

OVER THE RAINBOW NEWSLETTER

February 2026

What We Learned

February is packed with fun, learning, and special celebrations!

We'll kick off the month with Groundhog Day, where children will explore shadows, predictions, and seasonal changes. Our Five Senses theme will encourage children to explore the world around them through hands-on activities that focus on sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

Throughout Valentine's Day week, we'll focus on kindness, friendship, and sharing through themed activities and crafts. During our Little Inventors theme, children will be encouraged to think creatively, problem-solve, and explore new ideas through building, experimenting, and imaginative play.

We'll also honor Black History Week with age-appropriate stories, music, and discussions that celebrate important leaders and cultures. To wrap up the month, we'll focus on Dental Health Week, helping children learn about healthy smiles, brushing habits, and caring for their teeth in fun, engaging ways.

Reminders

This is a reminder that all families must check their child in and out each day, as required by licensing and for the safety of your children. The QR codes are posted for your convenience outside all classrooms and near the exit doors.

We are always looking for toy donations if you are doing any spring cleaning!

Upcoming Events

- **Groundhog Day: February 2**
- **Wear your favorite team jersey: February 9**
- **PJ and Teddy Bear Day: February 10**
- **Valentine's Day Celebration: February 13**
- **National Pet Day: February 20**
- **National Tortilla Chip Day: February 24**
- **Tell a Fairy Tale Day: February 25**

Contact Info

Email:

Info@overtherainbowkids.com

Executivedirector@overtherainbowkids.com

Regional@overtherainbowkids.com

Director.cheshire@overtherainbowkids.com

Hamden2@overtherainbowkids.com

OTR CELEBRATIONS

February 2026

Cheshire Birthdays

2/1 Cecilia

2/9 Liliana H.

2/9 Eloise

2/21 Miss Pauline

2/26 Miss BobbiJo

2/26 Miss Jaylin

Hamden Birthdays

2/2 Miss Ferne

2/7 Dominic

2/28 Miss Stacy

Work Celebrations

2/3 Miss Meilenys celebrating 1 year in Cheshire

2/17 Miss Jacinth celebrating 5 years in Cheshire

2/17 Miss Jasper celebrating 5 years in Cheshire



CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

February 2026

Infants

This month, our infants are busy exploring and growing! We are practicing rolling over and sitting up, strengthening our little muscles every day. They are also learning to recognize their own names, helping them become familiar with themselves and their friends.

Fun sensory activities are in full swing. Little hands and feet will make penguin footprints and enjoy a Valentine's craft.

We'll also continue to sing songs, supporting language development and bringing lots of smiles and giggles! February is all about movement, self-awareness, and creative fun as our infants discover the world around them.

Waddlers

This month, our Waddlers are exploring creativity, senses, and self-care! They will make puzzle piece art crafts and ladybug handprints with hearts and enjoy a touch-smell-see sensory bin to discover new textures and scents.

Our Valentine's celebration includes a party to exchange gifts, spreading kindness and friendship. For dental week, we will practice brushing pretend teeth and do a placing-teeth-in-a-mouth craft.

Outdoor fun continues with spraying colors in the snow, encouraging movement and exploration. February is full of learning through play, creativity, and sensory discovery!

Toddler 1

February is full of fun, creativity, and learning for our Toddler 1 students!

Students will work on fine motor skills by creating a heart collage and explore different textures through a touch-and-feel sensory activity.

Students will make a "Love Bug" using their handprint or footprint, enjoy a Valentine-themed story, learn about Valentine's Day during circle time, and participate in a Valentine exchange. For Dental Health Week, students will do foam painting using toothbrushes, making learning about teeth fun and hands-on.

