

OTR Newsletter

July 2026

What's Happening?

Get ready for a fun-filled month as we explore exciting themes, hands-on activities, and summer adventures!

★ **Stars and Stripes Summer Fun** – We'll celebrate summer with patriotic crafts, outdoor games, and red, white, and blue activities.

🏰 **Disney – Where Dreams Come True** – Children will enjoy magical Disney-inspired stories, crafts, music, and imaginative play featuring some of their favorite characters.

🧸 **Teddy Bear Camping Adventures** – It's time for a camping adventure! We'll bring our teddy bears along for pretend campfires, nature-themed activities, and outdoor exploration.

🔬 **Icky Sticky Science** – Get ready to experiment! Children will discover the wonders of science through messy, hands-on activities, sensory exploration, and exciting experiments.

🏆 **Sports Spectacular** – We'll stay active with fun sports, teamwork challenges, obstacle courses, and games that encourage movement and healthy habits.

We can't wait to make memories, learn new things, and have lots of summer fun together this July!

Reminders

- OTR Closed 7/3 in observance of the 4th of July
- Reminder to bring in water play clothes: bathing suit, water shoes/sandals, and towel
- Please apply sunscreen on your child before arriving. We will apply sunscreen after nap for afternoon play

Summer Camp Events

- Amazing Athletes Cheshire: 6/30 @930am
- Amazing Athletes Hamden: 7/2 @930am
- Elsa and Olaf visit Cheshire: 7/6 @930am
- Elsa and Olaf visit Hamden: 7/7 @930am
- Science Heros Cheshire: 7/21 @930am
- Science Heros Hamden 7/22 @930am
- Amazing Athletes Cheshire: 7/27 @930am
- Amazing Athletes Hamden: 7/30 @930am

Contact Info

Email:

Info@overtherainbowkids.com

Executivedirector@overtherainbowkids.com

Regional@overtherainbowkids.com

Director.Cheshire@overtherainbowkids.com

Hamden2@overtherainbowkids.com

C-(203) 699-9900 H-(203) 230-8449

Enrollment questions? (860) 637-3363

OTR Celebrations

July 2026

Cheshire Birthdays

- **7/1 Elsie**
- **7/4 Ophelia**
- **7/7 Miss Jaime**
- **7/8 Adalynn**
- **7/12 Levi M.**
- **7/14 Miss Carol**
- **7/25 Enzo**
- **7/25 Miss Kelsey**

Hamden Birthdays

- **7/9 Walter**
- **7/11 Nicky**
- **7/14 Aria**
- **7/14 Miss Zely**
- **7/23 Hannah**
- **7/26 Nino**
- **7/27 Julius**

Work Anniversaries

- **7/1 Miss Stacy celebrates 2 years at our Hamden center**
- **7/14 Miss Alexis celebrates 1 year at our Hamden center**
- **7/19 Miss Carol celebrates 5 years in management at OTR**

Cheshire Happenings

July 2026

Infants

This month, our Infant classroom will be busy reaching exciting developmental milestones! Our Infant 1 friends will be focusing on building strength as they practice rolling over, tummy time, and getting into crawling positions. Our Infant 2 friends will continue developing their confidence as they practice walking, while also expanding their taste palates by exploring a variety of new foods and flavors.

They will also be working on fine motor development by practicing waving "hello" and "goodbye," helping strengthen their hand and arm coordination. We look forward to celebrating all of the wonderful progress our little learners make throughout July!

Toddler 1

Our Toddler 1 friends are in for an exciting month of learning and discovery! We'll kick off July by practicing shape recognition and color identification through a fun red, white, and blue craft, followed by a pretend picnic to celebrate the season. During Disney Week, the children will enjoy a special Mickey and Minnie Mouse Day and create a magical Little Mermaid-inspired under-the-sea craft. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable tent crafts and head outdoors to explore nature around us. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little learners will complete a fun "rescue" project using tape to strengthen fine motor skills and experiment with squishy cornstarch goo. We'll finish the month with Sports Week by creating soccer ball paintings and designing our own team spirit banners while celebrating teamwork and active play!

Waddlers

July is packed with fun, hands-on activities for our Waddlers! We will kick off the month with a festive Fourth of July celebration on July 3rd, where the children will enjoy making delicious star-shaped pizzas and creating colorful footprint firecracker art. During Disney Week, we'll have a magical dance party and create a finger-painted version of the house from Up. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, the children will make handprint campfires and go on an exciting bear hunt adventure. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will explore a chia seed experiment and have a blast making slime.

