



To our DCP Families,

As always, thank you for being such an incredible part of our cooperative. Some of you stuck with us during a very difficult time at the end of last school year, and we appreciate you more than you know. Some of you I met this past February at our Open House. It was before COVID-19 came to the forefront of every decision we made. I truly enjoyed meeting your families and planning your new beginning at DCP. We never would have expected what was to come just one month later. I want to thank all of you - those choosing to return to DCP and our new families - for your patience during this ongoing time of uncertainty. I know that being unsure of what is happening with your child(ren) in the fall can be frustrating and anxiety provoking. I assure you that it was always the intention of the DCP Board of Directors to get information to you as soon as possible. As we have learned since March, the situation is continually changing, which makes decision making especially difficult.

The Board and DCP teachers have continued to meet throughout these past months, working to make the best decisions for the cooperative, our teachers, and families. DCP is licensed through the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS). ODJFS has set regulations that we, as a preschool, must follow during this global health crisis if we choose to open. Those regulations are strict and strange to us as we look at how DCP normally functions, but we also appreciate they are put in place to keep the health and well-being of all daycare/preschool families and teachers at the forefront.

The Board and DCP teachers have spent hours pouring over these regulations, our finances, local school districts' decisions, the Ohio Public Advisory System, and most recently, family surveys. COVID-19 has created a perfect storm in which all of this comes together to put our small, non-profit program at a great disadvantage. While we **all** long to have a normal preschool and toddler time year, we all know that isn't possible. At this time, we are choosing to suspend the DCP year until further notice. The Board and teachers will continue to meet through the coming months and re-evaluate a possible opening in the Spring, no earlier than January. We will continue to keep in contact with all of you. Hopefully, we will see an improvement in the public health situation in Ohio, and we can hold Preschool and Toddler Time classes at a later time.

While we were able to conduct some distance learning for our students at the end of last year, we quickly learned that that doesn't work well for preschool age children. They need interaction, socialization, and physical play. Unfortunately, DCP won't be able to provide that in-person for your children at this time, and we will not be offering distance learning during the current suspension of DCP's programs.

I am proud to work with such amazing Board members and teachers who care so deeply about the cooperative and our families. They have worked tirelessly to find ways to provide meaningful and safe Toddler Time and preschool programs to your families, and we are all disappointed we can't open in September. We are hopeful to be able to reopen sometime this spring. We intend to continue a monthly DCP e-newsletter, and would love to continue to include you in our socially-distant social gatherings and fundraisers this coming year.

We would love to stay united as a DCP community. The moment you stepped into DCP and chose our cooperative to help shape your child's future, you became a member. We hope to stay connected and see you as a part of DCP's future. Thank you so much for your patience, support, and cooperation during this time. I am including my personal email. **Please feel free** to contact me here with any questions or concerns. Thank you for choosing to begin your child(ren)'s social and academic forming with DCP.

Sincerely,

Jen Rahde, President
Delaware Cooperative Preschool
Board of Directors
hotrahd12@gmail.com