



MAY 2026

OTR NEWSLETTER

What's Happening

We are excited to explore the themes of **Marvelous Moms, Gardening, Bugs/Life Cycles, Outer Space, and Dinosaurs!** Throughout the month, children will engage in hands-on activities, creative art projects, sensory exploration, and fun learning experiences that connect to each theme. From celebrating the special people in our lives, to discovering how things grow, observing insects and life cycles, exploring the wonders of space, and digging into the world of dinosaurs, there will be something exciting for every learner as we learn, play, and grow together!

Reminders

Please use the **Brightwheel app and QR code** located outside all of the classrooms to check your child in and out.

Cut off time for drop-off is **9:30am** and if your child will be out, please mark them absent by **9am**

Please make sure your child has **2 pairs of weather appropriate spare clothes** in their classroom

Upcoming Dates

May 1: Mother Goose Day
May 4: Teacher Appreciation week
May 4: Star Wars Day
May 5: Cheshire Picture Day
May 8: Mother's Day Parties at 3pm
May 12: Hamden Picture Day
May 15: Chocolate Chip Day
May 20: Strawberry Day
May 22: First Day of Summer
May 25: Memorial Day-OTR CLOSED
May 27: National Sunglasses Day

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OTR CELEBRATIONS

Cheshire Birthdays

5/1 Kaimani
5/2 Magnolia
5/2 Jaccson
5/12 Jonny
5/12 Emma
5/12 Jack
5/13 Dakota

Hamden Birthdays

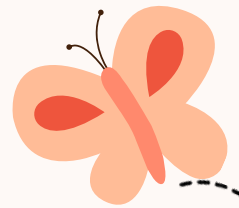
5/5 Knox
5/7 Rhys
5/7 Lucas
5/20 Nalini
5/25 Selma

Anniversaries

- May 6: Miss Pauline celebrates 1 year at OTR
- May 13: Miss Annliz celebrates 2 years at OTR
- May 20: Miss Glorimar celebrates 2 years at OTR



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CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS



Infants

Our Infant room is blooming with growth and new beginnings this May! We are excited to celebrate our wonderful moms with a special Mother's Day celebration filled with love and sweet keepsakes. We're also thrilled to welcome new friends into our classroom and help them feel safe, comfortable, and part of our little community. This month, we will continue focusing on important developmental milestones, including strengthening our tummy time, building confidence in sitting independently, and perfecting those adorable crawling moves. We can't wait to watch our infants grow, explore, and achieve new milestones each day!



Toddler 1

In our Toddler 1 classroom, we have an exciting and engaging month ahead! During our Moms theme, we will focus on kindness and giving as we talk about the special people in our lives. The children will create a heartfelt gift to celebrate their moms and show their love.

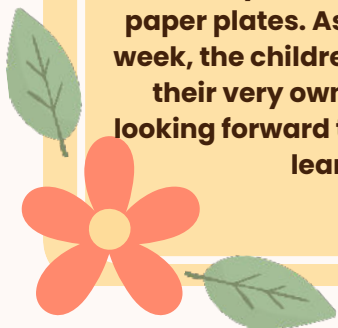
For Little Sprouts week, we will explore the question, "What is a plant?" as we learn about flowers, colors, and the beauty of nature around us. During Bugs week, our toddlers will dive into hands-on learning by observing bugs and exploring them through movement, art, and imaginative play.

As we wrap up the month with our Outerspace theme, students will be introduced to the sun, moon, and stars while learning about day and night. They will also enjoy a fun, star-themed sensory bin to spark curiosity and exploration.



Waddlers

As we welcome the month of May, our Waddlers are excited to explore a variety of fun and engaging themes! We will kick things off by celebrating our wonderful moms with a special "Muffins with Mom" party and enjoy reading I Love Mommy together. During Little Sprouts week, the children will use their imaginations to create and play in a pretend vegetable garden. For Bugs week, we'll get creative by making adorable ladybugs out of paper plates. As we head into Outer Space week, the children will have a blast creating their very own handprint aliens. We're looking forward to a month full of creativity, learning, and fun!



