

JUNE 2026

# OTR Newsletter

## What We Learned

**We are excited for a fun and busy month filled with learning, creativity, and hands-on exploration! Our themes will take the children on an adventure through Jungle Week, where they will discover amazing animals and habitats. During Father's Day celebrations, children will create special gifts and take part in meaningful activities honoring the important people in their lives. Little Sprouts/Busy Bugs Week will focus on nature and growth as children explore plants, insects, and how living things change and grow. Under the Sea Week will dive into ocean fun with sensory play and sea life discoveries. To finish the month, Stars and Stripes Week will bring patriotic creativity, festive art projects, and fun classroom celebrations. We can't wait for all the learning and excitement ahead!**

## Upcoming Events

- **Cheshire Graduation: June 5th at 3pm**
- **Hamden Graduation: June 11th at 3pm**
- **Donuts with Dads, both centers: June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**
- **Summer Camp starts: June 15th**
- **OTR CLOSED: June 19th**

## Contact Info

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# OTR Celebrations

## Cheshire

6/1 Nayeli  
6/1 DeZaun  
6/4 Xander  
6/5 Riley M.  
6/7 Lila  
6/13 Makenna  
6/22 Caden  
6/24 Emmalyn & Martin  
6/25 Ariyah  
6/28 Christopher  
6/29 Olive  
6/30 Kostas

## Hamden

6/3 Carmelo  
6/4 Casey  
6/7 Hudson  
6/9 Camilla  
6/9 Miss Gina  
6/13 Liam  
6/20 Miss Rachel  
6/22 Sofia  
6/24 Reyna  
6/25 Rory  
6/25 Landyn

## Work Anniversaries

Miss Elizabeth celebrating 3 years on 6/12  
Miss Bessie celebrating 2 years on 6/24  
Miss Jaime celebrating 14 years of ownership on 6/25  
Miss Johanna celebrating 5 years on 6/28



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# Cheshire Happenings

## Infants

Our infant classroom is looking forward to an exciting time of transition and growth! Some of our friends will be moving into their new infant room, where they will continue to learn and explore in a nurturing environment. Our babies will help create gifts for their fathers. Infant 1 will continue to work on sitting up on their own, Infant 2 will continue to practice standing up!

## Toddler 1

Welcome to a fun-filled June in Toddler 1! This month, the students will learn all about animals while singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." They will create adorable lions using tissue paper and paper plates during our zoo animal activities. For Dad and Me Week, the children will make a special Father's Day craft to celebrate the important people in their lives. During Little Sprouts Week, students will explore how plants grow and create beautiful handprint flowers. In our Under the Sea Week, the class will read Mister Seahorse and enjoy a sea-themed sensory bin full of ocean fun. To wrap up the month during Stars and Stripes Week, the children will paint star shapes using star-shaped cookie cutters. We are excited for a month full of creativity, learning, and hands-on fun!

## Waddlers

Waddler is excited for a month full of hands-on learning, creativity, and fun! During Zoo Week, the children will make lion heads and enjoy reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? as they explore animals and colors. For Father's Day Week, they will create a special Father's Day craft and celebrate with music and dancing. During Little Sprouts Week, the class will make handprint flowers and take part in planting potatoes while learning about how things grow. Under the Sea Week will feature fun ocean-inspired activities, including jellyfish crafts and puffer fish made from paper plates. To wrap up the month during Stars and Stripes Week, the children will create festive footprint fireworks and make refreshing ice pops. We look forward to a joyful month of discovery and celebration!

## Toddler 2

Toddler 2 is excited for a month full of fun, creativity, and hands-on learning! During Zoobalozoo Week, the children will use Cheerios to create adorable giraffes while learning about animals. For Daddy and Me Week, they will make a special Father's Day gift and prepare for our Donuts with Dads celebration. During Little Sprouts Week, the class will strengthen their fine motor skills through fun activities like sticking flowers into a pasta strainer. Under the Sea Week will include a sea foam sensory activity filled with ocean-themed exploration. To wrap up the month during Stars and Stripes Week, the students will practice color matching with stars and celebrate with a small classroom party. We can't wait for all the fun ahead!