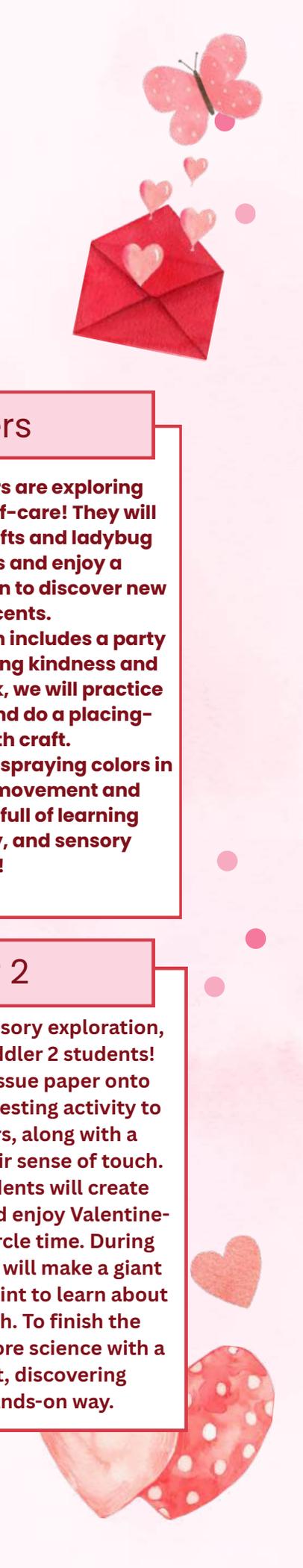
During Little Inventors Week, students will use their creativity to design and build their own inventions, exploring imagination and problem-solving.

Toddler 2

February is full of fun, sensory exploration, and creativity for our Toddler 2 students!

They will glue colorful tissue paper onto hearts and enjoy a taste-testing activity to explore different flavors, along with a sensory activity using their sense of touch.

For Valentine's Day, students will create Sweet Heart footprints and enjoy Valentine-themed stories during circle time. During Dental Health Week, they will make a giant tooth using white puffy paint to learn about taking care of their teeth. To finish the month, students will explore science with a fizzy heart experiment, discovering reactions in a fun, hands-on way.





CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

February 2026

Toddler 3

February is packed with hands-on learning and fun experiments for our Toddler 3 students! During Five Senses Week, they will go on a sensory walk, participate in a taste test, explore scented paints, and try a Pop Rocks experiment. For Love Bug Week, students will enjoy a lava lamp experiment, cookie decorating, and a Valentine's Day party. During Dental Health Week, they will do an elephant toothpaste experiment, sort items in a tooth jar activity, and practice cleaning teeth. Finally, for Little Inventors Week, students will go on a scavenger hunt, build a hand-crank winch, and explore an ice cream dramatic play bin in honor of the ice cream scoop inventor, Alfred L. Cralle.

Preschool

February is full of learning, creativity, and celebration for our preschool students! During the first week, they will explore different types of weather, learn the letter "U" and the number 20, and participate in weather-themed science activities like making rain clouds in a jar. The second week will include a Valentine's Day party, PJ and Teddy Bear Day, heart art projects, and Valentine slime. During Dental Health Week, students will learn how to take care of their teeth, practice number concepts, review numbers 1-10, and learn the letter "V". Throughout the month, we will also take time to celebrate Black History Month and learn about important inventors who have made a difference over the years.

Pre-K

February is packed with exploration, creativity, and learning for our Pre-K students! We will begin by exploring weather, including a rain cloud experiment, learning weather words, and discovering the life cycle of a snowflake, what it's made of and how it forms. During Friendship and Love Week, students will create a friendship tree, participate in a friendship color-mixing activity, and learn what it means to be a friend. For Dental Health Week, students will learn how to keep their teeth healthy and create a teeth name craft. We will also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr., complete a dream craft, and discuss "How would you change the world?" Finally, for our end-of-month science exploration, students will investigate how penguins stay dry and learn about how ice forms through hands-on experiments.



CHESHIRE SPOTLIGHT

February 2026

The Licursi Family

The Licursi Family is our Family of the Month! As a family, they love Christmas, but Dad is fully obsessed with fall and Halloween, and they're still not quite sure which season Dakota likes best. They enjoy going for walks together and ending the day with family dance parties after dinner.