We'll wrap up the month with Spots Week by learning the basics of baseball and practicing our gross motor skills by kicking soccer balls. It's going to be a month full of creativity, movement, and memorable experiences!

Toddler 2

July is sure to be filled with fun, exploration, and excitement in our Toddler 2 classroom! During Stars and Stripes Week, the children will create a festive Fourth of July craft and celebrate with a classroom party at the end of the week. For Disney Week, they'll enjoy a magical sensory experience as they help "melt" Elsa's frozen hands while exploring different textures and temperatures. During Teddy Bear Camping Week, our little adventurers will head outside for a camping-themed scavenger hunt on the playground. Icky Sticky Science Week will spark curiosity as the children create colorful "fireworks" with a fun sugar and vinegar experiment. We'll finish the month with Sports Week by practicing bowling skills and improving hand-eye coordination by throwing balls through hula hoops, all while encouraging teamwork and active play!

Cheshire Happenings

July 2026

Toddler 3

Our Toddler 3 classroom has an action-packed July planned! During Stars and Stripes Week, the children will cool off by making red, white, and blue popsicles and explore a fun chalk and vinegar "pop rocket" experiment.

Disney Week will bring extra magic with special visitors inspired by Frozen and an exciting Disney trivia game. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, the children will make their own teddy bear trail mix and enjoy a fun teddy bear picnic together. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will create homemade bouncy balls and make delicious slushies in a bag while learning about simple science concepts. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by building and navigating an obstacle course made from pool noodles, encouraging teamwork, coordination, and plenty of active fun!

Preschool

Our Preschool classroom is ready for an exciting month of summer fun and learning! During Stars and Stripes Week, the children will create a colorful fireworks-in-a-jar science experiment and make refreshing Fourth of July popsicles.

Disney Week will be filled with magic as they create their own Mickey Mouse ears, make flashlight fireworks, and enjoy a special visit from Elsa and Olaf! During Teddy Bear Camping Week, the children will participate in teddy bear parachute games and go on an exciting bear hunt adventure. For Icky Sticky Science Week, our young scientists will make squishy balls and test their engineering skills with a magnetic tile ramp race. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by participating in relay races and welcoming Amazing Athletes for a fun-filled visit that encourages teamwork, movement, and confidence. It's going to be a fantastic July full of discovery, creativity, and active play!

Pre-K

Our Pre-K classroom is gearing up for an exciting July filled with creativity, science, and summer fun!

During Stars and Stripes Week, the children will create patriotic wooden signs and decorate festive picture frames to celebrate Independence Day. For Disney Week, they'll make a shiny crab inspired by Moana while exploring their creativity through art. During Teddy Bear Camping Week, the children will paint their own camping lanterns and learn about outdoor adventures. Icky Sticky Science Week will bring lots of excitement as our young scientists create and erupt their very own volcanoes while discovering the wonders of chemical reactions.

We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by designing and decorating personalized team jerseys, celebrating teamwork, creativity, and active play. We can't wait to see all the fun and learning our Pre-K friends experience this month!

Cheshire Spotlights

July 2026

The Cadett Family

The Cadetts' favorite holidays are Christmas and Easter, because they love spending quality time with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Family is at the heart of everything they do!

When they're looking for fun, you'll often find them at the jump park or cheering on the Hartford Yard Goats. #NoGoatsNoGlory!

One of their favorite family traditions is cooking together. They enjoy making pancakes and waffles, cooking fresh eggs from their own chickens, enjoying Mom's homemade sourdough toast, and, of course, plenty of steak, they proudly consider themselves big meat eaters!

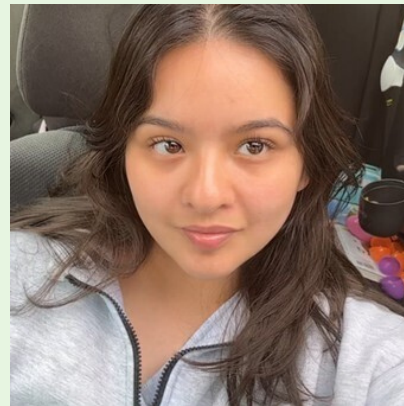
Their favorite family memory is vacationing with their cousins and spending time riding golf carts together. The Cadetts also have quite the animal crew at home, including two dogs, Guinness and Doolin, two cats, Señorita and Muchacha, and six chickens: Rock, Pepper, Walker, Camilla, Raptor, and one more feathered friend!

