



Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

March 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am happy to share that we have a new Toddler classroom, a new room for the Waddlers and a great room for the After School School Age children at Beverly J. Martin (BJM) Elementary School. It has been a busy time since the beginning of 2019 with making sure all of our plans and opportunities became realities. Thanks to the DICC staff, families and BJM staff for persevering with all that it took to accomplish the many tasks involved with this experience. Thanks also goes to the Office of Family and Children Services and the Child Development Council for their work on registering and licensing details. And so important are thank you's to the children who have transitioned and are making wonderful adjustments and new beginnings. Well done everyone!

Additional information regarding the use of technology at DICC is available onsite and upon request. Please take an opportunity to review these documents. It is a question that comes up at times and I want to communicate our positions, beliefs and policies regarding technology in early childhood care and education. I also have references within the documents for you to access regarding national, state and local perspectives. It is important that we all know this information and remain current and supportive of the children and each other. These documents are the most recently revised details and we are working on our understanding of them; our compliance with them; and our consistent implementation of them.

Thank you for your time and review of the information. I look forward to hearing from you should you have questions and insights.



What's Happening...

- Mon, Apr 1 Monthly Assembly 10am
Hosts: Grasshoppers
- Apr 15 thru Apr 19 School Age Programs
OPEN FULL DAYS
- April TBD DICC Board Meeting
5:30-7pm

TCPL Story Time Visits

10 -11:00 am



Blueberry Muffin,
Caterpillar &
Butterfly —
2nd Wednesday

Dragonfly, Grasshopper,
Rainbow & Firefly—
3rd Wednesday



Make Your Reservations



Saturday, February 30
5:30-8pm

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

What's Happening In The Classroom

Blueberry Muffin Room

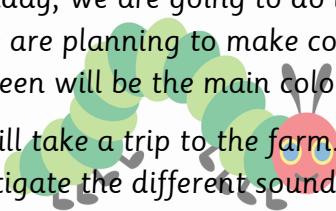
The Blue room is very active these days. We welcomed Xiomara into our room in the afternoon. With 4 new friends our room gets very busy. Right now we have a wide range of ages from 3 to 10 months. We are finding new and creative ways to make our room fun and educational for all our students. There is never a dull moment in the Blue Room!!



Caterpillar Room

Welcome to the Caterpillar Room! We are very excited about our new room, our great little waddlers and their families. We are looking forward for fun and adventure working with your children.

In March, because of St. Patrick's holiday, we are going to do lots of art projects involving messy materials such as paint and glue. We are planning to make colorful rainbows, create some shamrocks, glue gold on the pots. Green will be the main color of the month.

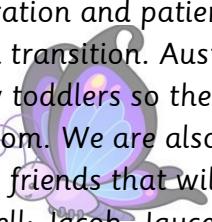


Towards the end of this month, we will take a trip to the farm. We will learn about various animals living on the farm. We will also investigate the different sounds that animals make. During Circle Time we will sing songs like: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm", "Ba, Ba White Sheep.." and "The Farmer in the Dell" and read many books related to this subject.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be able to go outside. Please remember to bring a hat and jacket so your child is dressed appropriately to go outside on walks.

Butterfly Room

The Butterflies have patiently waited, as we are now officially up and running as the new toddler room. We would love to thank the families of the Butterfly and Caterpillar rooms for their cooperation and patience as we all went through a transition. Austra, Jack and Nyleve are now toddlers so they will stay with the Butterfly room. We are also excited to meet some new friends that will soon be joining us as well; Jacob, Jayce and Chace. We will be taking this time to get to know each other and get comfortable in our new environment. Some upcoming themes we will be working on are Saint Patrick's Day and welcoming Spring time.



Rainbow Room

With Spring and the beautiful weather just around the corner, we've been working extra hard to master all the colors around us. From different hands on activities like color sorting, color scavenger hunts and color mixing in our sensory table, to just basic coloring and painting.

Rainbows have also been trying to become more mindful of ourselves and our emotions. We've been taking 30 seconds out of each Circle Time to sit silently and breathe. The breathing exercises seem to relax the group and bring everyone together allowing us to learn more effectively as a group.

We can not wait for the beautiful spring weather so we can finally get back outside daily.



What's Happening In The Classroom

Dragonfly Room

Hello everyone! We are getting so close to spring and warmer weather so that we can get outside and explore more often. I would like to welcome back Ms. Shyann, the kids just love her!