Ice cream is the family's favorite treat, though Dakota has a special obsession with blueberries. Some of their favorite memories come from Dakota's first year, taking photos of her in fun and creative ways like sitting in a pumpkin, a watermelon, and even a lobster pot.

They also have a 5-year-old French bulldog named Garbanzo, who Dakota is still learning how to be friends with. Dakota and Dad both have red hair, which often sparks comments when they're out and about and makes them extra unique. Dad is Italian, while Mom is a mix of Irish, Polish, Ukrainian, and German. Their favorite family movie to watch together is the Taylor Swift Eras Tour, and their favorite place to visit is Rockport, Massachusetts.

Miss Kelsey



Miss Kelsey is our Teacher of the Month! She is our amazing afternoon floater and does a wonderful job in any classroom she is placed in. Kelsey is always willing to step in and support teachers wherever she is needed, making her an invaluable part of our team.

She loves creating fun and engaging art projects with the children, and her creativity truly shines in every classroom. The children are always excited when Miss Kelsey is in their room, and it's easy to see why: she brings positivity, consistency, and care to everything she does.

Miss Kelsey consistently implements our core values, and we are so grateful for her dedication and hard work. Thank you, Kelsey, for all that you do!



HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

February 2026



Infants

February is an exciting month in our Infant classrooms! We have lots of new friends starting in both Infant 1 and Infant 2. The babies will enjoy fun art projects celebrating Valentine's Day, friendship, and snow, exploring colors, textures, and creative expression.

Waddlers

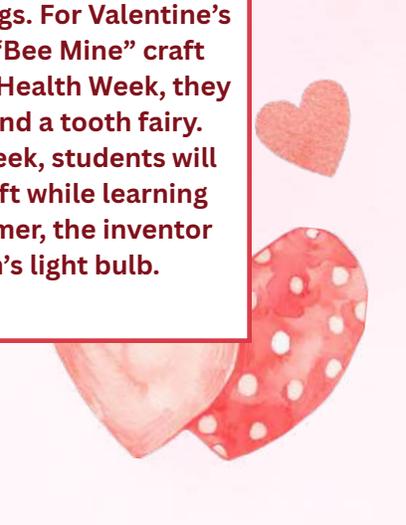
February is full of creativity, exploration, and hands-on fun for our Waddlers! They will start the month making hearts with different shaped pieces of paper and exploring their five senses with a Mr. Potato Head craft. During Valentine's Week, they will create a "5 Reasons Why I Love You" craft, make Valentine hats, paint ladybugs, and design a paper bag love monster. For Dental Health Week, students will explore mouth models and practice using popsicle stick toothbrushes. Finally, during Little Inventors Week, they will complete a light bulb craft and a telephone craft, encouraging curiosity and imagination.

Toddler 1

February is full of creativity, exploration, and hands-on fun for our Toddler 1 students! During the first week, they will make a handprint Groundhog and explore the five senses by playing with musical instruments. In the second week, students will decorate Valentine bags and enjoy sensory play with red rice and heart shapes. For the third week, they will paint using toothbrushes and explore a teeth sensory bag for Dental Health Week. To finish the month, students will get creative with building blocks and design a cupcake line robot.

Toddler 2

February is full of creativity, learning, and hands-on fun for our Toddler 2 students! They will explore the five senses by making craft stick puppets. For Valentine's week they will create popsicle stick love bugs, and paint heart-shaped ladybugs. For Valentine's Day, students will make "Bee Mine" craft valentines, and for Dental Health Week, they will craft toothbrushes and a tooth fairy. During Little Inventors Week, students will complete a light bulb craft while learning about Lewis Howard Latimer, the inventor who improved Edison's light bulb.





HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

February 2026

Toddler 3

February is full of exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning for our Toddler 3 students! They will participate in a five-senses activity with five different stations and create a heart project using different pieces of construction paper. During Valentine's Week, students will enjoy arts and crafts to celebrate, and practice dental hygiene by listening to and playing along with the song "This Is the Way We Brush Our Teeth." For Little Inventors Week, they will build something special for someone they love, combining creativity and thoughtful giving.