# JUNE 2026 Cheshire Happenings

## Toddler 3

Toddler 3 is ready for an exciting month of hands-on fun and learning! During Zoo Week, the children will build their very own zoo using playdough and popsicle sticks and enjoy an animal washing sensory bin. For Daddy and Me Week, the students will answer special questions about their dads and create a meaningful Father's Day storybook. During Little Sprouts Week, they will grow a grass house and explore nature with a leaf and ink experiment. Under the Sea Week will bring lots of creativity as the children make a pasta coral reef and rescue animals from ice during a fun sensory activity. To end the month during Stars and Stripes Week, the class will enjoy a colorful fireworks experiment and create kid-friendly firework shooters. We are looking forward to a month full of discovery, creativity, and fun!

## Preschool

Preschool is looking forward to an exciting month full of learning and fun! During All About the Jungle Week, the children will review letters and numbers through matching games and strengthen their fine motor skills with snack beading activities. For Fabulous Fathers Week, we will celebrate with Donuts with Dads and work hard on special Father's Day gifts. During Little Sprouts Week, the class will plant seeds, decorate plant pots, and go on a fun ladybug hunt. Under the Sea Week will include an exciting scavenger hunt, seashell painting, and pretend fishing activities. To finish the month during Stars and Stripes Week, the children will create patriotic projects and enjoy a colorful fireworks sensory activity. We can't wait for a month full of creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning!

## Reminders

**Graduation is Friday, June 6th  
at 3pm**

**Father's Day celebration is  
Friday, June 12th at 3pm**

## Pre-K

June is an exciting month in Pre-K as we celebrate learning, growing, and our amazing graduates!

During Jungle Week, we will transform into explorers by creating our own explorer-themed art projects and jungle masks. We will also learn about the many different animals that call the jungle home. For Father's Day Week, we will be making special gifts for the important father figures in our lives and celebrating them with our annual Donuts with Dad event. During Little Sprouts Week, we will create greenhouse crafts and learn about the life cycle of a plant, exploring how seeds grow into beautiful flowers and plants.

For Under the Sea Week, we will dive into ocean fun by creating fishbowl sea crafts while learning about life beneath the waves.

This month is especially meaningful as we celebrate our Pre-K Class of 2026 graduates! We are so proud of all their hard work, growth, and accomplishments throughout the year. Congratulations to our graduates as they prepare for their next big adventure in kindergarten!

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# Cheshire Spotlight

## The Heller Family

This month we are excited to spotlight the wonderful Heller Family! Their favorite holiday to celebrate is each other's birthdays because birthdays are a very big deal and extra special in their home. One of their favorite traditions is Friday pizza and movie night together as a family. Depending on who you ask, their favorite food is either pizza or sushi!

Mason's favorite family memory is going on a big waterslide with his dad, while Mila's favorite memory is their last-minute trip to Disney. The Heller family also has an adorable goldendoodle named Sprocket. What makes the Heller family unique is their belief that they can do hard things! Their family background includes American, Italian, Irish, and French Canadian heritage. As a family, they love watching Moana together and enjoy visiting some of their favorite places like Marco Island, Rhode Island, and Cape Cod to spend time with loved ones.

Thank you, Heller Family, for sharing a little bit about your amazing family with us!

## Miss Hannah Y.



This month, we are excited to shine the spotlight on Miss Hannah!

Miss Hannah is our outstanding floater who brings positivity, flexibility, and dedication to every classroom she enters. She is incredibly dependable and always willing to jump in wherever she is needed, doing an amazing job with children of all ages. One of Miss Hannah's greatest strengths is her positive attitude and warm smile. She creates a welcoming and nurturing environment, and the children in every classroom absolutely adore her. Her caring nature and ability to connect with each child make her a valued member of our team.

We are so grateful for Miss Hannah's hard work, dedication, and commitment to supporting our staff and families each day. Thank you, Miss Hannah, for all that you do! We are lucky to have you as part of our school family.



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# Hamden Happenings

## Infants

Our infant classroom is looking forward to an exciting time of transition and growth! Some of our friends will be moving into their new infant room, where they will continue to learn and explore in a nurturing environment. We are also proud of our older infants who are getting ready to move up to the Waddler classroom. While transitions can be emotional, we are so proud of all their progress and know they are ready for this next big step. This time is filled with celebration, growth, and lots of love as we support each child on their journey!

## Waddler 2

Waddler 2 is ready for a fun-filled June! During Zoo Week, the children will create adorable lions and monkeys while learning about different zoo animals. For Father's Day, they will make a special gift for their dads to show how much they care. Our little superheroes will also enjoy making superhero footprint art! During Little Sprouts Week, the class will explore nature by creating a plant life craft and a cute ant craft. To wrap up the month with Sea Week fun, the children will make colorful starfish crafts and crab handprints while learning about ocean life. We can't wait for all the creativity and excitement this month will bring!

