

February 2021



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Dear Families and Caregivers,

It is so rejuvenating to read about all that the children are experiencing on a day to day basis at DICC. They certainly have great ways to keep us all in perspective and remind us of resilience, joy and forward movement. That is exactly what we are all working on - children, families, staff and partners. Thank you every one! Let's keep helping and caring for each other as our community responds and adapts during this pandemic.

In addition to pandemic times, we are in a transition of local, state and national leadership. Child care and education are at the forefront of advocacy. It should and must be! Decision makers are listening. Please tell us what you need and want and what your insights are related to having equitable, affordable, and socially just opportunities and access. Representation is vital!

As we grasp 2021, our reflections can include positive energy for where DICC is at and what and how we have endured.

DICC Administrative Team

Special points of interest:

- DICC is CLOSED for Presidents' Day Mon, Feb 15th
- School Age Programming Tues, Feb 16th thru Fri, Feb 19th 8:30a-5:30p at our BJM location
- Did you get texts notifications regarding snow days? If NO, contact Krista at admin@dicc.org to confirm your cell phone number and provider to update our emergency notification system



Thanks Tompkins County Health Department for prioritizing Child Care!!

The Tompkins County Health Department prioritized a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccine doses the week of 2/1 and again on 2/15 for Public Transit, Homeless Shelters, Childcare and workers in P-12 schools. As a result, many of our DICC staff have received their first dose.

Much appreciation to our staff for ongoing efforts and leading by example as we work as a community for the health and safety of ALL!

Caterpillar

Welcome to February!

It is still cold outside but Caterpillars are dreaming about warmer days, when they will be able to enjoy a little time outside. Until then, we are going to be busy in our classroom with all sorts activities.

In January we learned about different types of transportation. We did some art projects dedicated to this subject using finger paint and brushes.

In the month of February,



Butterfly

Hello from the Butterfly room and Happy February!

It's hard to believe that we are already working our way through the second month of the new year! We have had quite a few recent changes in the classroom as we have entered 2021.

Ms. Khadijah has left to care for her family and is no longer working at the center. Ms. Siham has joined the classroom as the mid to end of day staff. Ms. Laken is beginning a new journey in her life and has moved. Her last day with us was the 5th. We wish her and her daughter Kali the best as they head into a new life chapter. We will miss them very much! Ms. Ja'Toni is our new full day staff, as she joins Ms. Danielle in the mornings, and ends the day with Ms. Siham. The children already know and are familiar with her so this will be a smooth transition for everyone.

We also have a new friend who has joined our class - Zelda! The children were very excited to welcome another kiddo to the room.

Some themes we are visiting through the month are:

we will focus on several Valentine's Day activities. The main shape this month will be the heart shape.

We are going to create lots of things using all sizes of hearts. During our circle time, we will even put emphasis on red, pink and purple colors.

For a short time, we also focused on Groundhog Day in the hope that this animal would not see his shadow this year, so spring could come soon.

We will also spend some time discovering animals from the coldest part of the world through stories, pictures and art.

We are all getting to know our new friends Leilani and Grayson, and we are happy to have them join our Caterpillar family.



Valentine's day - as we share with each other who we love and care about and ways that we can show it

Black History Month - as we celebrate, honor and learn more about impactful African American and Afro Latinos, past and present, who have accomplished, contributed to and influenced change then and now

Feelings - as we learn how to name what we feel, how to express it, and how we can change it

The snow is finally hitting us! Just a reminder to all parents to make sure to send your child in with warm winter gear (hats, mittens, snow pants, boots and coats), as well as extra clothes in case of any accidents and spills.

We ask that you continue to encourage your child to wear their masks and how to properly wash their hands as we continue to do so in the classroom. We continue to maintain a safe, clean and healthy environment for their learning and growth.



Dragonfly

Hello Dragonfly Families,

We hope you are all staying safe and well. We have a few changes happening in our classroom. We have welcomed a new friend from the Caterpillar Room, his name is Khalil. We will be saying goodbye to Wilson as he begins a new journey into preschool joining the Grasshopper Room. Ms. Siham has transitioned to an opportunity in the Butterfly Room. We expect to welcome a new teacher to our team for end of day within the month, so watch for introductions soon.

In January we explored hibernation—what it is and which animals hibernate during winter. For the month of February we will be focusing on kindness and what it means to be a good friend.