Preschool

February is full of hands-on learning, creativity, and kindness for our preschool students! During Weather Week, they will make snowflakes from coffee filters and explore weather with a cotton ball activity. For Friendship and Love Week, students will discuss being kind, helping each other, and sharing, say nice things about one another, and read *Brush, Brush, Brush* by Alicia Padron. During Dental Health Week, they will practice tooth care with a toy teeth activity using egg cartons and shaving cream. For Black History Month, students will reflect on "what makes you special?", create a handprint collage, and enjoy the books *I Am Enough* and *Skin Like Me*, celebrating diversity and self-esteem.

Pre-K

February is full of creativity, exploration, and learning for our Pre-K students! They will explore the life cycle of a snowflake with a hands-on art and science activity using salt, glue, and watercolors to watch colors spread like crystal growth. For Valentine's Week, students will create a Valentine's Day collage and participate in discussions about caring for others. During Dental Health Week, they will practice oral hygiene with a "brush away the cavity" activity. For Black History Month, students will create self-portraits inspired by the bold, expressive style of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, celebrating individuality and creativity.



HAMDEN SPOTLIGHT

February 2026

The Smith Family

The Smith Family is our Family of the Month! Their favorite holiday is Christmas, and they love spending time together going to the pool and enjoying family hikes. Their favorite food is cous cous, and some of their favorite memories include camping trips to Vermont and New York.

They have a dog named Melvin who is part of the family fun. The Smiths are of German, Irish, and Swiss descent, and their favorite movie to watch together is Zootopia. When it comes to favorite places, nothing beats being at home! What makes the Smith family truly unique? Their last name—haha!

Miss Jasmine



Miss Jasmine is our Staff Spotlight! She is our Assistant Toddler 1 teacher and brings so many creative ideas into her classroom each day. She has built a strong partnership with Miss Nairobi, working together to create a positive and engaging environment for their toddlers.

Miss Jasmine is always willing to come in early and stay late to help care for the children at OTR. She is happy to support in any classroom when needed, though she truly shines with her toddlers. Her great sense of humor and strong rapport with our families make her a joy to have on our team.

Thank you, Miss Jasmine, for always coming to work with a positive, can-do attitude!



NOURISHING MOMENTS

February 2026

Love on the Menu: Valentine's Treats with Heart

Valentine's Day often comes with sugar overload, but it doesn't have to be that way. Kids are naturally drawn to color and creativity, which means heart-shaped meals, fruit-filled snacks, and festive desserts can be just as exciting as candy (with fewer meltdowns afterward!).

Cooking together is also more than just making food; it's a way to connect. Even simple tasks like washing fruit, stirring batter, or sprinkling toppings give children independence and confidence. Along the way, they practice patience, sequencing, and teamwork. Best of all, cooking as a family turns everyday mealtime into a Valentine's memory.

Breakfast

Heart-Shaped Cinnamon Rolls: Unroll canned cinnamon roll dough and twist it into a heart shape before baking. Once baked, drizzle with pink icing and a few sprinkles for a festive touch.

"Egg in a Hole" Hearts: Cut a heart shape out of the center of a slice of bread using a cookie cutter. Place the bread in a skillet and crack an egg into the cut-out space. Cook until the egg is set — a simple, protein-packed Valentine's breakfast.

Lunch & Snacks

Heart-Shaped Pizzas: Shape pizza dough into a heart (or use a cookie cutter for mini tortillas or flatbreads). Let kids add their own toppings — cheese, peppers, or even heart-cut pepperoni.

Heart-Shaped Sandwiches: Use a large cookie cutter to cut sandwiches into hearts. Fill them with PB&J, turkey and cheese, or whatever your child loves.

Fruit "Love Bugs": Slice apples or use strawberries as a base, and decorate with pretzel sticks for legs, raisins or blueberries for eyes, and a dab of cream cheese to hold it all together.

Fruit Skewers: Thread grapes, strawberries, and heart-shaped melon pieces onto skewers. Add a mini marshmallow or two for a sweet surprise.