## Waddler 1

For the month of June, Waddler 1 will be exploring lots of fun and creative activities! During Jungle Week, the children will create giraffes using fingerprint brown dots. For Fabulous Fathers Week, they will make a special Father's Day art project and enjoy messy muddy truck painting fun. During Busy Bugs Week, the class will create adorable egg carton caterpillars while learning about insects. For Sea Week, the children will explore a sea foam sensory bin filled with hands-on ocean themed fun!

## Toddler 1

Toddler 1 will have an exciting month full of creative projects and hands-on fun! For Zoo Week, the children will create adorable zoo animal handprint crafts. During Fabulous Fathers Week, they will make a special "5 Reasons Why I Love Dad" keepsake craft. For Busy Bugs Week, the class will enjoy making cute bee crafts while learning about insects. During Sea Week, the children will explore ocean life by creating colorful coral reef crafts!



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# Hamden Happenings

## Toddler 2

Toddler 2 is excited for a month full of fun, learning, and hands-on activities! During Zoo Week, the children will explore different animals through creative art projects and engaging classroom activities. For Daddy and Me Week, they will create a special Father's Day gift and participate in activities celebrating the important people in their lives. During Little Sprouts Week, the class will focus on fine motor development through a variety of fun, hands-on experiences. Under the Sea Week will bring opportunities for sensory exploration and ocean-themed learning. To finish the month, Stars and Stripes Week will include color recognition activities, festive art projects, and a special classroom celebration. We look forward to a wonderful month filled with discovery, creativity, and fun!

## Preschool

Preschool is looking forward to an exciting month of June filled with hands-on learning and creativity! During Jungle Week, the children will enjoy a fun vine obstacle course and create jungle animals using their handprints. For Fabulous Fathers Week, the class will make special superhero dad crafts to celebrate the amazing fathers and father figures in their lives. During Busy Bugs Week, the children will create ladybugs out of paper plates and explore a spider web sticky wall sensory activity. To finish the month with Sea Week fun, Preschool will enjoy ocean sound sensory play and create colorful jellyfish crafts while learning all about life under the sea!

## Toddler 3

Toddler 3 is excited for a busy and fun month of June! During Zoo Week, the children will enjoy animal sticker sorting activities and learn about different animal habitats. For our "Dad is My Hero" week, we will talk about why dads are special and read fun books all about dads and families. During Little Sprouts Week, the children will explore a garden sensory bin and play with colorful fake flowers while learning about nature and gardening. For Sea Week, the class will create paper plate jellyfish and enjoy reading the story Way Down Deep in the Deep Blue Sea as we dive into ocean-themed fun!

## Pre-K

For Jungle Week, the children will create snake pattern paper chains while practicing AB patterns and counting skills. They will also work together to build a jungle habitat. During Fabulous Fathers Week, the children will make a collage featuring all of their fathers' favorite things and participate in a toolbox counting activity. For Little Sprouts Week, they will keep a bug count journal, explore a planting science activity, and paint rocks to look like different bugs. For Sea Week, the class will experiment with a sink or float science activity and create their own sea slime! This month is especially meaningful as we celebrate our Pre-K Class of 2026 graduates! We are so proud of all their hard work, growth, and accomplishments throughout the year. Congratulations to our graduates as they prepare for their next big adventure in kindergarten!

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# Hamden Spotlight

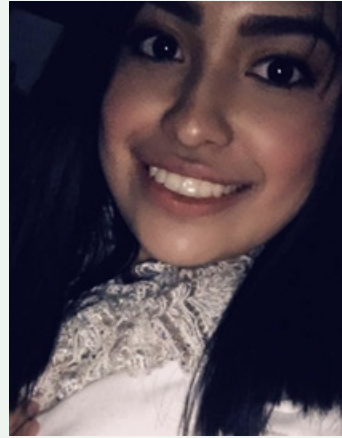
## The Alicea Family

The Alicea family's favorite holiday is Halloween, and one of their favorite things to do together is go for walks and enjoy meals out as a family. When it comes to food, tacos are a family favorite!

One of their most cherished memories is their beautiful wedding in Puerto Rico, a special moment that holds a special place in their hearts. At home, they share their family adventures with their cat, Percy.