What makes the Cadett Family unique is their commitment to showing up for one another every day. They prioritize family time each weekend, cook together, care for their animals as a team, support each other at sporting events and tournaments, and share household responsibilities. Whether it's feeding pets, collecting eggs, helping with laundry, or preparing meals, everyone pitches in to help one another.

The Cadett Family comes from a rich mix of European and French Canadian heritage. Recently, they've enjoyed watching The Super Mario Bros. Movie and have just begun exploring the world of Star Wars together.

Their favorite destination is Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, where they visit every year to spend time with Nana and Pa. Later, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins Milly and Maddy join them, making it a special family tradition filled with fun and memories. Thank you, Cadett Family, for sharing a little about what makes your family so special!

Miss Elliana



This month, we're excited to recognize Miss Elliana, our wonderful Infant 2 teacher!

Miss Elliana does an incredible job helping our Infant 1 babies transition into the Infant 2 classroom, making the move a smooth and comforting experience for both children and families. She patiently guides each child as they learn to eat solid foods, keeps them on a consistent daily schedule, and provides the nurturing care they need to thrive.

When it comes to developmental milestones, Miss Elliana works closely with every child, encouraging and supporting them as they build new skills and reach exciting achievements. Her calm, patient, and loving personality helps new babies quickly acclimate to daycare, creating a safe and welcoming environment where they can grow with confidence.

Miss Elliana is truly a pleasure to work with, and we are so grateful for the dedication, compassion, and positivity she brings to our team every day.

Thank you, Miss Elliana, for making such a meaningful difference in the lives of our little learners and their families!

Hamden Happenings

July 2026

Infants

Summer is a wonderful time of growth, exploration, and discovery in our Infant classroom! Our littlest learners are busy engaging with the world around them through meaningful, age-appropriate experiences that support their early development.

Infants are strengthening important foundational skills such as tummy time, rolling, reaching, grasping, and beginning crawling movements. These milestones help build strength, coordination, and confidence as they grow. Our Infant 2 friends are also working on early communication skills such as waving, responding to familiar voices, and building social connections through interaction and play.

Summer brings extra sensory exploration opportunities as well! Infants explore new textures, sounds, and materials that support brain development and curiosity. Whether reaching for bright objects, listening to music, or engaging with gentle sensory play, each experience helps support their growing understanding of the world.

Waddler 2

Our Waddler 2 friends are in for a month full of creativity, discovery, and fun! During Disney Week, the children will create beautiful Beauty and the Beast rose crafts while exploring the magic of their favorite Disney stories. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable sleeping teddy bear crafts and enjoy camping-themed activities that encourage imaginative play. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will explore sensory fun by creating fluffy shaving cream rain clouds and learning about weather in a hands-on way. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by designing their own basketball crafts while celebrating teamwork, movement, and active play. It's sure to be a month filled with smiles, learning, and wonderful memories!

Waddler 1

Our Waddler 1 friends are ready for another month full of creativity, discovery, and fun! During Disney Week, the children will create adorable paper plate Mickey Mouse crafts while celebrating some of their favorite Disney characters. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make their own teddy bear masks and enjoy exciting camping-themed activities that encourage imagination and pretend play.

During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will have a blast making colorful slime while exploring fun sensory play. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by creating football jersey name sign crafts and celebrating teamwork through active play. We can't wait to see our little learners explore, create, and make wonderful memories together this month!

Toddler 1

Our Toddler 1 classroom is ready for a month full of creativity, exploration, and hands-on fun! During Disney Week, the children will create colorful fingerprint Disney fireworks inspired by the magic of their favorite characters. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable paper plate sleeping teddy bear crafts while enjoying camping-themed activities. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will explore a fun glitter germ experiment to learn about the importance of clean hands and create their own beaker crafts. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by making paper plate baseball crafts and exploring a ball-themed sensory bin that encourages movement, discovery, and fine motor development. It's going to be a fun-filled month of learning and adventure!