Toddler 2

In our Toddler 2 classroom, we have a fun-filled month of discovery and creativity planned! During our Marvelous Moms theme, the children will work on a special gift to celebrate their moms and the important role they play in their lives. For Little Sprouts week, toddlers will get creative using different foods to make fun crafts, including building a caterpillar, while exploring textures and shapes. During Bugs week, the class will enjoy an exciting bug hunt and explore a bug-themed sensory bin, encouraging curiosity and hands-on learning. To wrap up the month, our Outer Space week will feature a fizzy moon science project, giving children a chance to explore simple science concepts in a fun and engaging way.





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CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

Toddler 3

In our Toddler 3 classroom, we have an exciting month of hands-on learning and fun experiences planned! During our Moms theme, the children will enjoy a special tea party while engaging in meaningful conversations by answering questions about their moms and the important role they play in their lives.

For Little Sprouts week, students will explore nature through a vegetable garden sensory bin and take part in a color-changing flower experiment, sparking curiosity about how plants grow and change. During Bugs week, the children will participate in an insect ice excavation and create their own bug fossils using playdough, encouraging exploration and creativity.

To wrap up the month, our Outer Space week will get bodies and minds moving with space-themed yoga, along with an exciting baking soda rocket experiment that introduces simple science concepts in a fun and memorable way.

Reminders

Pre-K Graduation will be Friday, June 5th Starting Promptly at 3 pm.

Preschool

In our Preschool classroom, we have a month full of meaningful activities and exciting discoveries planned! For our Mother's Day theme, the children will create special gifts and complete an "All About My Mommy" questionnaire to celebrate the important people in their lives.

During our cultivating and planting week, students will learn about how things grow and explore a flower planting sensory bin, encouraging hands-on learning and curiosity about nature. For life cycles week, the class will dive into the fascinating stages of growth by learning about butterflies, chickens, frogs, and turtles.

To end the month, our dinosaur week will bring lots of energy and fun with a dinosaur chase and dino yoga, helping children stay active while engaging their imaginations.

Pre-K

In our Pre-K classroom, we have a month full of engaging learning experiences planned! For Mother's Day, the children will host a special tea party and perform the song "I'm a Little Teapot" to celebrate their moms.

During planting week, students will explore early math and science skills through petal counting, experimenting with color-changing flowers, and planting their own seeds. For life cycles week, the class will focus on plant life by labeling the parts of a plant and learning what each part does to help it grow and thrive.

To wrap up the month, our dinosaur week will be packed with fun and learning as students participate in a dinosaur egg letter hunt, practice dino-themed alphabet writing, and create their own salt dough fossils.



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CHESHIRE SPOTLIGHTS



The Studley Family

We are excited to shine a spotlight on the wonderful Studley family! Their favorite holiday is Christmas, a time they love celebrating together and creating special memories. As a family, they enjoy visiting state parks and exploring the outdoors. Pizza is their go-to favorite food, and one of their most cherished memories is Savoy's birth.

At home, they are joined by their two cats, Pepper and Benji, who are very much part of the family. What makes the Studley family especially unique is their military background, with Savoy being born in beautiful Hawaii! Savoy also has a rich cultural heritage—quarter Chilean, French, Italian, and Irish.

When it's time to relax, they enjoy watching Shaun the Sheep together, and you can often find them happiest anywhere that serves ice cream. The Studley family truly embodies adventure, love, and togetherness!

Miss Pauline



Miss Pauline is our amazing Toddler 1 Assistant Teacher, and we are so grateful to have her as part of our Cheshire team! After starting at our Hamden center, she transitioned to Cheshire and has been such a wonderful addition. Miss Pauline is fantastic at supporting the children through their daily routines and always steps in to help wherever she is needed. She brings so much joy to the classroom with her love of singing songs and reading stories to the children. Miss Pauline truly embodies all of our core values, and we appreciate her hard work, flexibility, and dedication each and every day!



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HAMDEN HAPPENINGS



Infants

Our infants are growing and learning so much each day! This month, we are excited to celebrate Mother's Day by creating special keepsakes that families will cherish for years to come. We continue to focus on tummy time to help strengthen our babies' muscles, supporting important developmental milestones. Many of our little ones are working hard on sitting up independently and beginning to roll over, and we love cheering them on as they build these new skills. It's such a joy to watch their progress and growth!



