

The Children's Center at Groton

Remember to like us on



Dear Families,

The school year is off to a great start and each classroom is settling in nicely. The teachers are all getting to know the children in their class and the children are becoming comfortable with their classroom, teachers, and making new friends. Music and yoga have been going smoothly and the children really seem to enjoy these activities.

Upcoming Dates:

- Oct. 8 – Closed for Columbus Day
- Oct. 11 – Apple Picking Trip (Lily Bud and Peace Lily)
- Oct. 15 – Picture Day Re-take
- Oct. 18 – Back to School Night

We want to extend a big thank you to all the families and teachers who volunteered to help us during Grotonfest this year, whether that was joining us throughout the day, helping to set up and break down, bringing us water and snacks or lending us equipment to use for the festival. We could not have done it without you!

Board Members:

Ryan O'Donnell
Meg /Charlie Keene
Kristin Robinson and family

Current Families:

Francis family
Mark and Nika Charron
Jessica Solger

Alumni Families:

Blumsack Family
Preston Family

Teachers:

Nicole Bell-Hathaway
Barbara Castano
Brittany Tompkins
Beth Bellomo
Melissa Rossi

It was great to see so many current and former CCG students in attendance, and wonderful to meet many new families from the community!

CCG is still participating in the Groton Neighborhood Food Project. Each classroom has a signature green bag to collect food and supplies for those in need. A CCG alumni parent picks up the donations every 2 months and brings them to Loaves and Fishes where they are then given to those in need. We need your help to continue with the project! Any donation help, whether it's a large haul or just one extra can added to your cart each time you go grocery shopping. Donations can be dropped off in your child's classroom. At this time, the most needed items are:

Reusable Cloth Grocery Bags

Cake Mix

Cream of Mushroom or Chicken Soup

Baked Beans/Canned Chili

Canned Fruit

Brownie Mix

Ramen

Shampoo/Conditioner

Feminine Care Products

Poise Pads

Salad Dressings

Canned Pasta

Hamburger or Tuna Helpers

Canned Tomato Products

Boxed Flavored Rice

Coffee

Juice

Dish Detergent

Ketchup or Mayonnaise

Hearty Beef Soup

Grape or Strawberry Jelly

Canned Corn

Canned Tuna

Pancake Mix & Syrup

Toothpaste

Diapers (size 5 & 6 & Pull Ups)



Have you heard that we're on Instagram?
Find us at @childrenscenteratgroton



Classroom Updates

Seedlings

Another school year is here with fresh beginnings and forming relationships with new friends and teachers! The Seedlings are acclimating to their surroundings and environment by freely exploring the classroom with eyes, hands and their bodies. We all are establishing trusting relationships with each other and moving through the day with ease and comfort. The daily activities and rhythms are coming along and we are enjoying our days together. The morning drop-offs are going smoothly and the good-byes at the end of the day are all smiles!

We continue to practice the RIE method (“Resources for Infant Educarers”) in the Seedling room. The principles focus on building secure and trusting relationships between the child and caregiver, respect for all, and confidence in the child as a self-learner. This allows the child to feel safe to freely explore their environment and take age appropriate risks. During “Back to School Night”, October 18th we will be talking more about RIE.

In the photos below Lincoln is showing compassion and kindness for his new friend Lachlan. By bending down and wrapping his arms around Lachlan, giving him a hug shows they are building a relationship and becoming friends. Rosie and Ava are working together with the wooden ring stacker naturally taking turns and enjoying the exercise with each other. Liam is using his gentle hands to greet his new friend Tate. By using a gentle touch and making eye contact, they are connecting and noticing each other’s presence. Linley and Lachlan are exploring the shiny blue ball together. They are taking turns side by side moving and bouncing the ball discovering what the ball can do.

We are excited and thrilled to be caring for our Seedling friends and we look forward to continuing to build secure and nurturing relationships.



Sprouts

It's hard to believe that the first month of school has already come and gone! Here we are on the brink of a new month and so much has happened in the Sprout Classroom in just four weeks. This month has been about building community and creating connections amongst children, families, and teachers. It's amazing how much you can learn about someone in four weeks. We want to share some individual interests we have been able to observe or be part of with the children.

- **Alina**- singing with the whole class, yoga, and reading
- **Callum**- music, rhythm sticks, and kicking balls around the playground
- **Emerson**- babies, daubers to make dots on artwork, and water play
- **Evan**- cooking in the sandbox, meeting new classmates, and sensory experiences
- **James**- barnyard animals, superhero play, and pushing carts on the playground
- **Lucy**- babies, cars, and pushing carts on the playground
- **Nessa**- jumping in puddles, sensory experiences, and dramatic play
- **Quincy**- singing, reading, and whole group play
- **Reade**- partaking in cause and effect experiences, tricycles, and climbing
- **Rose**- drawing, yoga, and reading books with teachers and the whole class



Lily Buds

While getting to know our new Lily Bud friends, we noticed many of the children were interested in their reflections. Mirrors were scattered around the classroom for the children to explore. Asher and Anderson explored their reflection by bringing their face very close to the mirror and then moving away repeatedly. Meg enjoyed making silly faces at herself while Cosi held the mirror up for her friends to see themselves. Working with different materials on the mirrors allows the children to explore materials from different perspectives. The Lily Buds have been observed experimenting by bringing materials from different areas of the room to place on the mirrors. Pumpkins, leaves and sticks are some materials that were offered by teachers. Scarves, napkin rings, animals, and cars were brought out by the children to explore. Throughout the month, their very favorite thing to look at was themselves. It will be interesting to see which direction their reflection investigations take us!



Peace Lilies

Welcome to the Peace Lilies! We are so excited to begin a new school year with all of you. Our year is off to a wonderful start and we are so proud of how everyone has transitioned to our room. We have spent the first month of school getting to know our friends, asking questions about one another and our families. We have learned many ways that we are alike and different. Over the past few weeks, the Peace Lilies have also been busy exploring the classroom. Our second year Peace Lilies, Emma S, Paul, Cooper, and Teddy were excited to come in and see the changes and additions that were made to the classroom, especially the mill! Harry, Lachlan, and Elise have enjoyed working at our magnet wall, finding letters and shapes to make words and designs. Our "wood working" area has been very popular. Emma F. and Ben are often seen together with hats and goggles on hammering nails into the stump. Many of the Peace Lilies really enjoy using our art shelves, utilizing many different art materials. Maeve, Arden, and Lilly spend time carefully tracing with the stencils and adding gems wherever possible! Our block area is a very busy spot and we have some amazing builders in our classroom. Gunnar, Nathan, and Gavin have spent time making very elaborate structures, buildings, and train tracks, while Bear and Adam like to work together making ramps for cars and creating games and homes for the animals and dinosaurs. Bella, Esther, and Ella love taking out the small Peace Time boxes full of different manipulatives to set up at the tables.

While learning about ourselves and each other, we have been introduced to making self-portraits, using mirrors to see the shapes and colors of our features. We have been using a lot of loose parts to create faces and people. Through these activities, we have learned about body awareness and placement. We have also been introduced to Mat Man whose body is made out of wood pieces that can be formed into letters!

We are very excited for this upcoming year and are so enjoying getting to know and learn about all of your children!