Rainbow

February all ready?! Where did January go? Well to start off we would like to welcome Phoenix and Owen into the Rainbow family as well as saying farewell and Happy Birthday to Seth! As well as a Happy Birthday to Ashleigh!

Last month started the new year off by making and working on alphabet books! This month we will be learning a lot about Black History and the many significant people who contributed. We will be learning about one person a week with a craft that compliments them. Will also have some valentines day crafts as the day gets closer.

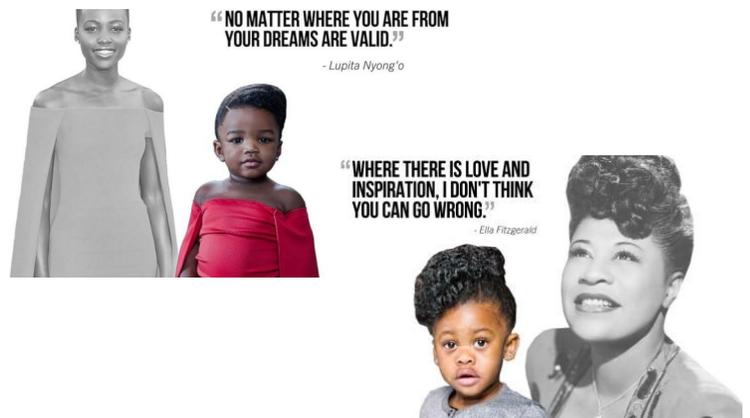
We have begun



introducing the Alphabet—starting with the letter “A” until we reach the letter “Z” we will work on each letter in two week increments. The children are working hard on recognizing their names and identifying the letters in their names as well. Shapes, numbers and colors are also included in our explorations.

It can be a challenge to not connect daily face to face, so please utilize the Remind App as much as possible. You are also welcome to call our classroom, at 607-272-7117 ext. 232 or email us directly (Heather@dicc.org and/or Tiffany@dicc.org). We welcome your communication.

We are making a family corner with pictures of each child's family members, if you could please send in a photo or two to display in the class that would be great! As always, have fun and stay safe!



Grasshopper

Hi Grasshopper Families!

We hope everyone is well and enjoying their new year! This month we will have quite a few changes in our room. First, we would like to wish Ms. Ja'Toni the best of luck as she moves to a different room! We will miss her so much, but are glad she won't be too far! Due to this change, we would like to welcome Ms. Lindsey to DICC & the Grasshopper room, we are very lucky to have her join us! We also have some new friends coming this month! Seth will join our room at the beginning of the month and Wilson will be joining us closer to the middle of the month. We are all so excited to have them join our room, and the kids are even more excited to see more familiar faces!

Firefly

Hello Families,

The firefly classroom is excited to be moving into the month of February where we have many fun activities planned. We will continue to work on our numbers, colors and shapes as well as many opportunities to practice using scissors. The fireflies will be learning about community, family and caring for others. The week of Valentine's Day, we will have many fun projects and will be working on allowing students to use their own creativity.

Although the weather has not permitted much outside play lately, we want to ask that parents are making sure children are coming to school with extra

Ladybug

The Ladybug class is bursting with children preparing for Kindergarten next fall. The children are concentrating on letter recognition, sounds and writing. We are also exploring ASL (American sign language); each week we learn a letter. We have practiced A thru E and are working towards F thru J. Ask your kiddos to teach YOU—They love to share! Weather permitting, we are getting outside as much as possible to explore winter and what happens in nature during the cold months. We enjoy the snow in so many ways—from throwing snowballs to attempting to build snow people.

This month we plan to cover: P for planets (what are planets? What do the different planets look like? What is their order?), V for Valentines Day (what is valentines' day? How do people celebrate? *Parent

gifts will be going home as well 😊), R for Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle (What do each of these things mean? How do we do all of these? What can be recycled/reused/etc.), & B for Black History Month (What is Black History Month about, why it is important, etc.).