Frozen Yogurt Bites: Spread yogurt (tinted pink with beet puree or blended strawberries) onto a parchment-lined tray. Sprinkle with berries, freeze, and then break into fun shards for a cool treat.

Desserts

Chocolate-Covered Strawberries: Melt chocolate chips in the microwave and let kids dip strawberries into the chocolate. Place on wax paper to harden. Simple, classic, and always a hit.

Valentine's Day Popcorn: Melt white chocolate and tint it pink or red with natural food coloring. Drizzle over popped popcorn and toss in festive sprinkles or candy before it sets.

Heart Rice Krispie Treats: Add a few drops of natural food coloring to the marshmallow mixture before stirring in the cereal. Spread, let cool slightly, then cut into hearts with a cookie cutter.

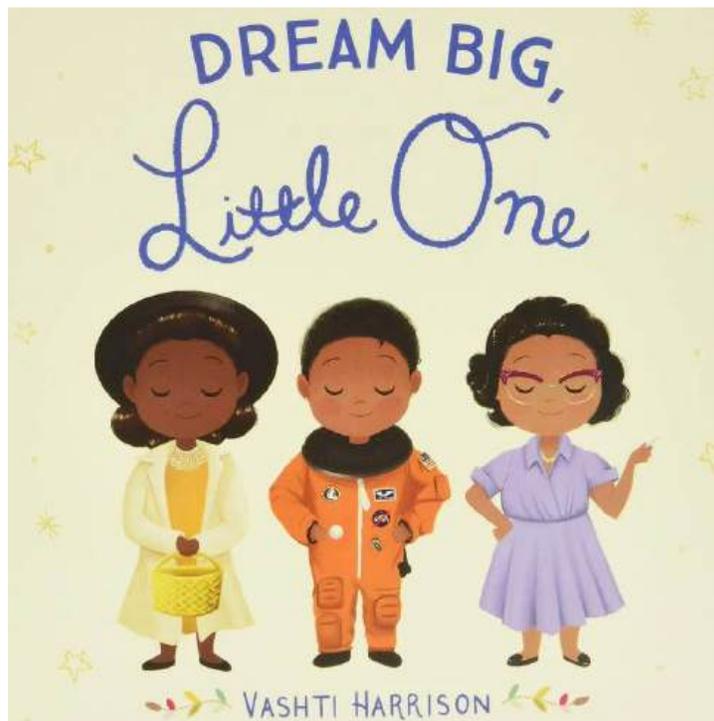
No-Bake Peanut Butter & Banana Bites: Slice bananas and sandwich them with a little peanut butter. Dip in melted chocolate, freeze, and enjoy as a cool, protein-packed treat.

Valentine's Day Snack Mix: Combine pretzels, dried cranberries, yogurt-covered raisins, and a few pink or red candies for a simple, shareable mix.



LITERACY RAINBOW

February 2026



Dream Big, Little One is a beautifully illustrated board book that introduces young children to inspiring Black women from history in a simple, uplifting way. Featuring 18 trailblazing role models, from artists to scientists to activists, this book encourages little readers to dream big, be proud of who they are, and learn about leaders who changed the world. The short, gentle text and warm pictures make it perfect for toddlers and preschoolers, helping plant seeds of confidence and curiosity about people from diverse backgrounds.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

February 2026

Heartfelt Crafts With A Purpose

Valentine's crafts become even more meaningful when they're made with love and given to others. Here are some simple but powerful ways to create cards and gifts that spread kindness in your community:

Handprint or Fingerprint Hearts: Paint little hands or thumbs and stamp them into heart shapes. You can also turn thumbprints into balloons, flowers, or butterflies with markers. These make sweet keepsakes for grandparents or teachers.

Tissue Paper "Stained Glass" Hearts: Cut small tissue paper squares in pinks, reds, and purples. Have kids glue them onto a white paper heart cutout to make a colorful, mosaic effect. Once dry, tape it to a window to let the light shine through.