What makes the Alicea family unique? You never know when a spontaneous dance party in the kitchen might break out! Their love of music keeps the fun going and brings everyone together. The family is proud of their Puerto Rican and Italian heritage, which adds to the rich traditions and culture they share. When it's movie night, you'll often find them watching Toy Story or Ratatouille together. And if they're choosing a favorite place to visit, it's simple—the diner is always at the top of the list! Thank you, Alicea Family, for sharing a little about yourselves with us. We love learning what makes each of our families so special!

## Miss Rachel



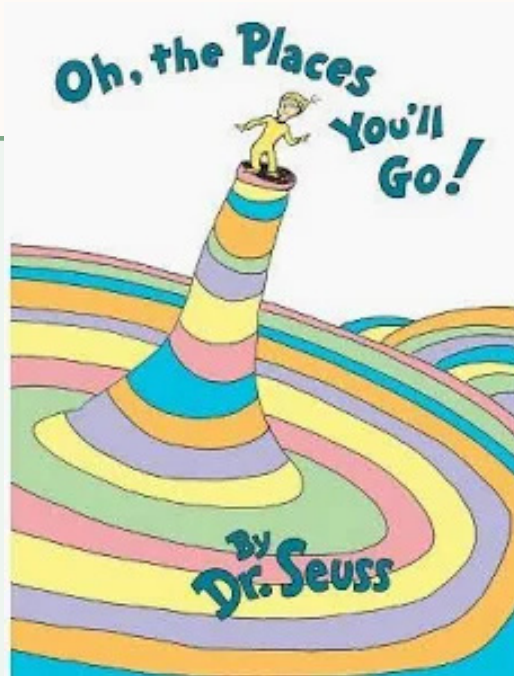
Miss Rachel has only been with us for a little over 3 months, but it already feels like she has been part of our team for years! She is amazing with all of our toddlers and always steps in wherever help is needed. From covering vacations to helping during staff absences, her flexibility and teamwork never go unnoticed.

Miss Rachel has such a kind and calm demeanor, truly reflecting one of our core values — kindness. The children adore her and feel so comfortable around her. While she may be quiet, she is incredibly creative and brings so much warmth to the classroom each day.

We appreciate all of the hard work she does and are so thankful for her dedication to our school family!

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# Literacy Rainbow



**Oh, the Places You'll Go!** is an inspiring and uplifting story about life's journey, filled with exciting adventures, challenges, and opportunities. Through fun rhymes and colorful illustrations, the book encourages children to be confident, brave, and believe in themselves as they grow and explore the world around them. It's a wonderful reminder that with determination and positivity, they can accomplish amazing things and go wherever their dreams take them.

This book is especially fitting for all of our Pre-K graduates as they get ready to head off to kindergarten this upcoming school year. It celebrates new beginnings, growing up, and all of the exciting places their future will take them! 🎓 ✨

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# Nourishing Moments

## Sandwich Bar

June's Family Meal of the Month is a Backyard Picnic Sandwich Bar! Gather your favorite sandwich ingredients, head outdoors, and enjoy a relaxing meal together. Let each family member create their own sandwich masterpiece while enjoying the sunshine and making memories. Sometimes the simplest meals create the most meaningful moments!

June is the perfect time to take advantage of the warmer weather with a family picnic! Set up a sandwich bar with a variety of breads, meats, cheeses, and fresh vegetables, then head outside to enjoy a meal together.

Why it's great for families:

- Simple and budget-friendly
- Kids can build their own sandwiches
- Encourages outdoor family time
- Uses fresh summer ingredients
- Easy cleanup and preparation

Sandwich Bar Ideas:

- Turkey, ham, or chicken
- Cheese slices
- Lettuce and tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Pickles
- Avocado
- Different breads and rolls
- Fresh fruit on the side
- Chips or veggie sticks



# JUNE 2026 Family Engagement

## Summer Bucket List

June's Family Activity of the Month is creating a Summer Bucket List! Gather as a family and dream about all the fun adventures you'd like to have this summer. Whether it's a big outing or a simple family movie night, creating a bucket list is a wonderful way to make plans, build excitement, and create lasting memories together.

Kick off the summer season by creating a family summer bucket list! Gather together and have each family member share a few things they would like to do this summer. Write down all the ideas and display the list somewhere everyone can see.

