

The Child Care Center in Norwich



A Place Where Kids Can Be Kids

April 2015

Week of the Young Child
April 12 - 18



The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child™ in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Classroom Updates



Nursery

We would like to welcome Kaidence Sherwin to the Nursery!

Now that spring is trying to arrive we are going outside more so please check your child's cubby for size and season appropriate extra clothes, we are planning to get muddy! The big kids have been using the play area outside the Red Room. We have also been visiting the Orange Room. We enjoy playing with their train table. We are planning to make some hot cross buns for snack soon. We are hearing lots of language in the Nursery these days, lots of stories and singing of ABC's; and Levi, Genevieve, and Nora are crawling everywhere!

Happy Birthday to Bailey, who will turn two on April 10th.

Hooray, spring has sprung.

Karla & Jody



Red Room

The Red Room welcomes Sage to the classroom this month! We are excited to have him joining us and will be sure to give him warm welcomes when he begins.

We are looking forward to spring and have planted some green beans and sunflower seeds; some of them have begun to sprout! We have also been enjoying spending a bit more time outdoors as the weather has warmed up some and it stays lighter later in the afternoon.

When indoors we've continued enjoying our movement activities, books and some "spelling". We added children's names to our home/school board and the kids have been great at recognizing the letters!

On another note; labeling your child's clothing helps us greatly as things can get mixed up in the cubby room. We also appreciate the help with getting settled in the morning; hand washing, water bottles, etc.

Caroline & Courtney



Orange Room

We are counting the days until spring. We can't wait! A sure sign of spring is that we are seeing more birds at the bird feeder. Two new birds are pine siskins and red-breasted nuthatches. The goldfinches are beginning to turn yellow. Another sign of spring is sugaring season. We may go to a sugarhouse to see how maple syrup is made.

Our interest in cooking continues. We recently made individual pizzas from scratch. We made the dough, added the sauce, the cheese and the toppings. We also made upside down cake, which is a variation of pineapple upside down cake. We included a choice of strawberries or blueberries in addition to the pineapple. We are going to branch out and try making some other "healthier" things. We are also talking about trying new foods.

We continue to include the calendar, the weather and jobs in our daily activities. Everyone recognizes their own name and is working on recognizing all the letters in their name. The Orange Roomers have also been writing their names.

Karen



Yellow Room

Signs of spring are on the Yellow Roomers' minds! We've noticed robins visiting a tree on the Red Room playground that we can see from the block area. We also had some spring visitors, two new lambs brought in by Hannah's mom Katy. Our friends were able to name the white lamb Olaf. We also came up with a list of 15 names for the other lambs born at BAH-KE Farm. With the warmer weather we have been enjoying hiking the Hazen Trail. We have seen many deer tracks and will consult a field guidebook for further investigation into other tracks. We have also noticed the melting snow and the temperature on the thermometer. This has led to interesting discussions about the freezing point, phases of matter and the water cycle.

A big happy birthday cheer to two friends celebrating in March. Andrew will be five and Maxwell will turn four!

Between the melting snow and the mud that's right around the corner, please make sure that your child has extra clothes to change into when they are wet from outside play. We have a very limited supply of extras here. A big thank you to all our parents for the support of our share days. The children have enjoyed the opportunity to share something special from home. It has been a big success.

Hannah & Jodie



Blue Room

The Blue Room is finish up our unity on the Solar System. The children have really enjoyed talking about the different planets, black holes and moons! We will be transitioning into a new unit focused on “our community”. We will be discussing the different places and jobs that make up our community and why it’s important. If anyone would like to bring in things to share during this unit we’d love it!

We’d like to wish a happy birthday 4th birthday to Eloise this month. We’d also like to announce that Krista is a new mommy! Congratulations! While Krista is out on leave we have a special guest teacher, Cherie! She knows the children from previously floating at the center and we are very excited to have her in the Blue Room!

Please remember to bring home sheets and water bottles each week for cleaning. And don’t forget to bring them back, we don’t have many spares.

Laura, Krista & Cherie



AfterSchool

Hi All,

Changes changes! Mitch is back in Alaska and Kelley, Felicia and Caroline all are on break from Dartmouth, although both Kelley and Felicia will continue to work some of break. Meanwhile Andrew, Fay and Shelly are keeping things rolling while we figure out next steps. We are also fortunate to have another Dartmouth grad student, Maura, available to work for part of break. She has worked for us before and is a licensed elementary school teacher. So things are a little crazy but the kids are still having fun at afterschool! We are excited to be spending more time outside.

Allison

Kindergarten Readiness

What is Kindergarten Readiness?

Each year, kindergarten teachers across Vermont measure the “readiness” of their new students for school within six to ten weeks of the start of the school year.

“Kindergarten readiness” is a measure of how well our communities (parents, schools, childcare providers, etc.) are supporting our children and preparing them for success in school and in life. There is no single definition for how readiness is defined, but most agree that it’s multidimensional. In Vermont, we measure children’s readiness in five different areas of development, or “domains.” These domains are:

1. Social and Emotional Development

Independence, ability to transition, and positive interactions with adults and peers in the classroom.

2. Communication

Communicates needs and wants, engages in conversation in complete sentences, and understands simple directions or requests for information.

3. Cognitive Development

Engages in imaginative play, ability to count 5 or more objects, shows awareness of how books are organized and recognizes her or his own name in print.

4. Approaches to Learning

Appears enthusiastic and interested in activities.

5. Wellness

Demonstrates age appropriate self-help skills like wiping the nose, washing hands, dressing, etc. This also measures the frequency with which a child experiences illness, fatigue or hunger.

Don't children develop differently?

Yes. Each child’s progress and rate of development is individual to him or her. And, though the domains are interrelated, children do not make progress in all areas at the same time or same rate. Vermont’s kindergarten readiness survey is meant to measure the important steps each child takes along their own developmental pathway.

The effort to measure school readiness is a collaborative project of the Vermont Agency of Education, the Department for Children and Families, and the Department of Health. This handout was developed using information from Vermont’s Statewide Report on Kindergarten Readiness 2013-2014 and in consultation with experts in the field.