



# CCC Newsletter

Volume No. 20, Issue No. 4 | December 2024

*The mission of Concord Children's Center is to cultivate an intimate, welcoming community where children develop respectful relationships and inquisitive minds, build confidence in their individual gifts, and are engaged, prepared and inspired to learn*

## News & Updates from CCC

### With a Click, Relief and Progress Towards our Accreditation Goal

Dear CCC community members,

After months of work across our thirteen classrooms and administrative offices, we are thrilled to have today submitted our application for [reaccreditation](#) with the [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC). **NAEYC Coordinator Jordan Zirkel** has spearheaded this massive effort, with help from educators **Marie DiPace**, **Isabelle Lechauve**, **Rebecca Garvey**, and **Julia Abreu**, **Director of Operations Penni Hensley Wagner**, and **Director of Professional Learning Joanne Saideh**. We are submitting two Program Portfolios documenting our business policies and procedures, and four Classroom Portfolios, which catalog the many ways our educators bring the NAEYC standards alive in their work each day. In all, there are 10 standards against which we measure ourselves.



Next week, we will have binders at each site with copies of the portfolios for our community to enjoy. The aspect of the portfolios that I love the most is the way our educators make the connection between the standard, which is a relatively dry policy statement, and the children's play that is the core of our CCC philosophy. You can see this for yourself in the accreditation piece below. In this piece, we highlight standard 3E which includes *Show or describe one example of how you have customized a learning experience based on your knowledge of a child's ideas and interests*. The accompanying picture and description demonstrate how CCC educators met this standard. What looks like simply playing with babydolls in the water table is so much more! I hope everyone will take a moment to stop and look at these amazing documents. Concord Children's Center distinguishes itself as an exemplar program through this accreditation process. I know you are as proud to be a part of our community as I am.

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. May you enjoy your celebrations, as well as some quiet and rest in the coming days. I look forward to seeing our children and families in the new year, especially at our [Night at the Museum](#) event on **Sunday February 2** (more info below)!

Fondly  
Suzie

Our [NAEYC reaccreditation](#) continues to move forward, with classroom portfolios being submitted this week! Teaching teams are also reviewing the classroom observation piece of the accreditation process that will occur when the NAEYC accreditor conducts our site visits. These visits will take place in early 2025.

CCC will be submitting Infant/Toddler and Preschool accreditation portfolios for both of our sites, for a total of four. To give our community a sense of the rich content in these portfolios, we provide below excerpts from our West Concord Infant/Toddler portfolio and our East Concord Preschool portfolio addressing NAEYC Standard 2: Curriculum, and Standard 3: Teaching.

*NAEYC Accreditation Standards*  
Standard 1: Relationships  
Standard 2: Curriculum  
Standard 3: Teaching  
Standard 4: Assessment of Child Progress  
Standard 5: Health  
Standard 6: Staff Competencies, Preparation, & Support  
Standard 7: Families  
Standard 8: Community Relationships  
Standard 9: Physical Environment  
Standard 10: Leadership & Management



**Standard 2G: Cognitive Development - Science**

This moment showcases a child engaging in an interesting sensory experience of having his foot painted and exploring the feeling and texture of the paint.



**Standard 3B: Teaching - Creating Classroom Communities for Learning**

This standard focuses on encouraging children to share their ideas. The group of children discussed some new foods they were trying from the Farm to School Program. The class tasted the new food and voted on whether they would have it again.

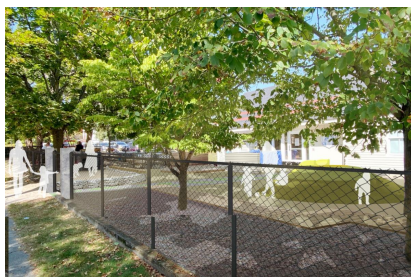


**3E: Teaching - Responding to Children's Interests and Needs**

This child has shown a particular interest in babies and loves to spend time at the sink in the water. The educators prepared an activity for the child that connected these two interests through play.

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## Update: Upgrading our West Concord I/T Playground



In our October newsletter, we shared our plans to redesign and renovate our West Concord Infant/Toddler playground. Originally intended for 12 students, the playspace does not meet the needs of our current 27 students. Furthermore, the increase of little feet in the playground has created a surface that's not ideal for our youngest students, nor does the space meet our need to invite the imaginative outdoor play that is part of our mission.

We are pleased to report that Concord Historic Districts Commission last week approved our application to renovate our Infant/Toddler Playground. We will now be able to move forward with our landscape architects, [LEMON BROOKE LLC](#), to make our plans a reality.