For the month of February we talked about pets and the kinds of pets you can have inside your home and the ones that are better if they stay outside. We talked about valentines day and about loving a caring for our friends while we are at school. We even made some process art and discussed the many different things you can paint with by experimenting using celery, legos, feathers, and sponges. Then wrapped up the month with the Three Little Pigs. The kids loved helping the wolf huff and puff to blow the houses down. We made a wolf out of a paper plates, some pigs, and the three houses for our exploration of the story.

In March we are welcoming Ms. Quane to our room and have started off talking about transportation. Also a few birthdays this month; the kids are really enjoying the special snacks—Thank you!

Ladybug Room

February finished with Dr. Seuss week. Some friends made a thneed. Did you happen to see? They were colorful and bright and all that they need!

Ladybugs march into this month as dragons and dinosaurs. Our class can not seem to get enough of these majestic creatures. We will be making dino and dragon eggs that sparkle and shine as well as ones that hide and are camouflaged by plants near by. We will be using our imaginations to transform into these creatures as well! We will even break some open to see what's inside. The Ladybugs will work on sorting dinos into categories and creating dragons with whatever we find. Their imaginations are the only limit to the creations ahead.

Grasshopper Room

The grasshopper team spent the month of February focused on Black excellence! Together we have learned about Gabrielle Douglas, Tupac Shakur, Lauryn Hill, LeBron James, Katherine Johnson, Alexa Canady, Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, and Thurgood Marshall just to name a few.

The children have been especially perceptive when it comes to discussing social connections and these amazing leaders - some have even begun the work of understanding how race and society co-mingle. We have had to use our creativity to weave our science, math, art, music and literacy into the lessons about these great Black leaders. We are looking forward to continuing our diverse learning as we move forward!

Firefly Room

Whose counting the days til spring, WE ARE!

Time for nature walks and building up our stamina as we feel the sun warm us up. We are seeing green under the snow! Its like magic, the spring! We are also looking forward to visiting the parks, swinging, running, climbing and turning those climbers into castles and pirate ships.

Hooray!





Staff Development Update: Listening

Paula Denton in The Power of Our Words reminds us that listening is more than passively receiving someone else's words. Our job, she says, is to pay attention to the intended meaning and what is under the words. Real listening is hard work. It is worth doing because when we really listen we get to know children, children learn about themselves, and listening helps us and children build a sense of community. When we listen to children, they take themselves more seriously. She provides technical strategies for how to listen: 1.) Pause after someone has talked before you respond. Wait 3-5 seconds. 2.) Before you pause, give a simple acknowledgement, such as "Hmmm," or "Yes, let me think a minute."



She also gives several strategies for paraphrasing as a form of ACTIVE listening. Paraphrasing—the listener restates the speaker's message. Pausing and paraphrasing when used together create strong listeners. The strength of paraphrasing is that it gives the listener a chance to process, and it gives the speaker a chance to correct any misunderstanding. Here are multiple ways to use paraphrasing:

- Restate the main idea;
- Name indirectly expressed feelings;
- Organize thoughts into categories;
- Name principles and ideas that tie together.

Keep paraphrases brief, avoid using "I," use a kind voice, and feel free to ask a question after you paraphrase.

What Are You Thinking?

With Spring just around the corner and warmer weather on the horizon, the thoughts and plans for summer are starting to stir in our minds. To best serve our DICC families and community as a whole we'd like to get an idea what your plans are for the upcoming months—especially our Preschoolers.

Although we cannot guarantee lapses in enrollment for those still interested in care come Fall 2019, some families only need summer care and when planning ahead arrangements may be able to be made.

Families of Preschoolers, we are interested in who is planning on staying enrolled at DICC in the fall and who is planning on transitioning to their school districts—if headed off to school, are you hopeful for an afterschool space instead? Did you know, if your child will be 4 before December 1, 2019 and you are an ICSD resident you can stay at DICC and register for UPK? This doesn't reduce your tuition, but it does bring the same services UPK students receive at the school to your child as well as professional development for their teachers and funds for continued development of programming here at DICC. If interested in more information, touch base with either Krista or Denise.

You will find in your child's classroom a log where you can share your plans with us. Your input is appreciated as it better allows offered services to both our existing families as well as the many who wish to join our DICC community. Looking forward to hearing from you!