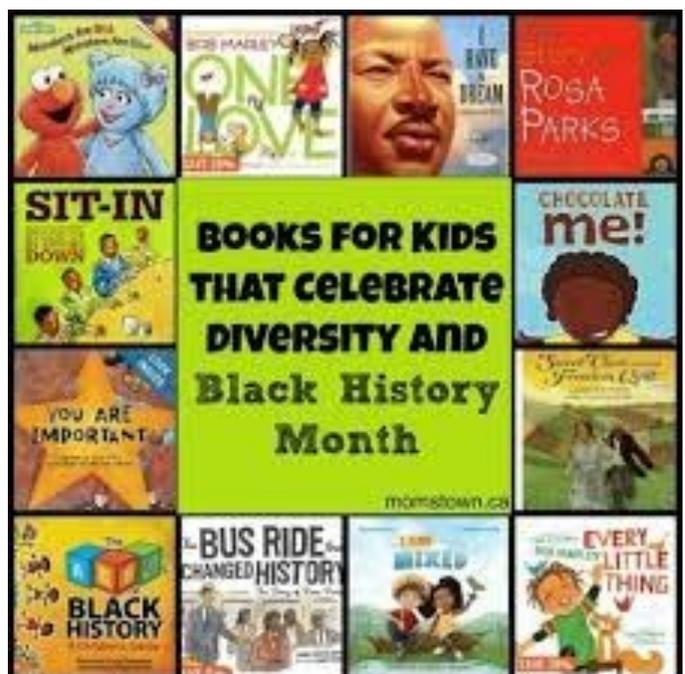
If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email Ms. Kaylee (kaylee@dicc.org) or contact us through remind 101. Stay safe and well!

clothes in case we have the chance to go outside.

We would like to thank our parents and students for working hard and helping us manage these times.

Moving forward, it would be a huge help if parents continue to work with their children on numbers, colors and shapes as well as dressing themselves as much as they can.

Thank you!



Bumblebees

Hello, Bumblebee families.

I hope all is well. Thank you for your continued assistance and dedication in these challenging times we continue to face. We will continue our safety precautions/protocols on top of those of the school as we continue to fight this pandemic.

Ms. Brionna has transitioned back into the building at DICC and Mr. DaeJahd has returned to college basketball minimizing the shifts they will be able to join us. We will be welcoming a new staff member this month, so expect introductions within the upcoming weeks

Mr. Mike is conducting his student teaching every Friday with the school age program, wrapping up our weeks learning U.S. History.

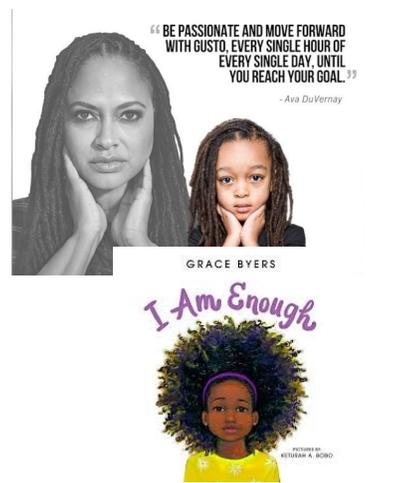
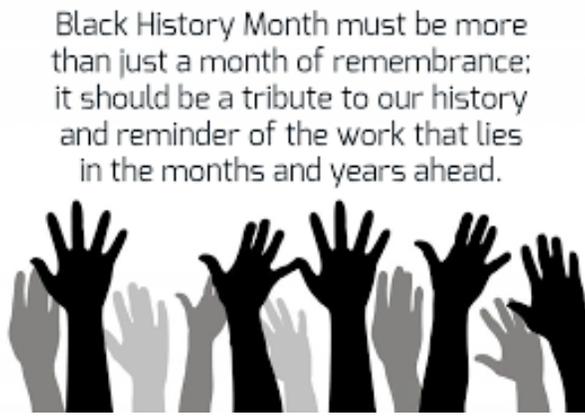
This month we're focusing on team work and working well with others. Also, as we are in Black History month we'll be learning about important individuals from past to present that have impacted our communities and the world.

We are asking families to be mindful of the weather change and send their children with appropriate clothing. Since we have been able to utilize the Gym at BJM during these colder months, please contact the Program phone during pick up as we may be in the gym 4:45pm-5:30pm.

Just a reminder we will be closed February 15th and open the remainder of the week from 8:30am-5:30pm.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Marcus@dicc.org. Thank You!

DICC Toddler & Preschool Openings AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.
Those interested contact Krista at 607-272-7117 or admin@dicc.org



Downtown Ithaca Children's Center

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The Downtown Ithaca Children's Center provides a creative and culturally diverse environment that fosters the emotional, social, and intellectual development of children. Our successes are achieved through family, staff, and community support and collaboration.

Thank You ...

... for your time, attention and all that you are doing as we move forward together during these new times and ways.

- Denise, Exec Director —Denise@dicc.org
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