



**Dear Parents and Caregivers,**

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of May! We have had some positive happenings with the children and staff. We honored our staff this month for Teacher Appreciation Day/Week May 6-10 with many daily thank you's and a luncheon. While it is nice to share this appreciation at a designated time, I like to make sure that this message takes place throughout the entire year. One way we have demonstrated that we value and support our staff is that we are a living wage business. That feels great! Our Board and Administration has worked diligently over the past few years to make this happen. It is an established and ongoing commitment to our staff. It is also a testimony to the overall organization. The children have been engaged in exciting activities and events as you can see in this newsletter. I want to remind you that the calendar is in the front hallway near Krista's office. Please check it out when you are in the building. It is very informative and helps keep us current with all of the happenings. June 17th is our family and teachers conference day. Make sure you sign up with your classroom team. It is such an important part of your child's care and education. We want and need your input as you do ours. The conference is intended to be a giving and receiving of information about strengths, vulnerabilities and dreams for each individual child. It is a communication experience that helps all of us learn and grow - children and adults. Thank you in advance for your participation in this priority. Enjoy this time of year and I hope that the weather and schedules bring positive and exciting opportunities to the children and all of us!

Respectfully, Denise



**What's  
Happening**

- Mon, **CLOSED**  
May 25 Memorial Day
- Thurs, Ithaca Festival Parade  
May 30 (see pg. 4 for details)



- Mon, Jun 3  
Monthly Assembly  
Hosts: Rainbow

- Mon, **CLOSED**  
June 17 Staff Development -  
Family & Teachers  
Conferences

**DICC Welcomes NEW  
Board Membership —  
Interested?** See Krista,  
Denise or attend a meeting!



**TCPL Story  
Time Visits**

**10 -11:00 am**



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

## What's Happening In The Classroom

### Blueberry Muffin Room

Lots of practice sharing and building of independence skills as many of our kiddos prepare to move up to the Caterpillar (waddler) Room this summer. Keep your eyes peeled for new babies (and families) joining the DICC family. Be sure to welcome the new faces as you cross paths.



### Caterpillar Room

Hello everyone! We are having a wonderful spring in the Caterpillar Room. The children are having lots of fun playing and being outside. With the summer just around the corner, please remember to bring sunscreen and a sun hat for your child.

In the month of May, the Caterpillars will be focusing on insects and crawly bugs. We will introduce the children to all the various types of bugs they might see on a daily basis through circle time, art projects, books and songs. Toward the end of this month we will learn about garden tools.

We are also put some flowers in our mini garden just outside of our classroom. We hope that the colorful flowers will attract some beautiful butterflies later in the summer so we will be able to see them from our window. For sensory time the children will have an opportunity to smell and feel soft flower petals and touch smooth and fuzzy new green leaves.

The Caterpillars are loving get their hands messy with paint and glue. You can see all our amazing art on the classroom bulletin board.

### Butterfly Room

The Butterflies have welcomed two new friends this month! We are also working on social emotional skills such as learning to be a good friend, manners, sharing, talking about our feelings and being mindful listeners.

Some reminders we have for the parents are to make sure their child has comfortable walking shoes/sandals with straps, as we will be doing more outdoor activities. We provide sunscreen however, if there is a preference for a specific brand, we ask that the parents supply this. The last reminder is to bring in extra clothes and bathing suits. The children do get messy and with the warmer weather they may even get wet.

Our class is also planning some upcoming field trips and we ask that if there are any parents/guardians who are interested in chaperoning, to please give us days of the week and times that they are available to do so.

### Dragonfly Room

We started off April by painting, coloring, and finding flowers. We then talked to the kids about the bugs they will start to see as the weather gets warmer. Dragonflies celebrated Easter by dyeing eggs and having a small egg hunt out back on our playground, the kids loved it and had such a good time.



## What's Happening In The Classroom

### Dragonfly (continued)

The last week of April we celebrated earth day and did some projects including coloring a world, picking up trash on our walks to the park and talked about what kind of things we can do to help the earth. As we go into May we are discussing shapes and making things out of shapes.

As the weather gets warmer please check your child's clothes bin at school and swap out any winter stuff for some lighter layers.

### Rainbow

Rainbows have had a few busy weeks. We're exploring colors—identifying them in the world around us and applying them in our everyday routine. Looking for flowers has become our favorite ways to practice.

Our most recent theme has us exploring the CIRCUS—learning about the animals, dancing to the music, even pretending to be silly clowns. All in preparation for the June DICC Assembly we will be hosting by putting on our very own circus. Please join us for the show! Flyers will be posted throughout the center with details.

Warm weather is finally here. We plan to spend every free moment in the sunshine. So, please remember to swap your child's extra clothes and shoes for warmer weather and rain boots for the puddles/mud. If you have a preferred sunscreen now is the time to provide it for our use. Keep your eyes open for permission slips for small field trips throughout Ithaca—we encourage you to join us!

### Grasshopper Room

April showers bring May flowers! This month is all about enjoying the beautiful growth around us! The grasshoppers will be focusing on plants and gardens! We will be creating, tending to and watching our own garden as we plant vegetables and flowers in it. Our investigations will be centered around these questions: What is a garden? Why are gardens important? What do plants need to grow? How can I help my garden grow? Come join us as we embrace the dirt!

### Firefly Room

We heard Spring was here, and we didn't give up—with all the rain and one day it's warmer the next day it's cold, Hey, we are learning to be flexible. And then one day you look up and the trees have flowers and leaves and tulips are everywhere.

We are learning a new joke, Q. "Do you know you have flowers on your face?" A: "TULIPS!"

We are ready to explore, play at the parks, and be good friends.

### Ladybug Room

In April we explored plants, flowers, seeds and how they grow. The kids even planted a flower garden in the planter outside our side door. Now they are enjoying watching them grow.

May is all about—Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!!! The Ladybugs are very interested in the small and crawly critters in the outdoor world. We have a snail, slug and worm terrarium in our classroom. This is teaching us how to care for our new crawly friends. Our arts and craft projects this month will be bug themed as well from a variety of mediums ... even our recycling.

## Staff Development Update: Reminding Language

Paula Denton gives us seven bullet points in *The Power of Our Words* so we can be effective when we remind children (and maybe adults) without sounding impatient.

- Start by establishing expectations early.
- Phrase a reminder as a question or a statement.
- Use a direct tone and neutral body language.
- Use reminders proactively and reactively.
- Use reminders when the child and you are both calm.
- Keep reminders brief. (I would put that one at the top of the list.)
- Watch for follow-through.



## Upcoming Event Details

**JOIN US and march in the  
Ithaca Festival Parade  
on Thursday, May 30th**

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 and show your support.

Looking forward to strong participation as we join our community at Ithaca Fest 2019!



**Monday, June 17th starting at 12:30pm**

Please sign-up for an opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their strengths and challenges.



**ICSD 2019 Kindergarten Registration**

ICSD kindergarten registration dates are posted in our Preschool classrooms as well as on our Parent Board. (Or online: <https://www.ithacacityschools.org/tfiles/folder253/Kindergarten%20Registration%20Flyer%202019.pdf> )