

May 2021



Family Communication

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Special points of interest:

- DICC is CLOSED Memorial Day Mon, May 31st
- Unveiling of the mosaic mural, honoring Mr. DeJour has been delayed – Date to be announced
- DICC is CLOSED Friday, June 18th (*Infant, Toddler & Preschool programs ONLY*) for Teacher Professional Development & Parent Teacher Conferences
- DICC School Age Program CLOSED Fri, June 25th & Mon, July 5th

Dear Families and Caregivers,

The nice weather has arrived! We are enjoying being outside more and optimizing our ability to do neighborhood walks and outdoor opportunities. It is such a great time of the year.

New directives and guidelines have come to us effective May 19th with additional updates and clarifications ongoing from Center for Disease Control, New York State Governor's Office, NYS Office of Children and Family Services and NYS Department of Health. Yes, we certainly have many people looking out for us and we comply with and support the most current and accurate information that comes to us!

The timing of this is immediate, yet we and the early childhood communities needed clarifications and had many questions and perspectives. We are fortunate to have a very involved and committed group of leaders who are work together to help with forward movement.

The most updated details are specific to masking of children and adults.

- Young children (i.e., those that are not yet in kindergarten) do not need to wear face coverings when they are in child care program facility or area.
- Older children (school age) are encouraged but not required to wear face coverings when they are in child care program facility or area.

- Children/campers may also remove face coverings outdoors when they are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity
- Fully vaccinated staff, parents, therapists and volunteers do not need to wear face coverings when they are in the DICC child care program facility or area.
- There will be no change to drop-off and pick-up procedures as directives remain "Parents/guardians should remain in the facility the minimum amount of time necessary for drop-off or pick-up of children."

These changes in guidelines DO NOT supersede your preferences as parents. Your masking preferences will continue to be abided by as indicated in your child's registration on file. IF you would like to update your preferences to align with masking guideline revisions, please contact us to indicate.

As details continue to evolve both within our community as well as specific to childcare, we will keep you informed. Take extra good care and know that we are working diligently to assure the safety and wellness of the children and adults in the DICC community. We are in a great place to date and have every intention and action to sustain ourselves.

Respectfully,
DICC Administration Team

Caterpillar

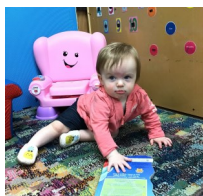
Hello everyone! We are having a wonderful spring in the Caterpillar Room. The children are having lots of fun playing and being outside. With the summer just around the corner, please remember to bring a sun hat for your child.



May is a month with lots of changes in nature, so we are going to learn about these things through stories, songs, art, sensory projects, and observation.

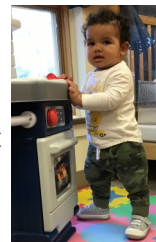
During our daily walks we have seen more and more leaves on the trees. We are also hearing more birds singing and smelling some new fragrance especially when we are passing by lilac bushes.

The grass is greener and higher and the bees are busy collecting pollen from the flowers. Sometimes we see a snail on the leaf or a garden snake crossing our path.



One of our projects in this month was to create a mini flower garden just outside of our classroom windows. The children will have opportunity to see the flowers growing and to help the teachers watering them. We will also introduce the children to various types of bugs they might see on a daily basis outside during this time of the year. Finally, we are using many different art materials to make grasshoppers, wiggly worms, colorful butterflies and much more, so we can decorate the walls in our classroom.

Goodbyes and Hellos - We had say goodbye to our friends, Maggie and Rachel. We are pleased to hear that they are doing well in their new classrooms.



We would like to give a special welcome to our new friends, Nimah and Lyra.

Butterfly

Butterfly families, what beautiful weather we are finally getting!

Along with the weather changes, the Butterfly room is experiencing many changes as well. This month, we have welcomed two new children to the classroom: Maggie and Kaliyah! The children have greeted them so warmly. We have also said our goodbyes to 3 of our older kiddos: Benjamin, Kai and Kyson, who have all joined the preschool rooms, Firefly, Grasshopper and Ladybug, respectively. They will be missed and we look forward to continuing to watch them grow in their new classrooms.

Miss Danielle is welcoming her newborn son and will be taking time to recover and bond before returning to the center. During her leave, Miss Natia, Miss Siham and Miss Gloria will be the Butterfly teaching team.

The themes the children are learning about this month are:

Mother's Day - the children will talk about the important women in their lives and learn about different kinds of families, as all families are different
Caterpillars and Butterflies - the children will learn

about and identify the different stages of the butterfly life cycle

Plants - the children will identify the different parts of a plant and learn what a plant needs to survive and grow

Science week - the children will develop a sense of curiosity and begin to ask questions as to how and why things work the way they do.

Reminders for parents: If you have not already done so, please begin bring in warm weather clothing such as shorts and t-shirts, light jackets, hats, closed back sandals, etc. Also pack extras to keep at the center in case of any spills and/or messes made. If you have a preference on the sunscreen to be used for your child please bring that in as well. If not, we do provide sunscreen.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to the teaching team via Remind, email or text.

Remind is the quickest way to reach out to the team to find out and get information about your child's day/ week.

Dragonfly

Hello Dragonfly families,

A BIG THANK YOU to Kahlil's family! We, the teachers and the kids, learned so much about the celebration of Ramadan. It is so important for the children and adults to open their minds and hearts as we learn about each other's cultures and beliefs. This helps everyone in our class feel represented and understood.

Earlier in May we sadly (but also excitedly) let our butterflies free! We learned about the life cycle of a

flower as well as incorporated flowers into our arts and crafts this month. We have also begun experimenting with different ways to paint. With the warmer weather, we try to get outside as much as possible.