Toddler 1

In our Toddler 1 classroom, we have a wonderful month of hands-on fun and learning planned! During our Marvelous Moms theme, the children will enjoy a "Fill the Heart" sensory bag activity and create sweet fingerprint hearts to celebrate the special moms in their lives. For Little Sprouts week, toddlers will explore a rice sensory bin and make an adorable sprout craft using a paper plate, helping them learn about growing things through play and creativity. During Bugs week, the children will have fun rescuing taped bugs from the table and using their fingers to create their very own bug art. To end the month, our Outer Space week will spark imagination with galaxy sensory bottles and creative alien spaceships, making learning about space exciting and fun for our little learners.



Waddlers

In our Waddler 1 classroom, we have a month full of sweet, hands-on learning and exploration! For our Mother's Day project, the children will create a special keepsake to celebrate their moms and the love they share. The class will also make adorable flower and bee handprint and footprint art, combining creativity with sensory fun. During our bug exploration, toddlers will enjoy a bug hunt sensory box, encouraging curiosity and early discovery skills. To wrap up the month, the children will explore outer space themes by making their own moon and stars, sparking imagination as they learn about the world around them.

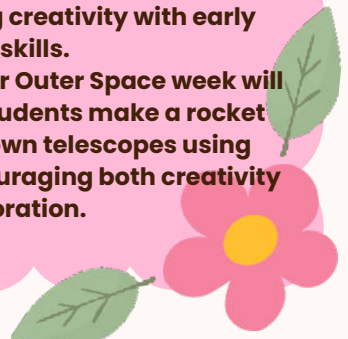
In our Waddler 2 classroom, we have a fun and creative month planned! For Mother's Day, the children will make an "I Love You Berry Much" project to celebrate their moms with a sweet and thoughtful keepsake.

The class will also enjoy making a paper plate bee craft and creating fingerprint bugs, encouraging hands-on creativity and sensory exploration. To wrap up the month, the children will explore outer space themes through star stamping activities, sparking imagination and early discovery.



Toddler 2

In our Toddler 2 classroom, we have a month full of creative and engaging activities planned! During our Marvelous Moms theme, the children will create an "M is for Mom" dot marker picture, make a special Mother's Day card, and design a sweet handprint keepsake for their moms. For Little Sprouts week, toddlers will explore early learning concepts by creating a paper vegetable garden and completing a simple life cycle of a plant worksheet. During Bugs week, the class will build a ladybug, create a caterpillar using the letters of their name, and craft a cricket out of a paper plate, combining creativity with early literacy skills. To wrap up the month, our Outer Space week will spark imagination as students make a rocket craft and create their own telescopes using recycled materials, encouraging both creativity and exploration.





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HAMDEN HAPPENINGS



Toddler 3

In our Toddler 3 classroom, we have a month full of hands-on fun and creative exploration planned! During our Marvelous Moms theme, the children will create beautiful handprint bouquets and fingerprint hearts as special keepsakes for their moms.

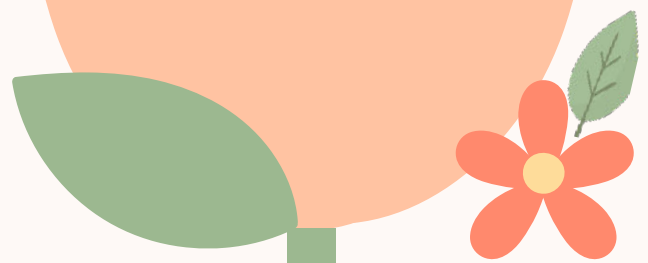
For Little Sprouts week, toddlers will explore nature through a grass and plant sensory bin and enjoy decorating their very own mini plant pots. During Bugs week, the class will go on a bug hunt, explore a water and bugs sensory activity, and create a spider using a paper plate, encouraging curiosity and creativity.

To wrap up the month, our Outer Space week will spark imagination with galaxy sensory bottles, hands-on play with moon sand, and a fun tinfoil star collage, making for an exciting end to the month.



Reminders

Pre-K Graduation is on Thursday, June 11th, Starting promptly at 3 pm



Preschool

In our Preschool classroom, we have a month full of creativity and hands-on learning planned! During our Marvelous Moms theme, the children will create a "Mom and Me" portrait and make playdough flowers as special gifts. For Gardening week, students will strengthen fine motor skills with a fun watering can sponge squeeze activity and create unique flowers using a fork painting technique. During Life Cycles week, the class will make a caterpillar-to-butterfly handprint craft and explore with kinetic sand, encouraging sensory play and learning about how living things grow and change.

To wrap up the month, our Dinosaur week will be full of excitement as children create dinosaurs using their footprints and work on dinosaur puzzles, building both creativity and problem-solving skills.



