyone back. Our newsletter is filled with events taking place and all that is happening in the classrooms. It is so nice to see this. Enjoy the reading!

Another reading I like to share with families is "Children of 2020 - Creating a Better Tomorrow" by Velora Washington and JD Andrews. This is a resource through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). It is an excellent guide for doing right for and with children, families and staff. Here is a perspective that I love:

"Hopes and dreams for ALL children of 2020...An early learning experience in which early childhood professionals and families together work to ensure that young children have everything they need to be healthy, well-adjusted, curious, and filled with wonder and endless possibilities. An experience that, as Asa Hilliard challenged the field, would nurture the genius in every child, every family and in every teacher".

I look forward to creating actions and outcomes throughout 2019 that make those hopes and dreams realities.

Respectfully, Denise



### Free Safety Around Water Program at the Ithaca Y!

In this eight-week program, children will learn what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly, learn fundamental water safety skills that include the concepts of reach or throw, don't go; CPR; and what to look for in a safe place to swim. Jump/Push/Turn/Grab teaches children to push off the bottom of the pool as they are submerging to get back up to the surface while turning to grab the side of the pool. Swim/Float/Swim teaches children to swim a short distance on their front, roll over onto their back to rest, then roll on their front to continue swimming to safety.

The program is entirely free, and is intended for those children who are otherwise unable to participate in traditional swim lesson programs. We are able to accommodate students between the ages of 5-14. Lessons will be run on Sunday afternoons and a parent or guardian must accompany their child, but they do not need to get into the water.

Registration forms available at DICC.



Mon, Jan 14 DICC Board Meeting 5:30-7pm

Thurs, Jan 24 DICC Staff Meeting 5:30-7pm

Mon, Jan 21 CLOSED— MLK Jr. Day

Sat, Jan 26 MLK Day of Service

Thurs, Jan 31 **January Jamboree**

DICC Community Potluck Event

\*See page 4 for details\*

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



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

Infants & Waddlers—  
2nd Wednesday

Toddlers & Preschoolers—  
3rd Wednesday



## Staff Development Update: Open Ended Questions

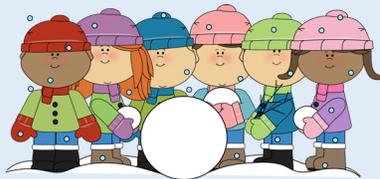


As we begin the New Year, we might want to consider how we use words at the Center and at Home to encourage cooperation instead of competition. In The Power of Our Words by Paula Denton, she shows how. One example she provides is to ask, “What are some different ways we can use clay?” This is better than saying, “Who knows a good way to use clay? Who knows a better way?” (Do **you** see the difference?) She also reminds us to use actual experiences when we tell a story and to modify our terms. Here is an example. Some people do X, rather than saying people do X. She also suggests that we asks questions that can have multiple answers, not just a right and a wrong. One example is, How many different ways can you think to build a castle, make a friend, solve an argument?

## What’s Happening In The Classroom

### Blueberry Muffin Room

The Blueberry muffin room is getting ready for some big changes. We have 4 friends that will be moving up to the Butterfly room soon. Orfeo is our first friend to transition and he is loving it. He’s made new friends, Butterfly room is ready for him! We have been doing a lot fun movement activities. Brix and Joe (our youngest) have started to sit up, hold their own bottles and are gaining more stamina during tummy time. We are excited about welcoming new friends in the next few months .



### Butterfly Room

The Butterflies are excited to be back after our break. We have quite a few changes going into the new year. Some of our older friends, Liani and Conrad, have transitioned into the toddler rooms and we are welcoming Orfeo, Sicily and Libertad from the Blueberry Muffin room. We will be talking about wintertime and what happens during this season. We will play with snow and watch it melt. We will also learn about what we wear in the winter, snowmen and different animals that live in the cold weather.

### Rainbow Room

The Rainbows have a new addition to our room. We decided to adopt glo-fish and the children LOVE them. We had a lot of fun naming our new fish and are taking turns feeding them.

Now that the holidays are over the Rainbow Room will be focusing on potty training as well as learning to be more self-sufficient. We would like to teach the children how to put their coats and shoes on and off as well. Fee free to practice these skills at home as extra encouragement. This will be such a great accomplishment!



## What's Happening In The Classroom

### Dragonfly Room

Hello and Happy New Year! We hope that each of our Dragonfly families had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

In January, we will cover two topics: colors around us and arctic animals. We will use different colors in our sensory and art projects. We are also going to mix some colors in order to get new ones. We are planning to dye some plants with water and food color mixtures to see how the vegetation will change their colors. The second part of the month we will dedicate to different types of arctic animals. We are going to read stories, and make some art projects about animals. We will study animals like: polar bears, penguins, arctic hares, foxes and snow owls.

During this chilly time of year please be sure that your child has appropriate set of clothing to go outside.

### Orange Ladybug Room

Now that the big holiday season is done we can get back to more school days a month! We hope you all had a great break and that the new year is starting off well.

January in the Ladybug Room is Emotions Month. We are talking about what emotions are and why we need them. We are also talking about body languages to help us express our emotions without words.



Parents Night Out will return in February 2019 - watch for info on themes in the upcoming weeks.

### Grasshopper Room

The Grasshopper room has been welcoming in the New Year! Though the cold temperatures have kept us inside we have found plenty to occupy our time. Together, we have worked to re-frame the community agreements, introduce new methods of play, and focus on peer collaboration. One of our main focuses has been learning to write out names! We practice this every Monday (if not more!). Repetition of this practice has allowed the grasshopper team to SEE amazing improvement in writing skills, pencil holding skills, and attention to detail.

We look forward to the month of February and its focus on Black History and making it tangible for young children.

Happy New Year!!

### Firefly Room

The Fireflies are learning about Team Work making Dream Work! They are reading the book "How Full is Bucket" and "Bucket Filling from A-Z The key to Being Happy".

They are planning a concert for the world...I can't wait to see their imaginations and creativity. What beautiful kids! I'm excited as a teacher everyday. Thanks!, Kieah

### Yellow (School-Age) Room

For the month of January we will be focusing on new beginnings - more to come on that!

We have a new teachers assistant, Anthony, in our classroom who comes to us through the ACCES-VR Work-Try-Out Program joining DICC and our classroom January 8th. Please welcome Anthony when you see him in the building.





The weather may have cancelled our Harvest Dinner in November, but our interest in gathering as a community remains strong.

Join us for a community evening of sharing –  
**DICC January Jamboree!!**  
Thursday, January 31 at 5:30 pm to 7 pm

DICC will provide the main entree as well as beverages. Staff and families are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Let's enjoy the variety of our family favorites and multicultural contributions!

Please RSVP and indicate your contribution outside Krista's office or in your child's classroom

Feel free to call with any questions,  
607-272-7117

### Let's Review—End of Day Pick Up

The Center closes at 5:30 pm. Please plan to pick up your child and leave the building by 5:30pm.

It can be stressful for a child to be left behind when all the other children have gone. Our staff members also have families and other responsibilities to get to after 5:30. For these reasons, to encourage families to pick children up on time, **DICC charges a late pick-up fee of \$1 for every 1 minute late per child.** If you are late, you will have to sign a late pick-up slip when you pick your child up. You will then be billed for the late fee. Repeated lateness will be considered cause for terminating your child's space in the program.