Hamden Happenings

July 2026

Toddler 2

Our Toddler 2 friends are in for another month full of creativity, imagination, and hands-on fun! During Disney Week, the children will create beautiful princess crowns and colorful tissue paper castles while celebrating the magic of Disney. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable teddy bear ears crafts and enjoy fun camping-themed activities. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will create mesmerizing monster lava lamps while exploring simple science concepts. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by making popsicle stick football goals and basketball handprint crafts as we celebrate teamwork, movement, and active play. It's sure to be a month filled with learning, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Preschool

Our Preschool classroom is looking forward to an exciting month filled with creativity, exploration, and active fun! During Disney Week, the children will create Mickey shape art while practicing shape recognition and enjoy a Lion King safari sensory bin filled with imaginative play. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable bear paw print paintings as they learn about camping adventures. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little scientists will have a blast creating ooey-gooey puffy paint and exploring bubble foam sensory play, encouraging creativity and hands-on discovery. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by participating in a fun relay race obstacle course that promotes teamwork, coordination, and gross motor development.

Toddler 3 & 4

Our Toddler 3 & 4 classroom is ready for a month full of fun, creativity, and discovery! During Disney Week, the children will create their own Mickey Mouse ears and enjoy a Disney character matching game that encourages memory and recognition skills. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll make adorable teddy bear masks and take part in exciting camping-themed activities filled with imaginative play. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our little learners will create colorful sticky contact paper collages using tissue paper and pom-poms, exploring different textures while strengthening their fine motor skills. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by designing team pennants and creating their own medals as they celebrate teamwork, sportsmanship, and active play. It's going to be an exciting month filled with learning, laughter, and lots of fun!

Pre-K

Our Pre-K classroom is ready for a month full of imagination, creativity, and hands-on learning! During Disney Week, the children will create magical pixie dust slime and design royal self-portraits inspired by their favorite Disney characters. For Teddy Bear Camping Week, they'll explore the outdoors through forest footprint paintings and a fun bear cave sensory activity. During Icky Sticky Science Week, our young scientists will create bubble wrap germ paintings while learning about germs and healthy habits through art. We'll wrap up the month with Sports Week by designing and decorating their very own team jerseys, encouraging creativity, teamwork, and school spirit. It's sure to be an exciting month filled with fun, learning, and adventure!

Hamden Spotlights

April 2025

The Morris

This month, we're excited to introduce The Morris Family!

Favorite Holiday: Christmas! The Morris family loves celebrating the holiday season together and making special memories.

Favorite Family Activities: Whether they're heading to the movies or enjoying a creative activity at home, they cherish spending quality time together.

Favorite Foods: Julius's favorite food is pizza, while the whole family enjoys chicken—especially when it's served as homemade Rasta Pasta!

Favorite Family Memory: Traveling together and exploring different states and countries has created some of their most treasured family memories.

What Makes Their Family Unique: The Morris family shares a love for the arts!

From drawing and painting to music and dancing, they enjoy expressing their creativity and often collaborate on fun projects that blend different art forms.

Family Heritage: Julius's mom's side of the family has Jamaican and Chinese roots, while his dad's side of the family is from St. Vincent.

Family Fun: One of Julius's favorite ways to spend time together is watching Mario or Sonic with his family!

Thank you, Morris Family, for sharing a little about what makes your family so special!

Miss Bessie



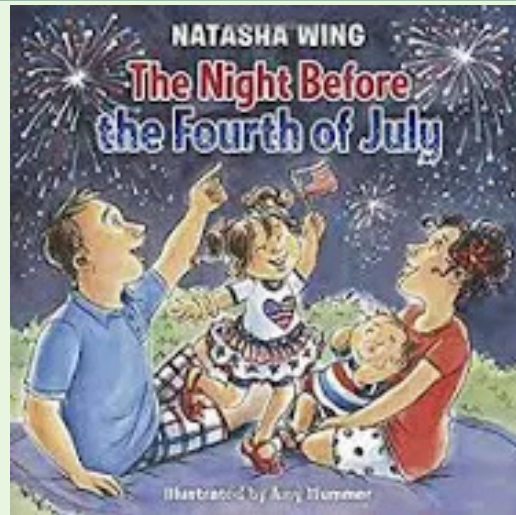
This month, we're excited to celebrate Miss Bessie, who recently marked 2 years with the Over the Rainbow family!

Miss Bessie has played such an important role in our Infant classroom, loving and caring for each baby as if they were her own. She works hard to keep the infants on consistent daily schedules, creating a nurturing environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive. Families also appreciate the thoughtful updates she shares through Brightwheel, keeping them connected with pictures, notes, and special moments throughout the day. As a true team player, Miss Bessie is always willing to lend a helping hand and is a joy to work alongside. Her bilingual skills allow her to naturally incorporate both Spanish and sign language into each child's day, enriching their learning experiences and supporting early communication development. Miss Bessie is a wonderful asset to our team and exemplifies Over the Rainbow's core values each and every day through her compassion, dedication, and positive attitude. We are incredibly grateful for everything she does. Thank you, Miss Bessie, for your hard work and for making such a difference in the lives of our children and families!