Pre-K

In our Pre-K classroom, we have an engaging and creative month ahead! For our Mother's Day theme, the children will work on a thoughtful and special project to celebrate their moms.

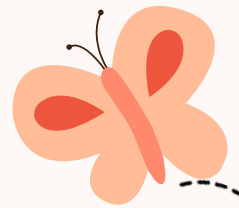
During Planting week, students will explore sensory art by creating "mud" paintings using a fun mixture of brown paint and cocoa powder. For Life Cycles week, the class will focus on the butterfly life cycle, learning about each stage and how butterflies grow and change.

To wrap up the month, our Dinosaur week will be full of imaginative fun as children create dino feet slippers out of paper plates and experiment with dinosaur shadow drawings, combining creativity with early science exploration.





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HAMDEN SPOTLIGHTS



The Molugu Family

We are so happy to spotlight the wonderful Molugu family! Their favorite holidays are Diwali and Christmas, both filled with joy, celebration, and special family traditions. One of their favorite things to do together is have fun during bath time—playing with soap and toys and turning it into a playful bonding experience.

Pizza is their favorite family meal, and a memory they hold close to their hearts is watching Aarya take her very first baby steps—such a special milestone! While they don't currently have any pets, they already have the perfect name picked out—Cosmos—if they decide to welcome one in the future.

What makes the Molugu family truly unique is their fun-loving and supportive nature. They encourage one another to stay curious, ask questions, and keep learning every day. Although they don't have a favorite movie just yet, they are excited to watch *The Lion King* together once Aarya is a little older. As a family, they love spending time outdoors, especially enjoying picnics at the beach. The Molugu family is full of warmth, curiosity, and love!

Miss Faith



We are excited to highlight Miss Faith, one of our amazing Infant Floaters! Miss Faith plays such an important role in our program, supporting Miss Bessie in Infant 1 on certain days and leading the Infant 2 classroom on others. Her flexibility and ability to jump in wherever needed truly make a difference each day. Miss Faith is wonderful with all of our infants and has an incredible ability to multitask while still giving each child the attention and care they need. She is always willing to lend a helping hand—whether that means coming in early, staying late, or even adjusting her schedule when needed (with a smile and a little humor, too!). She brings our core value of Fun to life through the creative ideas she shares with her coworkers, especially when it comes to decorating classroom doors and bulletin boards. Miss Faith also shines in Kindness, consistently supporting Miss Bessie and Miss Olivia and helping both infant rooms run smoothly. Thank you, Miss Faith, for everything you do, especially for keeping Brightwheel updated and helping families feel confident and at ease knowing their children are in such caring hands!

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LITERACY RAINBOW



In the story, children are invited to help a tiny seed grow into a flower by tapping, clapping, blowing, and making other simple gestures as they follow along. As the seed “grows,” readers help it receive water, sunlight, and care until it eventually blooms into a bright, colorful flower.

The book gently introduces early science concepts like plant growth, seasons, and the needs of living things in a way that feels playful and hands-on.

What makes this book stand out is its interactive format. Instead of just listening, children become part of the story, which keeps them engaged and helps reinforce early learning through movement and participation. It’s a perfect fit for May themes like planting, gardening, and nature exploration, and it works really well for family read-aloud time or classroom circle time.



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NOURISHING MOMENTS



Caterpillar Kabobs

Ingredients

Choose a mix of colorful, bite-sized foods:

- Green grapes
- Strawberries (halved if large)
- Banana slices
- Melon balls or cubes (watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew)
- Cheese cubes (optional for a savory/sweet mix)
- Cheerios or other cereal (optional)
- Mini marshmallows (optional treat option)
-

Supplies

- Skewers, coffee stir sticks, or thick straws (safer for toddlers)
- Small plate or tray
-

Steps

1. Wash and prep all fruits (slice, cube, or halve as needed).
2. Place ingredients in small bowls so children can easily choose what they want.
3. Give each child a skewer or straw.
4. Have children stack the pieces one by one to build their caterpillar—encourage patterns like red/green/red or fruit/cheese/fruit.
5. Add a “head” at the end using a larger fruit piece (like a strawberry or grape).
6. Optional: Add small edible eyes using chocolate chips, raisins, or a dot of yogurt or cream cheese.
7. Enjoy together as a healthy snack!





