

April 2021



Family Communication

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Special points of interest:

- Teacher Appreciation Day, May 5th
- DICC is CLOSED Memorial Day Mon, May 31st
- DICC Board of Directors meets via Zoom on Mon, May 17th. IF interested in participating, contact Krista for call specifics
- Unveiling of a collaborative mosaic mural, honoring the life of DeJour Gandy will be held Sunday, May 23rd, at 3pm

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Many of the things we have handled face-to-face have been challenged and been forced to evolve especially over the last year. More and more processes have become electronic not only for convenience but more-so to ensure accessibility.

At the onset of the pandemic DICC implemented what we believed at the time to be an interim resolution for a temporary circumstance. Our DICC families have been so wonderful and understanding by utilizing PayPal and emailing back and forth requesting documentation as needed for flex spending, taxes, etc. Although we are riding out the storm well and gaining strength as a community daily—both our overall health and our organization fiscally—it has become all too apparent that online access to information for our parents is where we need to be.

I am happy to announce, for the efficiency of both you and DICC —May 2021 we will begin to offer access to an online portal MyProcure.com for your child care account! Each family will receive a welcome email and directions for how to access in the upcoming week.

Why would you access an online portal for child care? Initially through the portal you will be able to:

- Pay tuition.
- Have independent access to account reports for the time periods you need—following each payment, monthly, annually for taxes, etc
- Update your address or phone number on file.

In addition to the online portal, you may now independently authorize us to direct debit an account of your specification to collect tuition payments. (If interested, inquire directly.)

Throughout the year more features will become available as we update processes specific to waitlist and registration/re-registration practices. As these options become available I will introduce them to you.

None of these are required features for your childcare experience. You will still receive regular statements when there is a balance due on your account. However, payment via www.dicc.org will discontinue by the end of May.

I shared a lot of information. Please know I am available to help you with ALL of it!

Krista

Caterpillar Teaching Team:

Ms Bogna

Ms. Ysabel

Ms. Abigail (joins
May 3rd)



Butterfly

Hello, April!

The Butterflies have been getting outdoors more often with the weather treating us better. The children are enjoying the long walks, fresh air and observing nature. We ask the parents remember to bring in extra clothes as the children may get a bit dirtier throughout the day. Rainy weather and warmer weather gear would be very helpful to bring in. Sun hats and sunscreens are a plus. If your child has sensitive skin and needs to use a specific brand of sunscreen please label and send it in with your child. If not, we will provide them with sunscreen.

The children and classroom staff are preparing for Miss Danielle's maternity leave which will happen later in May. This has been in constant conversations with the children to help them better understand and adjust to the upcoming changes. The teaching team during her leave will be Miss Natia, rejoined by Miss Khadijah and Miss Siham.

Caterpillar

Hello Caterpillars Families! Spring is officially here. We love to spend a lot of time outside taking walks or playing on our playground.

In April, Caterpillars have been exploring three topics: Easter, Spring and Opposites.

For Easter we painted paper eggs for our Easter basket using watercolors. Our handprints made beautiful spring flowers and our footprints created Easter bunnies.

Moving forward we will be learning about all of the different types of the weather that we experience in the

spring like: rain, clouds, fog, sun and wind. We play with water, new grass and green leaves. We smell and touch beautiful spring flowers such as tulips and daffodils.

During our classroom activities we focus also on the opposites like: wet/dry, short/tall, bright/dark, clean/dirty.

As usual we sing songs and read books related to our topics during our daily circle time.

With love and respect ,

Your Caterpillars Teachers!

Themes we have been visiting throughout the month are:

Transportation - where the children will learn about the different modes of transportation and differentiate the modes by land, sky and water, Insects Bugs and Spiders - where the children got to observe and learn about different and similar characteristics of different kinds of bugs and their purpose, Earth Day - to help promote environmental awareness and discuss ways we can help protect the Earth, and April Showers bring May Flowers - where children will learn about the water cycle and the importance of water to help flowers and plants grow.

We also have caterpillars in our classroom that we have been observing as they transition into butterflies. The kids enjoy checking on them daily. Once they become butterflies, we plan to keep them shortly before releasing them.

The letters that we are working on this month are H, I, J and K.



Butterfly Teaching Team:

Ms. Danielle

Ms. Natia (joins
May 10th)

Ms. Siham

Ms Khadija (will
assist during
Ms. Danielle's
maternity leave)

Dragonfly

Hello, Families! The dragonflies are loving this nice weather because that means we can get outside and explore!



This month we have been learning about bugs and the different things they do for our environment. We have been on several walks looking for bugs and watching them in their own habitat. We have also spent some time talking about the changes we see on our walks. How the trees

are growing leaves and how we are seeing and smelling the flowers. In honor of Earth Day we have discussed how *we* can help our environment. April has also included learning about the letters G and H.

As the weather is cold in the morning and tends to warm up by the afternoon try and dress your toddler in layers that we can take off as the day progresses.

Please utilize the Remind app if you have any questions or concerns, and we will respond as quickly as we can.

Dragonfly Teaching Team:

Ms. Heather

Ms. Tiffany

Ms. Maddie (Mon thru Thurs)

Ms. Gloria (Fridays)

Firefly Teaching Team:

Mr. Mike

Ms. Ciara

Ms. Linaia

Firefly

Hello families. Spring is here, which means more outdoor activities and adventures. We please ask that parents double-check to make sure their children have extra clothes, and rain boots, or extra shoes if possible.