Literacy Rainbow

July 2026

Book of the Month!



Get ready for Independence Day with this festive, rhyming story that follows a family as they prepare for a Fourth of July celebration. From decorating and enjoying a parade to ending the day with a fireworks display, this book captures the excitement and traditions of the holiday while celebrating time spent together.

Talk About It Together:

- **What is your favorite Fourth of July tradition?**
- **How does your family celebrate special holidays?**
- **What are some safe ways to enjoy fireworks and celebrations?**

Nourishing Moments

July 2026



Family Fun: Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Cool off this July with a sweet family tradition! An Ice Cream Sundae Bar is a fun and easy way to spend quality time together. Let each family member create their own masterpiece by choosing their favorite ice cream flavor and adding delicious toppings.

Some fun topping ideas include:

- **Rainbow sprinkles**
- **Chocolate chips or mini M&M's**
- **Crushed cookies**
- **Brownie or cake pieces**
- **Fresh strawberries, bananas, or blueberries**
- **Whipped cream**
- **Chocolate, caramel, or strawberry sauce**
- **Maraschino cherries**

Make it even more exciting by giving each sundae a creative name and voting on the most colorful, tallest, or silliest creation! You can also have everyone share their favorite summer memory while enjoying their treat.

Family Engagement

July 2026

Create Your Own Fourth of July Celebration

After reading *The Night Before the Fourth of July*, bring the story to life by planning a fun family celebration!

Work together to make red, white, and blue decorations using construction paper, paint, or recyclable materials. Create patriotic pinwheels, paper flags, or star garlands to decorate your home or backyard.

Then, pack a simple picnic with your family's favorite summer foods and head outside to enjoy a meal together. Bring a blanket, play a game of catch, blow bubbles, or take a nature walk before ending the evening by watching a local fireworks display (or enjoying glow sticks if fireworks aren't part of your plans).

Make it a Memory! Ask each family member to share:

- Their favorite summer tradition
- One thing they are grateful for this year
- A fun activity they'd like the family to do before summer ends

Take a family photo during your celebration and start a "Summer Memories" scrapbook or photo album. Looking back on these special moments is a wonderful way to remember the joy of spending time together.

OTR Blog

July 2026

Green Thumbs Up: Gardening Adventures for Little Learners

As caregivers, we are always looking for meaningful ways to enrich children's learning and development while supporting their emotional and physical well-being. In today's fast-paced world, building a connection to nature is more important than ever. Our gardening experiences give children the opportunity to grow not only plants, but also essential life skills such as responsibility, patience, curiosity, and environmental awareness. Through hands-on, sensory-rich learning, children develop a lasting appreciation for the natural world.

Introducing Tiny Gardeners to Nature's Wonders

Children are introduced to nature through engaging sensory experiences that encourage exploration and discovery. They explore textures like soft leaves and soil, observe natural colors, and experience calming scents such as lavender and mint. These simple but meaningful interactions spark curiosity, support early brain development, and encourage focused exploration.

As children grow from toddlers through preschool, they begin planting seeds, caring for plants, and learning about the life cycles of living things. Gardening becomes a powerful part of our curriculum, teaching responsibility, patience, and care for the environment.

Planting Seeds of Responsibility

Gardening provides children with hands-on opportunities to build responsibility and ownership. Toddlers learn cause and effect as they plant seeds and water them, discovering how their actions help plants grow. Preschoolers take on more advanced tasks such as watering, weeding, and harvesting, which builds confidence and pride in their accomplishments.

Through these experiences, children learn that caring for living things requires consistency and dedication. Watching their plants grow helps them develop a strong sense of responsibility and a deeper connection to nature.

Exploring Flowers: Sensory Learning in Action

Flowers naturally spark curiosity and engagement. Children are drawn to their colors, textures, and beauty, encouraging observation and exploration. Toddlers enjoy touching petals and exploring colors, while preschoolers take part in arranging flowers, creating bouquets, and engaging in imaginative play such as pretending to be florists or gardeners.

These activities support fine motor development, coordination, creativity, and social interaction while encouraging teamwork and communication.