Sticker Collages: Provide heart stickers, star stickers, or even smiley faces. Younger children especially enjoy covering a card with stickers, and the result is always cheerful and bright.

Doily Hearts: Glue paper doilies onto construction paper for a lace-like Valentine's effect. Kids can color inside the doily or add glitter glue outlines for sparkle.

Nature-Inspired Cards: Collect leaves, flowers, or twigs and glue them into heart shapes. Add a simple note like "You're loved!" or "Thank you!" to finish it off.

Love Bugs: Use pom-poms, googly eyes, and pipe cleaners to make little bugs on the front of the card. Add captions like "Sending you love-bug hugs!" for an extra smile.

Yarn Hearts: Wrap red or pink yarn around a heart cutout and glue it onto the card. This creates a cozy, textured feel that children love.



OTR BLOG

February 2026

From Candy Hearts to Caring Hearts: Teaching Kindness & Healthy Habits This February

February often brings visions of candy hearts, cupcakes piled with frosting, and sugar-filled goodie bags. While treats have their place, this month is also the perfect opportunity to show our children that love and kindness can be expressed in ways that are healthier, more creative, and far more lasting than sweets.

At Over the Rainbow, we believe February is about more than Valentine's cards. It's a chance to teach children how small acts of kindness brighten someone else's day — and how food made with love can be both fun and nutritious. In this blog, you'll discover ideas for encouraging kindness, try meaningful activities at home, and explore a few kid-friendly recipes you and your child can make together.

Love Starts Small

Children don't need grand gestures to understand love. A toddler sharing a toy, a preschooler giving a hug, or a kindergartener holding the door are all powerful expressions of caring. Even infants show love — smiling back at you, reaching for a hug, or babbling when you enter the room. Recognizing these early signs of connection helps children feel secure and valued from the very beginning.

Modeling Kindness at Home

Of course, children learn best when we show them what kindness looks like in everyday life. When they see you thank the cashier, hold the door for a neighbor, or write a kind note for a teacher, they learn that kindness is a normal part of life.

Make kindness a family activity by choosing one "love in action" task each week — such as donating canned goods, baking for a neighbor, or leaving a note of encouragement for someone who needs a smile.

Watercolor Wash Backgrounds: Kids can paint or sponge watercolor hearts in red and pink. Once dry, add a simple stamped or hand-written message such as "Thank You" or "We Care About You."

Kindness Quotes or Words: Have preschoolers brainstorm words like love, care, joy, hugs, or family. Write them inside hearts on the card and let kids decorate around them.

Quick Wins for Busy Parents

- Pack a heart-shaped sandwich in your child's lunchbox.
- Leave a small kindness note on the breakfast table.
- Make one extra Valentine's card to drop at a neighbor's house.

Sharing Treats, Sharing Joy

Making extra food to share teaches children generosity. Bake a batch of muffins for a neighbor, pack extra frozen yogurt bites for a playdate, or deliver a bag of Valentine snack mix to a teacher. The act of giving, even something small, helps children understand that food is not just for nourishment — it's for building community.

Building Traditions of Love

Creating family traditions makes February memorable. You might start a "Valentine's breakfast" where kids help make festive cinnamon rolls or smoothies, or a weekly "family kindness night" where everyone shares one kind act they did during the week.

Traditions like these give children an anchor of love and consistency, helping them feel secure and connected.

The Heart That Lasts All Year

Valentine's Day may come once a year, but the lessons of kindness and healthy living can last a lifetime. At Over the Rainbow, we partner with families to raise children who are kind, confident, and thriving — not just in February, but every day of the year.

OTR REFERRAL PROGRAM

February 2026



At Over the Rainbow Learning Center we love and appreciate each and every one of our families. We are honored you choose to recommend our Center to your family and friends' day after day. As a way to say "thank you" we are offering a referral program to reward our existing students and families.

For every full-time new family referral, who registers in our Learning Center and is enrolled for 90 days, you will receive a free week's tuition applied to your account. Referred families must tell us that they were referred and by whom during their tour.

XOXO