If there are any specific things that your toddler is enjoying exploring please let us know. We'd love to incorporate their interests into our lessons.



Continue to stay safe and healthy!

Firefly

Hello, Families!

The Fireflies have been working daily on their number, letter, and shape recognition. Attached to a weekly theme we incorporate a weekly letter that we focus on.

This month we are focusing our themes around activities/events that we can do with our families when the weather is nice. Amusement parks, carnivals, the circus, and the zoo are some of the topics we are working on. Each child is invited to discuss their own personal experiences at one or all of these places and share that experience with their friends. Pictures of your child and family are welcome. We are also asking for small family photos that we can add to our "Firefly Families" board.

With the weather getting nicer the Firefly classroom has been able to explore our neighborhood more. Our

classroom has been working on independence and gaining the skills they will need moving forward. This will include putting on clothes, tying shoes, and using the bathroom. We ask that parents please make sure their child has a change of clothes that can stay in school or go back and forth in a bag. It is also important to have appropriate sneakers for outside play. If you would like to send your child in sandals we ask that you send a pair of sneakers that can be used for the playground. Also if your child has a water bottle that they would like to bring to school they are more than welcome. They may keep the bottle in the classroom for use throughout the day and also bring it to the playground or on walks with them.

If you are not connected with the remind app for the Firefly classroom please reach out to us. Thanks for all your help and support!

Grasshopper

Hello Grasshopper Families!

We hope everyone is safe and well. As summer approaches we wanted to extend a reminder that we will be enjoying many water activities throughout the season! Please make sure your child is prepared with a swimsuit (and sunscreen if they use their own! :)).

This month we plan to cover E for Eric Carle (Who is he? Why is his work interesting? What books of his do we recognize? Etc.), F for Five Senses (What are our 5 senses? How do we use them?), H for Habitats (What

are they? What do different habitats look like? What kinds of animals would live in each one, etc.), and I for Ice Cream for Summer! (We will learn how ice cream is made, Where it comes from, Where the ice cream sundae originated (hint: it's VERY close :)) using drawn ice cream scoops to practice more counting and math, etc.).

We are so excited that the summer is approaching fast! As always if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to email Ms. Kaylee (Kaylee@dicc.org) or send us a message on Remind!



Rainbow

Welcome to May, Rainbow families! We would like to welcome Doumarien and Rachel to the rainbow family as well as looking forward to the return of Ms. Resana! And give a big Thank you to Ms. Tia, as she moves into a different room, although she will still pop in from time to time to help.

This month we are focused on everything spring! We started our own little rainbow garden, including all different types of flowers and vegetables. We also started growing some beans in plastic baggies so the children can visually



see all the different stages in a plant's life cycle. We are welcomed some caterpillars and have watched their life cycle as well as we observed them grow into beautiful butterflies. We also have been learning all about the different stages of flowers, all the parts of a flower and what they need to grow!

With the weather beginning to get warmer please send in cooler clothes for the kids as we will be playing outside a lot and in the water in the upcoming months! If your child needs a specific sunscreen, please let us know and provide for use as soon as possible.

Ladybug

Hello families!

It's been a beautiful start to our summer together. As we welcome the new season and say goodbye to the last we also welcome a new teacher! Viola spent three years assisting at a local Montessori school before joining us, and she is so happy to be here. We also have welcomed new friends - Kyson, Jeffrey & Scarlet. The children have been stepping up however and whenever they can to help them learn the ways of our classroom.

This month's circle times have been spent learning letters P-T. The children have been excitedly adding words that both begin with the letter of the week, as well as words that have the letter in them, showing their letter and word comprehension is strengthening! They will tell us when they hear letters in stories or conversations, on walks, and all throughout the day.

We have been outside as much as possible to soak up the sunshine. Whether we have a destination or not, the children enjoy our walks and make observations about the flowers they see growing, people around us doing their jobs, the trees and leaves and the weather. They can identify evergreens, daffodils, tulips, and like to discuss changes in the weather.

As it gets warmer and we have more opportunities to be outside please send in a swimsuit, water shoes and towel so your child may participate in water play. If for any reason you cannot provide this please reach out to any of us. Our center provides sunscreen but if your little one has any sensitivities or your family has a preference you are welcome to send one in.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us,

Viola, Lorraine and Roni



Bumblebees

Hello Bumblebee families!

I hope everyone has been staying healthy and well. I just want to thank parents for their continued support and dedication to the health and well-being of all of the children. Although state restrictions are beginning to change, we continue to implement our pandemic protocol precautions for the safety and health of children and adults.

Ms. Khadija has been welcomed to the Bumblebee family with open arms. I will be taking some time off to bond with my newborn son so Ms. Khadija will be joined by another staff during my time off. Mr. Mike will no longer be joining our program on Fridays as he has completed his student teaching hours and graduated.

This month, we are focusing on themes that include parents week, planets, the solar system and forms of transportation. Grade level math and writing skills continue to be implemented in our daily schedule.

Just a quick reminder that the weather is getting nicer and we will continue to get outdoors as much as possible. 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 the pick up times of 4:45pm-5:30pm. We continue to do our best to provide a safe and clean 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!



School Age Summer Camp

June 28th thru Sept 3rd

Where: Fall Creek Elementary

Watch for detailed updates!!

Parent-Teacher

CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars—Friday, June 18th

Teachers will be reaching out to schedule your annual conference to discuss your child’s accomplishments and goals.

(NO CHILDCARE will be provided on this day.)

*** DICC Toddler Openings AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY ***

*** Preschool Openings Fall 2021 ***

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
- Krista, Exec Director of Operations—Krista@dicc.org
- Tiara, Program Director- Tiara@dicc.org