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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

NATURE scavenger hunt

FIND & CHECK

ANT



TREE



FLOWER



LEAF



GRASS



PINECONE



ROCK



TWIG



PINE NEEDLE



SQUIRREL



BIRD



WATER



How to do it:

1. Give each child a simple list (or picture checklist for younger children).
2. Go on a walk together and check off what you find.
3. Collect a few safe items like leaves, flowers, or small sticks (if allowed).
4. When you get home, use your findings to create a nature collage or craft using glue, paper, or construction paper.

Extension ideas:

- Count how many flowers or bugs you saw
- Talk about colors, sizes, and textures
- Draw a picture of your favorite thing you found
- Make a "Spring Book" with your child's drawings or collected items

This activity is simple, low-cost, and a great way to connect family time with learning, nature, and the themes of spring.



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OTR BLOG

You Do More Than You Know: A Mother's Day Message

You may not realize it, but you are the steady heartbeat of your child's world. From early mornings to late nights, from comforting cries to celebrating milestones, you hold everything together, often in ways that go unseen.

This Mother's Day, we want to honor not just mothers, but everyone who shows up with that same kind of love. The dads who braid hair before school, the grandmas who pack lunches, the aunts and foster parents who make sure every child feels safe and special. You may not always get applause or thanks, but what you do matters more than you could ever know.

At Over the Rainbow, we see it every day: the parents who juggle work and family, the caregivers who show up tired but smiling, the grandparents who give their time freely. This Mother's Day, we simply want to say: *you're doing an amazing job.*

You Show Strength Through Love

Some days, parenting feels heavy. The to-do list is long, the sleep is short, and patience wears thin. But love keeps you going, even when you're not sure how. That quiet strength doesn't always look graceful. Sometimes it looks like tears in the bathroom, deep breaths in the car, or laughing through chaos because the alternative is crying. But that resilience, that steady love, is what your child feels most.

You're teaching them that strength isn't about perfection. It's about continuing to love, care, and try again, no matter how messy the day gets.

You Do It All (Even When You Feel Like You Can't)

There are moments when the weight of it all feels like too much. When the dishes pile up, bedtime drags on, and the day feels endless. But somehow, you keep going. And in doing that, you're showing your child what perseverance looks like. You're teaching them how to face challenges with heart. When they see you keep trying, they learn that mistakes aren't failures, they're part of growing.

So when you feel like you're not doing enough, remind yourself: to your child, you are their constant. Their comfort. Their safe place. They don't see exhaustion; they see love.

You Deserve to Feel Appreciated

You spend so much time caring for everyone else that it's easy to forget you deserve care, too. But the love you pour out is worth refilling.

This Mother's Day, permit yourself to pause, to rest, to breathe, to be proud. Take a moment to think about all you do each day, feeding, teaching, calming, organizing, and loving. You hold a whole world together with more grace than you give yourself credit for.

If someone offers to help, let them. If you need a break, take it. You don't need to earn rest, you deserve it.