### Bucket List Ideas:


- Have a picnic
- Visit a playground you've never been to
- Go on a nature walk
- Make homemade popsicles
- Have a movie night
- Visit the beach or a splash pad
- Camp out in the backyard
- Watch a sunset together
- Try a new ice cream flavor
- Read a book as a family

### Why Families Love It:

- Encourages family communication
- Gives everyone something to look forward to
- Creates lasting memories
- Helps families be intentional about spending time together

## Summer Bucket List

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> whole day at the pool    | <input type="checkbox"/> visit a nursing home  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soccer day + picnic   | <input type="checkbox"/> make icecream      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family golf trip         | <input type="checkbox"/> do 10 puzzles together  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> star gazing              | <input type="checkbox"/> take a treat to neighbors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> roof top fireworks       | <input type="checkbox"/> family game night  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go to Peach Park/make cobbler   | <input type="checkbox"/> go to a farmer's market   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> run in a race   | <input type="checkbox"/> make cards/art for great-grandparents   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> try Chic-fil-a lemonade  | <input type="checkbox"/> biking at the dog park  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> backyard camping  | <input type="checkbox"/> play in the rain  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fancy tea party          | <input type="checkbox"/> make popsicles     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> complete library reading program  | <input type="checkbox"/> read 100 books in 1 day   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> run through sprinklers/slip 'n slide  | <input type="checkbox"/> learn tennis       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grow tomatoes + pepper plant  | <input type="checkbox"/> sunrise at the beach  |



# JUNE 2026 OTR Blog

## **Dad Mode: Activated (And Crushing It)**

Let's face it, fatherhood doesn't come with a playbook, but somehow, you're out there winging it like a pro. From fixing broken toys with duct tape to mastering bedtime routines and school-day drop-offs, you're doing more than just "Dad things", you're shaping a little human who looks up to you like you hung the moon.

Here at Over the Rainbow, we see your child in action every day. And we know one thing for sure: that kid thinks you're awesome. This Father's Day, we're pressing pause to give you a virtual high-five, a heartfelt thank-you, and a little reminder of how much you matter, not just to your child, but to all of us lucky enough to be part of their world.

## **The Morning Shuffle: Master of the Chaos**

From sleepy-eyed cereal pouring to last-minute sock hunts and car seat negotiations, mornings with little ones are no joke. And whether you're doing it all solo or tag-teaming the chaos, we see you making it happen with your signature style, half-awake, slightly chaotic, but completely committed.

You've got ninja reflexes for catching sippy cups mid-air, the uncanny ability to locate a missing shoe in record time, and you've probably become fluent in three-year-old negotiations. You might even have a go-to breakfast dance to keep spirits high (we're not judging, we're impressed). Sure, it might not look glamorous, but to your child, these daily routines are filled with love, comfort, and consistency.

And let's not forget how you shift gears from professional mode to storybook voice in under five seconds. Your ability to juggle life, work, parenting, and everything in between deserves more than coffee. You deserve a standing ovation.

## **You're Stronger Than You Think (And Not Just Because You Open Jars)**

Strength isn't just about muscle, though your ability to carry three grocery bags and a toddler at the same time is legendary. Real strength is in your presence, your patience, and your willingness to show up day after day, even when you're tired, overwhelmed, or facing your own challenges.

It's in the quiet determination of a dad who keeps going even when the world isn't always built with him in mind. Whether you're navigating parenthood on wheels, managing chronic pain, or living with a condition that others may not see, your resilience speaks volumes to your child. They don't just notice what you do, they notice the love behind it.

You're teaching your child that strength comes in many forms, and that courage doesn't always roar. And you do it all without needing applause. But just so you know, you're getting one anyway.

## **What Your Kid Brags About (Spoiler: It's You)**

If you could hear what your child says about you during circle time, your heart might just burst. Whether it's, "My dad makes the best pancakes!" or "My daddy is stronger than a dinosaur!" There's no shortage of dad pride in our classrooms.

They talk about the silly voices you use when reading bedtime stories, the way you lift them high in the air, and how you always know the answers to the weirdest questions. Even when you feel like you're just doing the basics, your child sees something heroic in the everyday.

They don't need perfection. They need you showing up, being present, and being exactly who you are. And to them, that's the best there is.

## **Leading by Example, Whether You Realize It or Not**

Kids are expert observers, and whether you realize it or not, your child is watching and learning from you every day. How you handle stress, how you treat others, how you apologize and bounce back. It all matters.

They're absorbing your values through the way you live your life. Your kindness becomes their model for empathy. Your consistency becomes their anchor for trust. Even your corny jokes teach them that laughter and connection go hand in hand.

