

August  
2021

## Family Communication

### Downtown Ithaca Children's Center



#### Dear Families and Caregivers,

Summer at DICC has brought much excitement and exploration to all age groups—big and small! We are pleased to have welcomed more and more new faces, bringing smiles and making new friends.

Classrooms have returned to capacity while we maintain the heightened health and safety measures successfully implemented in 2020. Our staff have rallied to keep the health and safety of all—co-workers, children and families alike—their priority by independently obtaining an 85% vaccination rate. However, as long as COVID19 cases in Tompkins County remain greater than 50 per 100,000 in a 7 day time period ALL adults who enter our facility will remain masked indoors (including those vaccinated). Together we will continue to navigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our community and thank ALL for your understanding and cooperation!

The pandemic hasn't slowed many of our DICC teachers from graduating from their higher education programs—many in education concentrations. Others have made commitments to both apprenticeships and certificates in Early Childhood Education. We proudly support all their efforts and advancements. Unfortunately, sometimes this brings opportunities for individuals away from DICC. As a result, we wish Ms. Kaylee and Ms. Danielle the best as they bring new experiences into their workdays with opportunities outside of DICC. We appreciate all they have brought to our children, their teaching teams and DICC as a whole. (Luckily, they both are staying on as substitutes, so don't be surprised if you see or hear of them joining your children from time to time.) In addition, some of our staff have joined different teaching teams bringing their talents and expertise to new age groups while some of our substitutes have made commitments to join us full time. Take a peek at the teaching team highlights for more details.

We, at DICC, are fortunate to have a strong, diverse, energetic and compassionate team of individuals committed to the mental and physical health and safety of the children in our community as we grow and learn together.

Proud to be part of the DICC Team,

Krista Tripp



#### What's Inside:

Caterpillar	2
Butterfly	2
Dragonfly	3
Rainbow	3
Firefly	4
Ladybug	4
Grasshopper	5
Bumblebee	6

#### Special points of interest:

- DICC is CLOSED for Labor Day Mon, Sept 6
- First Responder Visit Fri, Sept 10th at 10am—Bang's Ambulance & ICPD
- School Age Program CLOSED Tues, Sept 6 thru Fri, Sept 10
- SACC After School programming returns to BJM Mon, Sept 13th
- School Picture Day September 22nd & 23rd



## Caterpillar

Ms. Bogna, Ms. Ysabel, Ms. Viola

Hello and welcome to the Caterpillar Room after a wonderful summer! Let's take a look back at what the Caterpillars did during the summer and then preview what we are planning for September.

Many summer mornings when the weather was nice, we went walking to the park and around the neighborhood. In the afternoons we explored our playground and played in the water or read stories and did some art work.

In June, the Caterpillars discovered life on the shore and under the sea. The children made colorful fish, sandy crabs, starfish and many more interesting sea creatures. Moving into July, we turned our room into the jungle. We created many animals who live in the rain forest such as monkey, lizards, chameleons, and colorful snakes.

In August we went on an adventure to the garden. We learned about tasty fruits and vegetables, garden tools, insects like bees, and butterflies and also admired some beautiful flowers in our surrounding.

In September, we will be investigating life on the farm. We will take a look at farmers and the animals they take care of. We are planning to read many books and do art project related to this topic.

### Special note:

We will try to go outside as often as possible. As the weather begins to cool down, we ask that you bring in a light jacket or sweater and a cool weather hat for your child.

Thank You, The Caterpillar Teachers.



## Butterfly

Ms. Danielle, Ms. Siham, Ms. Lanaia

Welcome August! The Butterfly room has experienced many changes this month. Miss Danielle has returned from maternity leave and Miss Lanaia has joined the teaching team. Kaliyah has moved up to the Firefly room, and we have welcomed Ahkai and Julia. Later this month we will be joined by Avery.

Themes we will be covering this month are:

- Camping - the children will identify things one would see at a campsite and activities that can be done while camping,
- Construction - the children will be introduced to the many tools and vehicles used in construction and understand how they are used
- Planets - the children will identify different planets and describe them by their characteristics
- Feelings - the children will learn to identify and name their feelings and learn techniques to help regulate and express those feelings, and
- Shapes - the children will identify shapes and notice how shapes make up what we see on our surroundings.