## Pickle Day

The East Concord site Farm to School team hosted our first **Pickle Day** celebration last month! Parents, children and teachers sampled vegetables pickled by our East Concord classrooms, made their own pickles, and joined a special pickle-



themed circle time!

All the produce used in Pickle Day was purchased at either local farms [Barrett's Mill](#) or [Verrill Farm](#). Thank you to our East Concord Farm to School team -- **Patricia Collins, Amy Gonzalez, Isabelle Lechauve, Jennine Lesser, Anna Morreale, and Carmen Warren** -- for a fun, educational and tasty morning!



## Snow!





## Advancement & Community Updates

### 2025-2026 Admissions

The CCC 2025-2026 admissions season is now open! Applications are coming in from new families, and continuing families will receive re-enrollment forms on **Friday, December 13**. All 25-26 applications are due on **Friday, January 10**, and admissions notifications will be sent on **Friday, February 7**.

### Giving Challenge

Our annual Fund for CCC Giving Challenge closed at the end of Giving Tuesday with **68 percent community participation!** We had **68 percent participation** from our families, **69 percent** from our educators and administrators, and **100 percent** from both our Board and our admin team! Thank you to everyone for your participation!

To date, the Fund for CCC has received **over \$80,000** in commitments from current and past families and staff, grandparents and special friends, and corporations. The Fund will remain open until the end of June, so there is still time to donate! **[Make your donation today](#)** to have it count for this calendar year for tax purposes!



### Save the Date for CCC's Second Night at the Museum!



CCC is again taking over the **Discovery Museum!** From 5:30-7:30 p.m. on **Sunday, February 2**, the Museum will be open to just CCC families and teachers. See the exhibits, check out the interactive galleries, and enjoy pizza and drinks in the Play Labs.

This event is limited to 300 people (CCC community members and their families only, please). Tickets to go on sale via the CCC website after the holidays!



### Celebrating 50 Years of Concord Children's Center

CCC will be celebrating its **50th anniversary** in 2025 -- 50 years of **Caring, Curiosity, and Community**. More information will be coming after the holidays, but in the meantime, please save **Saturday, October 18, 2025**, for our 50th anniversary gala at the **[Nashawtuc Country Club!](#)**

If you would like to get involved with planning the celebrations around this milestone, please contact CCC Development Coordinator **[Jennifer Saxe](#)**.

## For Your Calendar

### Upcoming Dates

- Friday, December 13: 25-26 re-enrollment forms distributed to current families
- Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Day, CCC closes at 1pm
- Wednesday, December 25: Christmas, CCC closed
- December 26-31: Optional days
- Wednesday, January 1: New Year's Day, CCC closed
- Friday, January 10: 25-26 reenrollment forms and applications due
- Sunday, February 2, 5:30-7:30pm: CCC's ***Night at the Museum***

### Subscribe to the CCC Calendar

Stay current on events at CCC by subscribing to the [on-line calendar](#). Select which events you want to be kept informed about and stay up to date!

## CCC Board Updates

### Join the Board!

As a non-profit, CCC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that is primarily responsible for the Center's financial and organizational oversight. Board meetings are held every other month and are open to all families.

We are always seeking Board and Board committee members. In particular, we are seeking community members with accounting/financial management skills to join the Board Finance Committee. Please contact [CCC Executive Director Suzie Kornblum](#) if you are interested in getting involved with the work of the Board or its committees (Advancement, Finance, Long-Range Planning, Nominating, and Personnel).

### 2024-25 Board Members

*Christina Anderson, Chair*

*Grace Giles, Vice-Chair*

*Jackie Fishbein, Secretary*

*Stephan Bader, Treasurer*

*Elie Adam*

*Phil Barr*

*Amantha Butler*

*Sean Hetherman*

*Susan Kelly*

*Isabelle Lechauve (CCC staff rep)*

*Katherine Manning*

*Sarah Sample*

*Shannon Sweeney*

*Jordan Zirkel (CCC staff rep)*

## Community News & Events

### Commonwealth Ballet's *The Nutcracker*



## Tanglewood Marionettes' *The Dragon King*

Hosted by Concord Carlisle Foundation

Sunday, January 12 at 3:00pm

Carlisle School Auditorium

[\\$12 ticket - purchase here](#)

Running time: 50 minutes



On **Sunday, January 12**, [The Concord Carlisle Foundation](#) will host the [Tanglewood Marionettes](#), a nationally touring marionette theater based in New England. Large, beautifully hand-crafted marionettes, colorful sets, and integrated lighting and sound create a fully immersive theatrical experience. The marionettes will perform their award-winning production, [The Dragon King](#), featuring colorful sea creatures and an exciting adventure. Appropriate for ages pre-K to 6th grade.

Concord Children's Center | [concordchildrenscenter.org](https://concordchildrenscenter.org)



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