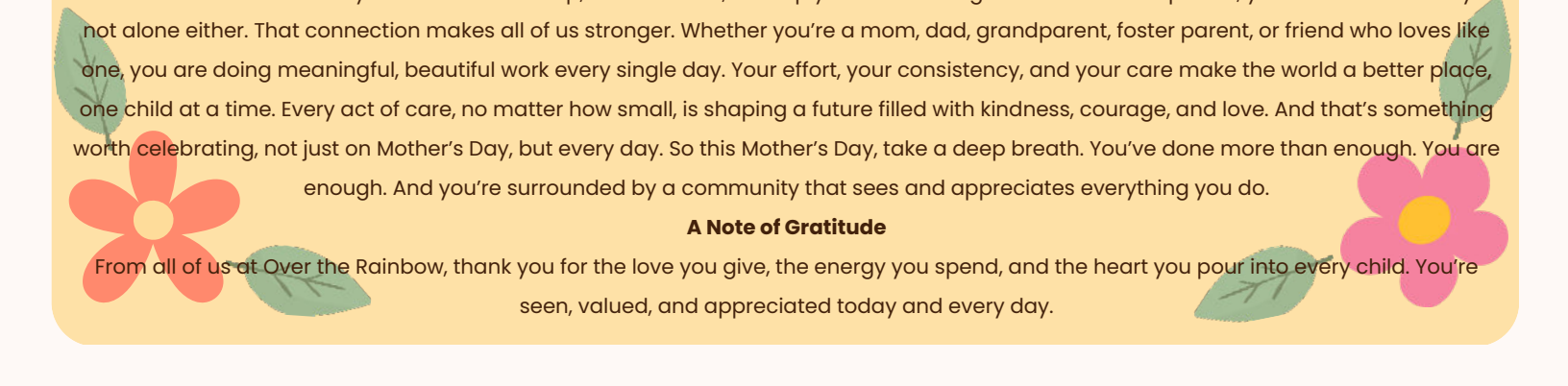
You're Not Alone: A Parent Reflection

After all the giving, teaching, and doing, it's easy to forget one thing: you're not alone. You do more than you know. The little things, the hugs, the routines, the patience, the laughter, they're shaping who your child becomes.

And even when it feels like you're doing it all on your own, remember this: you're part of a village. Behind every child is a circle of people: parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, and friends who show up in different ways but share the same goal: helping children grow up loved and confident. When you reach out for help, share advice, or simply offer encouragement to another parent, you remind them they're not alone either. That connection makes all of us stronger. Whether you're a mom, dad, grandparent, foster parent, or friend who loves like one, you are doing meaningful, beautiful work every single day. Your effort, your consistency, and your care make the world a better place, one child at a time. Every act of care, no matter how small, is shaping a future filled with kindness, courage, and love. And that's something worth celebrating, not just on Mother's Day, but every day. So this Mother's Day, take a deep breath. You've done more than enough. You are enough. And you're surrounded by a community that sees and appreciates everything you do.

A Note of Gratitude

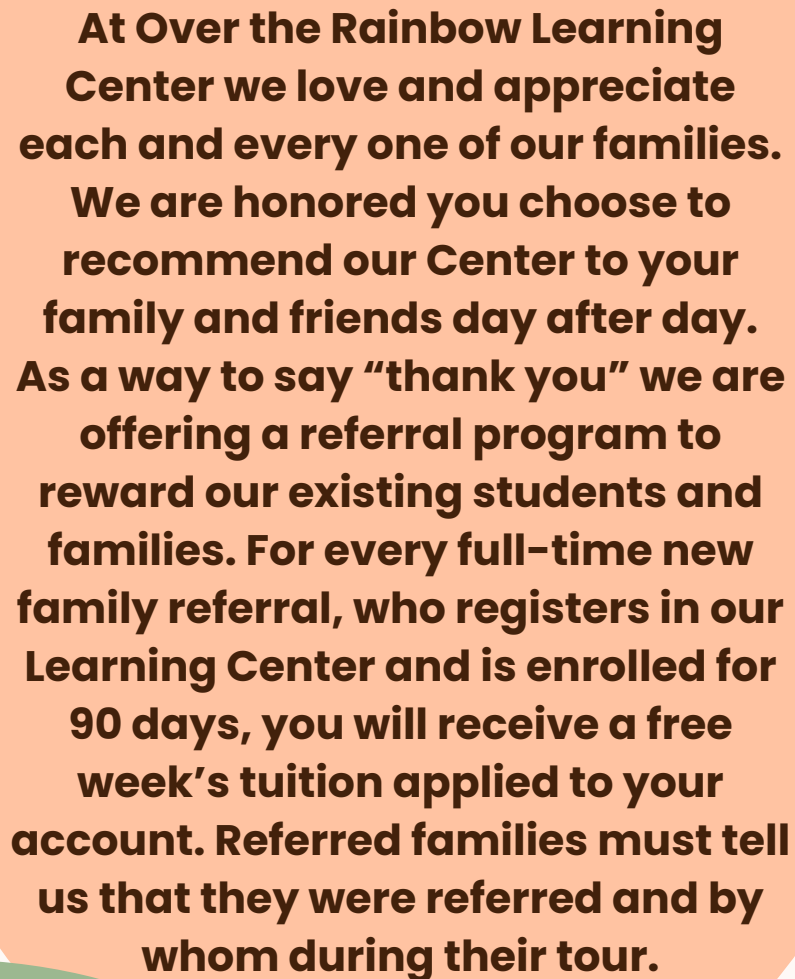
From all of us at Over the Rainbow, thank you for the love you give, the energy you spend, and the heart you pour into every child. You're seen, valued, and appreciated today and every day.





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OTR REFERRAL



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.