Note from Miss Danielle:

*Hello DICC community,*

*I want to officially announce that I have accepted a position to work for the Ithaca City School District. Because of this, I will be stepping down from my role as the Butterfly room Lead Teacher. This is bittersweet as I have dedicated myself to serving and supporting the children and families here at DICC, but I am ready for the next chapter in my life.*

*This change comes with the desire to gain newer experiences, and have access to more opportunities within my career, as I continue working on my Early Childhood Education degree.*

*I am grateful for the many relationships I have built and maintained with children, families and staff, and I hope that these connections will remain intact. It was very rewarding to be a part of your child's life as I watched many of them grow into who they are now.*

*My last day in the Butterfly Room will be Friday, September 3rd. I will miss you all.*

*Love, Miss Danielle*

## Dragonfly

*Ms. Heather, Ms. Tiffany & Ms. Zaria  
(thru 9/3), Ms. Danielle joins in Sept.*



Hello everyone,

Hope this letter finds you well. For the month of August and into September we will be learning about flowers and how they grow. We will also begin to re visit our colors, numbers, and shapes as our class has received some younger kiddos. We will continue to do name recognition and the calendar daily. I hope it doesn't happen soon but please send in warmer clothes as the weather starts to get a little cooler. Please remember to send your children in appropriate shoe wear for walking and park play. Thank you for all you do!

## Rainbow

*Ms. Natia, Ms. Maria, Ms. Evelyn*

HELLO RAINBOW FAMILIES! I would like to start off by saying welcome to the few, some not so new additions to the family—Rui, and Ellis! We would also like to say farewell to Ms. Laurel as she moves up to the firefly room. Ms. Natia is super excited to be rejoining the rainbow room (as I missed all the kids and my co-teachers very much!)

This month we are primarily focusing on Mr. Eric Carle. Starting with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' all the way to 'Pancakes, Pancakes, Pancakes!'.

We will be enjoying as much time outside as the weather allows for! So send in bathing suits and towels if you haven't already. We are enjoying a lot of sensory play including but not limited to foam sensory tables. We will also be making some very exciting changes to the rainbow room as well so stay tuned for those!

This month and going forward the kids will be learning how to spell and recognize the letters in their

name along with some of their friends' names.

There have been some permission slips sent out to get ready for the First Responders visit.

The First Responder visit will consist of members from the Ithaca Police Department coming to the center and showing the kids the police cars and answering any and all questions. Along with the cars there will also be a Police K9, and a few members of the BANGS Ambulance department coming and joining as well! If you have any questions or concerns about this visit or anything you would like us to bring/do in the classroom please feel free to reach out!

We look forward to wrapping up the summer with the kiddos and continue to enjoy watching them grow!



**\* LIMITED Toddler Openings \***

**\* Preschool Openings AVAILABLE  
for Fall 2021 \***

**Those interested contact Krista at  
607-272-7117 or [admin@dicc.org](mailto:admin@dicc.org)**



## Firefly

*Mr. Mike, Ms. Ciara, Ms. Abi*

Hello families,

With summer's end approaching the Fireflies are spending as much time as we can enjoying the weather and outdoors. Please send in any extra clothes you feel necessary.

During the month of August we have been enjoying fun hands-on learning about sea life, our 5 senses, and mammals. We continue to work on our number, letter, and shape recognition as well as scissor use

and some social emotional learning that will help adjust some of our new kids to the classroom and help some of our kids that will be going to kindergarten.

The fireflies have also been working hard on learning the importance of staying healthy and germ free by using lots of practice. We appreciate parents' help and willingness to work on these skills at home, thank you!



## Ladybug

*Ms. Roni, Ms. Lorraine, Ms. Nonnie*

This summer the ladybugs have welcomed some new friends and had to say goodbye for now to others. Our class has also welcomed a new teacher, Ms. Nonnie!

The Ladybugs have been able to explore outside on some trails and many walks around Ithaca. Our longest walk this summer took us to Cascadilla Gorge Trail. We ventured up to the second waterfall. The rain before our trip made this a little more special as the waterfalls were flowing beautifully.

In the classroom we have explored the letters U, V, W, X, Y and Z. The children have learned

the sounds of the letters, how to sign (ASL) each letter and explored many words associated with both the letters and their sounds.

September is bitter sweet as some of our friends head off to Kindergarten. Luckily we have new friends joining us to meet and enjoy!



## Grasshopper

*Mr. Rakim, Ms. JaToni, Ms. Allie (thru 9/3), Ms. Zaria joining in September*

Hello Grasshopper Families! During the month of August the students have welcomed our new lead teacher Mr. Rakim who the children refer to as Mr. Rock.