You don't need a script. Just being yourself and leading with love is more powerful than any speech or lesson plan.

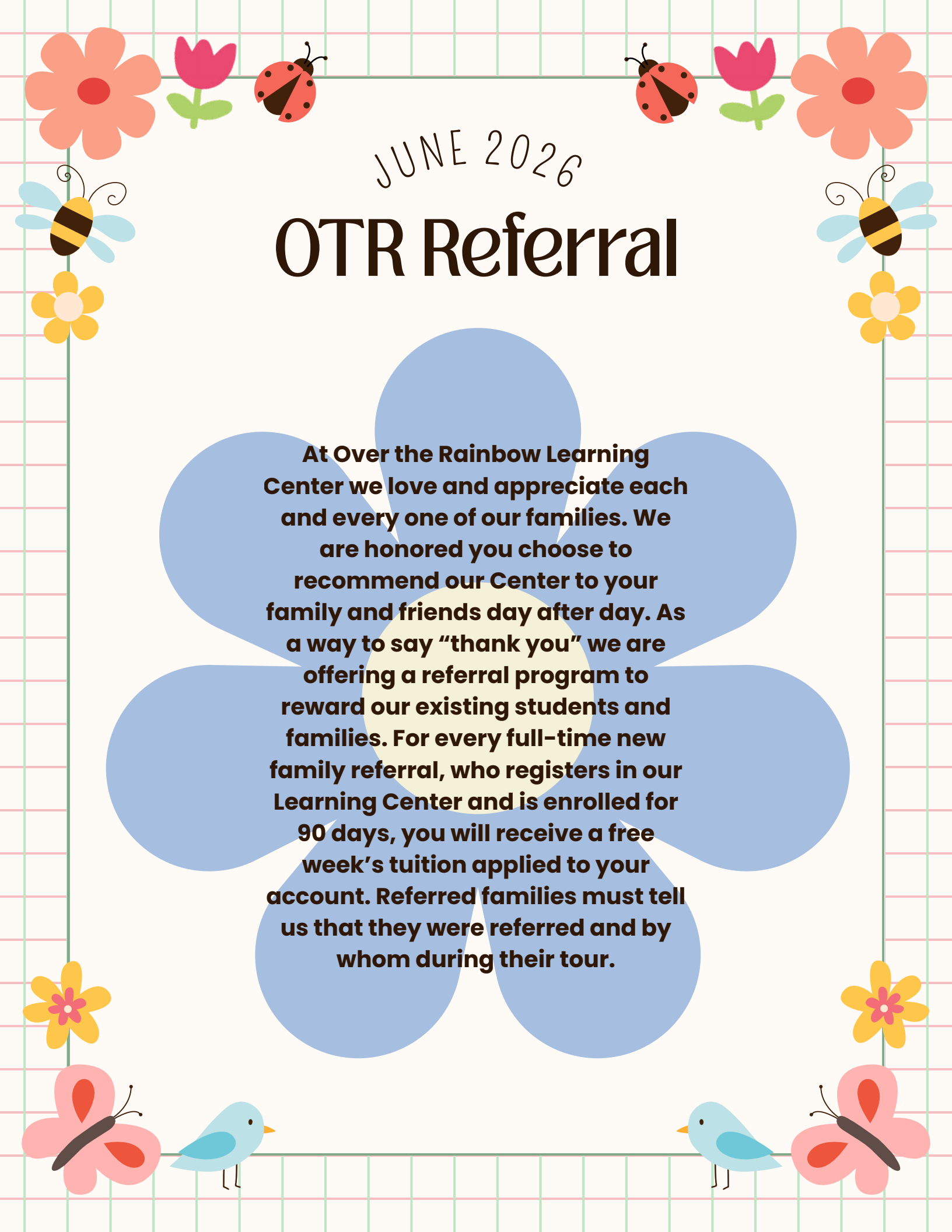
## **With Gratitude, From Over the Rainbow**

To all the incredible dads in our OTR Family: Happy Father's Day! Whether you're rocking bedtime, showing up for drop-off, building epic pillow forts, or simply doing your best each day, we see you.

Your child sees you, too. They see a hero. A helper. A guide. A friend.

And we see a parent who's making a lifelong impact.

So today, kick back. Fire up the grill. Watch your favorite game. Know that you are appreciated, celebrated, and deeply admired by the ones who love you most.



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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.**