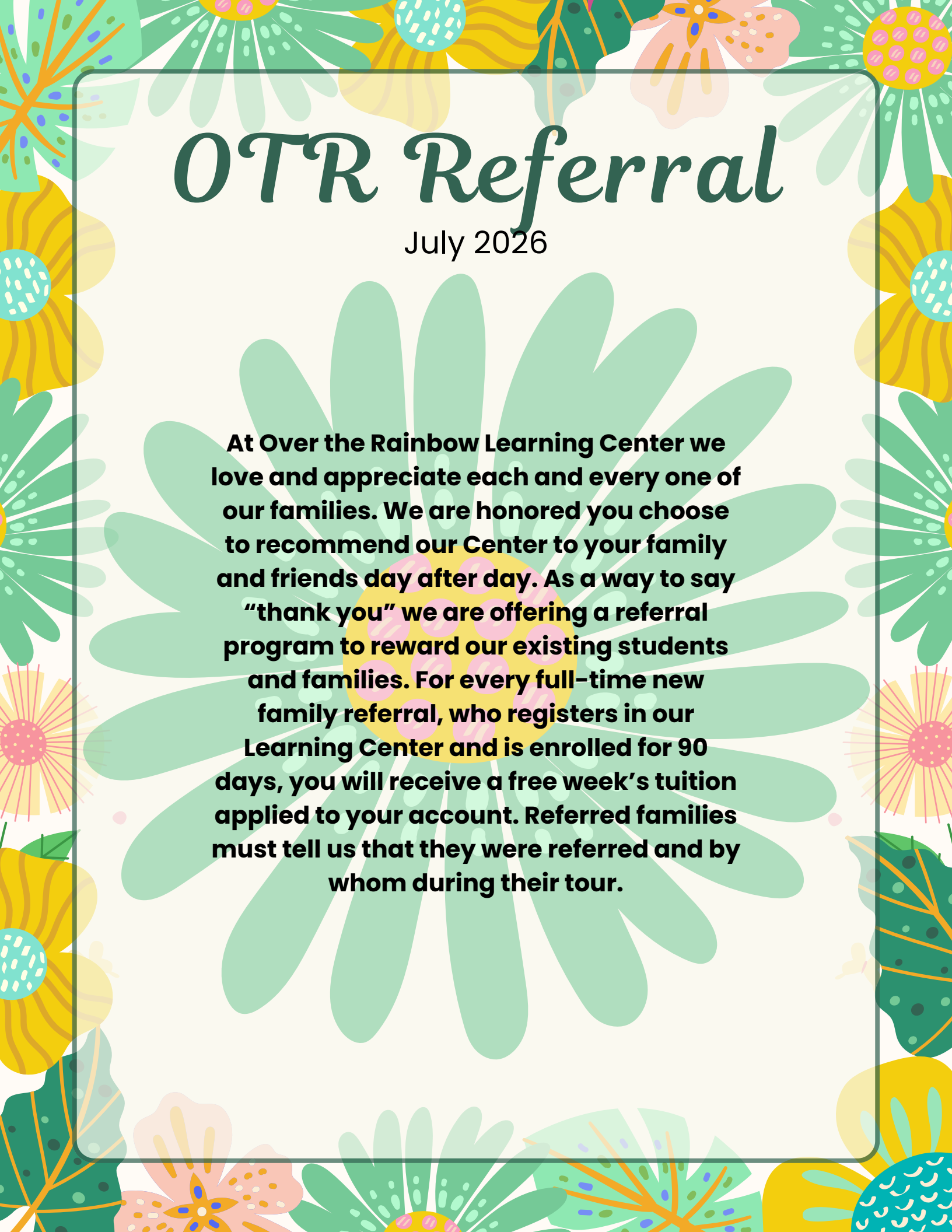
Learning Through Play in the Garden Classroom

The garden becomes a hands-on learning environment where children learn through play.

Infants and toddlers engage in sensory exploration and early counting activities, while preschoolers explore concepts like life cycles and growth. Gardening also teaches cause and effect in a meaningful way. As children care for plants and observe changes over time, they learn how their actions directly impact the world around them. This builds confidence, independence, and problem-solving skills.

Cultivating Curiosity and Creativity

Gardening encourages imagination and creativity at every age. Children use natural materials for open-ended play, create stories inspired by nature, and explore endless possibilities in their outdoor learning experiences. By nurturing curiosity and creativity, we help children build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and a deep appreciation for the natural world.



OTR Referral

July 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.