"Greetings Grasshopper parents, My name is Rakim Jones and to the kids I go by Mr. Rock. I am the new lead teacher for the Grasshopper class and I am honored to get this opportunity to be the kids new lead teacher. I look forward to getting to know your children and helping them become the best they can be with the help of Mrs. Ja-Toni (Mrs. Toni) and Ms. Allie"

This past month we have reviewed the Letter E for emotions as well as the letter R for rainbows! With the letter E we learned how to label our feelings as well as ways to manage them. The children practiced yoga, deep breathing exercises and we of course incorporated Daniel Tigers song "When you feel so mad that you want to roar".

With R for rainbows the children were able to create their own rainbows, slime, and free paint. We discussed the colors of the rainbow, practiced sorting colors, and learned how rainbows are formed.

With each letter that we learn, we practice the different sounds the letter makes and we come up with as many words as we can that start with our letter of the week. When learning about letters, at circle time we also watch a short "story bots" video about them which is available on YouTube if you would like to play them for your children. Story bots also has a fun Dinosaur song that the kids absolutely love.

This month we have re-introduced and introduced a few new practices so that we can teach your children through the best way that they learn, through fun! We now do the Macarena to learn the months of the year as well as the Adams family song to learn our days of the week. We have introduced more science projects to the children where they add and mix the ingredients themselves. So far they have made playdough, dyed pasta noodles, foam bubbles, and

slime! Next month there will be even more as we focus on V for Volcanoes and Vacation. We have also been working on the children's fine motor skills as we incorporated playdough, and cutting into our daily routines. We have new puzzles that the children love and are more challenging .

We are in the process of teaching the children how to respect each other more as students and friends. We are teaching the children to raise their hands when one wants to answer or speak during circle time and instruction. Already we have seen the children become more kind and verbalize their feelings. Some of the children have even recognized when they need space without teacher assistance and they ask for it! Your children are growing immensely and we are excited to further their growth.

To make the classroom more inviting as well as to help spark their creative ideas we have rearranged our classroom and decorated the walls with the children's art. We are also creating a "Cozy Corner" under our treehouse. The "cozy corner" will have soft furniture to make the children feel more comfortable as well as books to support their emergent literacy. The corner will also be decorated with family pictures which will help the children feel more welcomed as well as help them form positive self identities. As we form our self identities we will also be incorporating more books about different cultures of the children inside the classroom and out.

We greatly appreciate all the help from the parents with keeping in communication with the teachers as well as furthering your children's learning at home. Together we can prepare the children to become confident, kind individuals, who are critical thinkers and want to further their learning. Thank you for your wonderful children!

Love

-The Grasshopper Team-



## Bumblebees

*Mr. Marcus, Ms. Resana, Ms. Khadija*

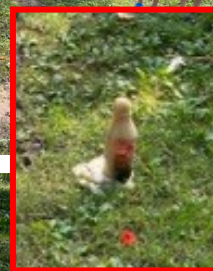
Hello Bumblebee

families, I hope all is well. As we near the end of our Summer program there are a few items I'd like to share with you. This Summer has been a good one but we have faced some challenges.

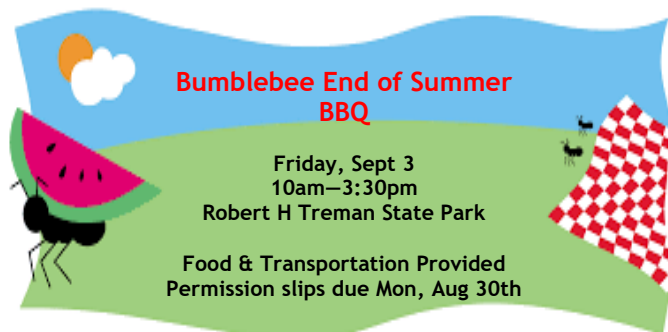
This summer we have been able to enjoy various activities, learn about various topics and stay busy. We appreciate all the efforts from children and families this summer with putting safety as a priority. We have enjoyed our opportunities this Summer to explore at the Sciencenter and to utilize the Alex Haley pool.

As covid-19 cases are on the rise again, we continue to follow our pandemic cleaning and safety protocols. All staff and SACC Program children are required to wear masks in ICSD facilities, including their outdoor facilities. We ask that parents continue their efforts to ensure that we are being as safe as possible.

Ready to transition back into the school year? SACC after school program will return to BJM Elementary Monday, September 13th. Ms. Khadija and I are pleased to have Ms. Resana joining our SACC team this school year. She has been familiarizing herself with the group this month and is familiar to many as she is transitioning to us from the DICC toddler program. All location specifics and SACC scheduling updates will be extended to families in the upcoming weeks.



Explore and play at the Sciencenter—  
Explosion experiment with soda and Mentos.



## 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.

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