The spring brings us many great opportunities to learn and explore the outdoors. This month the fireflies have been learning about birds, insects, flowers, rain, and many other things the

springtime brings us.

On top of the seasonal lessons and activities, we will work on using scissors and glue. We will also continue to focus on our alphabet and sounding out our letters as we expand our recognition of numbers and shapes.

Parents, please feel free to use the remind app if you ever have questions, concerns, or just want to share something with teachers. Thank you.

Grasshopper

Hello Grasshopper Families!

We hope everyone is safe and well. It's finally Spring (well, let's hope the weather cooperates haha!), can you believe it?

For the rest of this month, we plan to cover X for *eXactly who I want to be* (talking about what we want to be later, loving ourselves now, doing things that make you happy, etc.). Y for *Your Teeth!* (How do you take

care of your teeth? Why is it important? Etc.).

For the month of May, we plan to cover letter Z, and start again with E, F, & H (themes to be determined).

As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to email Ms. Kaylee (kaylee@dicc.org) or contact us through Remind 101! Stay safe & healthy!

Grasshopper Teaching Team:

Ms Kaylee

Ms. Allie

Ms. JaToni

Rainbow

Rainbow Teaching

Team:

Ms Resana

Ms. Maria

Ms. Natia (thru
May 7th)

Ms. Evelyn (joins
May 3rd)

Happy April Rainbow Families!!

This month we are explored many different themes. We had a Disney week. Which included Frozen, Aladdin, Ariel, Beauty and the Beast and Black Panther. We then moved to celebrating Marvel characters such as Spiderman, Captain America, Superman/Superwoman, Batman, and Wonder Woman. During the third week of April we explored Disney heroes including The Incredibles, Simba, Judy Hopps, Moana, and Merida. This final week of April will be all Winnie the Pooh/ Yoga and focusing on each character

and what they represent. Each week provided new lessons and learning objectives for the children.

Throughout the month we have enjoyed all the beautiful weather that April brings us. Please pack/send extra clothes accordingly (i.e. rain boots, light jackets, extra socks, shirts and pants).

We are starting to grow our own little garden in the classroom that will eventually move to a raised bed outside, along with making bird feeders to see and learn about all the animals that come to eat off them!



Ladybug

In April, the ladybugs are learning about spring and the ways to spot spring coming; ie: the signs of spring. We are learning about different flowers and plants on our walks to the parks and listening to the different bird calls along the way. We are also learning about the letters K, L, M, N, O. We are practicing the sign for each letter, the sound(s) each letter makes, the upper case and the lower case of each letter. We are also practicing out fine motor skills by writing each letter. We are enjoying making new and, not always correct or true, words from the letters we have learned. Nonsense words are great for learning letter blends and sounds.

The ladybugs also were able to watch the deconstruction of a local house

by Dey street park. Our kiddos were fascinated by the backhoe pulling the roof off the house and then the second floor being pulled down. The next day the kids noticed that the house was all gone! The following week they noticed the foundation was in and there were trucks delivering supplies to make the new house. The were able to watch the forklift bring itself down off the truck and unload supplies for the construction site/new house. They were even able to watch the forklift pull itself back onto the truck and park there.

Unfortunately, the ladybugs are loosing one of our teachers to another job to better his future plans. Mr. Bryant, you will be dearly missed!!

Ladybug Teaching

Team:

Ms. Roni

Ms. Lorraine

Ms. Viola



Bumblebees

Hello, Bumblebee families. I hope everyone is healthy and well. Thank you for your continued assistance and dedication to these challenging times we continue to face. As we approach a time where restrictions are becoming more lax, we will continue to conduct our pandemic protocol safety precautions.

We would like to inform you that Miss Gloria has fit in with our Bumblebee family and the kids have responded great to her presence. Mr. Mike is continuing to conduct his student teaching every Friday with our program, as we continue to learn about U.S. History. He will be graduating this May, so this will be his last month with us.

This month we are focusing on themes that include where we live and the history of the United States. We are learning about Ithaca, NY and all the great historic facts behind the city. We will also learn more about the United

States and review topics that include capital cities and their corresponding states and recent historical events. Grade level math and writing skills will still be implemented in our daily schedule.

Just a quick reminder that the weather seems to be getting nicer and we will be using playground more often. We ask that you send weather appropriate clothing for your children.

We still have access to the gym at BJM so please contact the program phone during pick up as we may be there from 4:45pm-5:30pm.

We are continue to provide a safe and sanitized space for your children by following our safety precautions/ protocols as well as those of the school.

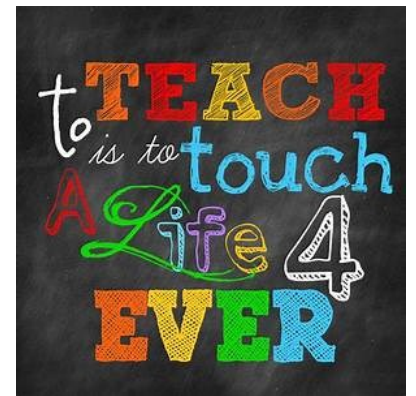
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Marcus@dicc.org. Thank You!

Bumblebee
Teaching Team:

Mr. Marcus

Ms. Gloria
(Monday thru
Thursday)

Mr. Mike (Fridays)



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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Ithaca, New York 14850
Phone: 607-272-7117
Fax: 607-272-4100
Email: info@dicc.org



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

Krista, Exec Director of Operations—Krista@dicc.org

Tiara, Program Director- Tiara@dicc.org