

OVER THE RAINBOW

August 2026

What's Happening!

August is here, and we're making the most of the final weeks of summer with exciting themes, hands-on activities, and lots of fun! This month, our classrooms will explore **Amazing Bakers & Chefs**, where children will become little chefs through cooking-inspired crafts, sensory activities, dramatic play, and tasty classroom treats while learning about shapes, measuring, teamwork, and creativity. Next, we'll head into the wild for **Jungle Jamboree**! Children will discover fascinating jungle animals through art projects, obstacle courses, sensory play, games, and imaginative adventures that encourage curiosity and exploration.

We'll wrap up the season with our **End of Summer Celebration**, filled with water play, popsicles, colorful crafts, sensory activities, and special classroom events as we celebrate all of the wonderful memories we've made together this summer. To finish the month on a high note, we'll enjoy **Spirit Week**, where children and staff can dress up, participate in themed activities, and celebrate our amazing Over the Rainbow community. Be sure to watch for our Spirit Week schedule so your family can join in the fun!

Reminders

Please continue to apply sunscreen before dropping off in the morning. OTR will apply the sunscreen in the afternoons.

Please continue to drop off by 930am.

Upcoming Events

August 11th at 930am Critter Caravan visits Hamden campers

August 12th at 930am Critter Caravan visits Cheshire campers

August 18th at 930am a Magician visits Hamden campers

August 19th at 930am a Magician visits Cheshire campers

September 4th OTR is CLOSED for a staff development day

September 7th OTR is CLOSED for Labor Day

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OTR CELEBRATIONS

August 2026

Cheshire Birthdays

- 8/5 Cassia
- 8/8 Sienna
- 8/13 Miss Elizabeth
- 8/20 Cesidio
- 8/21 Jack H.
- 8/27 Miss Hannah B.
- 8/30 Callen
- 8/31 Miss Dajanie

Hamden Birthdays

- 8/3 Miss Aniya
- 8/3 Miss Emalee
- 8/8 Calvin
- 8/11 Miss Ally
- 8/14 Josie
- 8/23 Avery
- 8/24 Aarya
- 8/28 Vanessa

♥ Coming Soon! ♥

Our Over the Rainbow family is growing! We're so excited to share that Miss Emalee is expecting a baby boy this October!

Please join us in congratulating her on this exciting new adventure!



CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

August 2026

Infants

Our Infant 1 friends are growing and learning every day! This month, we will continue working on strengthening our gross motor skills as many of our little ones practice crawling and exploring their surroundings. Some of our friends will also begin their exciting journey of trying solid foods, discovering new tastes and textures along the way. We'll round out the month with fun summertime crafts, creating colorful keepsakes while encouraging sensory exploration and creativity. We can't wait to celebrate all of the wonderful milestones our infants achieve this month! August is an exciting month in Infant 2 as our little learners continue reaching new milestones! Many of our friends are working hard to perfect their walking skills, gaining confidence and independence with every step. We will also be helping prepare some of our older infants for their transition into the Waddler room by encouraging independence, practicing classroom routines, and building social skills. Throughout the month, the children will create bright and cheerful summer crafts to decorate our classroom while having fun exploring colors, textures, and creativity. We are so proud of all the growth and accomplishments our Infant 2 friends continue to make!

Waddlers

August is going to be filled with exciting hands-on experiences, sensory play, and lots of fun in our Waddler classroom! During Bakers & Chefs Week, our little learners will decorate their very own cakes before enjoying them as a special treat, and they'll explore a fun pudding slime sensory activity that encourages creativity and sensory development. For Jungle Jamboree Week, the children will create colorful tissue paper chameleons and explore a foam pond sensory bin while learning about animals and their jungle habitats. We'll wrap up the month with a big End of Summer Celebration, complete with a delicious lunch of chicken and macaroni & cheese, exciting dance parties, and plenty of bubbles to celebrate an amazing summer together. We can't wait to make lasting memories with all of our Waddler friends!

Toddler 1

Our Toddler 1 friends are ready for another month of hands-on fun and learning! During Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll become little chefs by creating our own shape pizzas while exploring colors, shapes, and imaginative play. We'll also discover new ways to create art by painting with kitchen utensils, encouraging creativity and sensory exploration. For Jungle Jamboree Week, we'll make adorable bingo dot lions and create our very own binoculars as we go on exciting pretend jungle adventures, learning about animals and exploring the world around us through play. As we wrap up summer during End of Summer Week, we'll celebrate with sweet watermelon handprint keepsakes and cool off with plenty of fun at the water table. It's the perfect way to enjoy the final days of summer while making wonderful memories with our friends!

Toddler 2

Our Toddler 2 class is looking forward to a month full of creativity, exploration, and summer fun! During Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll become little chefs as we create our own pizzas using different shaped toppings, helping us practice shape recognition while encouraging imaginative play. For Jungle Jamboree Week, we'll transform into our favorite wild animals by creating colorful jungle animal masks and learning about the amazing creatures that call the jungle home. As we celebrate the End of Summer, we'll create a fun hopscotch footprint craft to remember all the adventures we've had this season. We'll also enjoy a colorful tie-dye activity, giving each child the opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece while exploring colors and patterns. We can't wait for another exciting month of learning, laughter, and making memories together!



CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

August 2026

Toddler 3

Our Toddler 3 class is excited for a fun-filled August packed with hands-on activities and imaginative adventures! During Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll explore the world of cooking through restaurant dramatic play, dig into a spaghetti and meatballs sensory bin, and create delicious pretend treats while building fine motor skills, creativity, and social interaction. For Jungle Jamboree Week, our little explorers will test their balance with a fun Walking the Plank game and enjoy an exciting animal washing sensory bin, where they'll help clean jungle animals while learning through sensory play. As we celebrate the End of Summer, we'll cool off with a lemonade stand sensory bin that encourages imaginative play and early social skills. We'll also race Styrofoam boats through water, experimenting with movement and cheering on our floating creations. It's sure to be a month full of discovery, laughter, and unforgettable summer memories!

Reminders

Critter Caravan visits
8/12 at 930am
Magician visits 8/19 at
930am

Preschool

Our Preschool class is ready for an exciting August filled with creativity, exploration, and end-of-summer fun! During Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll decorate our very own aprons, make delicious treats together in the classroom, and use our imaginations through restaurant dramatic play as we take turns being chefs, servers, and customers. For Jungle Jamboree Week, we'll put our gross motor skills to the test with a fun jungle-themed obstacle course and create colorful animal-inspired artwork while learning about the incredible creatures that live in the jungle. To celebrate the End of Summer, we'll enjoy refreshing popsicles and explore a variety of sensory bins that encourage curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. We can't wait to make lasting memories as we wrap up an amazing summer together!

Pre-K

Our Pre-K class is excited to kick off August with a month full of creativity, imagination, and hands-on learning! During Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll whip up some fun by creating fluffy paint cookies, combining sensory exploration with artistic expression as we pretend to be master bakers. For Jungle Jamboree Week, we'll use our imaginations to design our very own jungle habitats and create adorable monkeys hanging from trees while learning about jungle animals and their environments. As we celebrate the End of Summer, we'll reflect on all of our wonderful summer adventures by creating a colorful summertime collage filled with our favorite memories. We're looking forward to ending the season with lots of fun, creativity, and excitement as we prepare for another fantastic year of learning!



CHESHIRE SPOTLIGHT

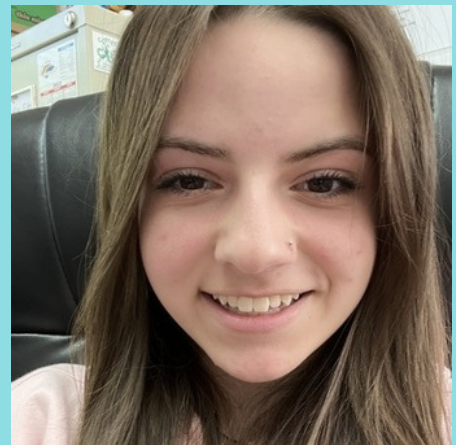
August 2026

The Sundquist Family

This month we're excited to spotlight the wonderful Sundquist Family! Their favorite holiday is the Mid-Autumn Festival, a special time to celebrate with family and honor their Chinese heritage. As a family, they love spending time outdoors, especially going for walks together and enjoying time in their backyard. Their favorite foods are all kinds of fruit, with mangoes being the top favorite! One of their sweetest family memories is of Henry always making sure everyone has something to eat, even splitting the very last blueberry with Dad. Their family also includes their playful yellow Labrador, Hengheng, who loves chasing sticks and joining in the fun.

What makes the Sundquist family especially unique is their multicultural background. Mom is from China, Dad is Swedish, and they have close family living around the world, including cousins in Shanghai (Mom's brother's family) and Tokyo (Dad's sister's family). When it's time to relax, their favorite movie is Toy Story, and their favorite place to be is their own backyard. Mom and Dad enjoy eating meals outside, Henry loves playing in the sandbox, Hengheng is happiest with a stick in his mouth, and Henry and Hengheng have the best time splashing in the pool together. It's the perfect place for making treasured family memories!

Miss Alyssa



Alyssa is an amazing floater always willing to jump in wherever she's needed. She spends a lot of time in our Infant room, where the babies adore her caring and nurturing presence. No matter which classroom she's helping in, Alyssa brings a positive attitude, works hard, and does an awesome job. We truly appreciate her flexibility, dedication, and support she provides to our team. Thank you for all you do!



HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

August 2026

Infants

August will be a month full of sensory exploration, new discoveries, and lots of cuddles in our Infant classroom!

Our littlest learners will enjoy a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to encourage their growing curiosity and developmental milestones. Throughout the month, we'll explore different textures, colors, and sounds through sensory play, tummy time, music, and interactive storytime. As we soak up the last days of summer, the babies will create sweet summer-themed keepsakes and continue building important skills such as rolling, sitting, crawling, grasping, and early communication. We look forward to making wonderful memories and celebrating each new milestone with your little ones this August!

Waddler 2

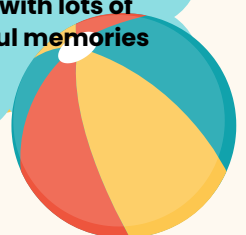
August will be filled with creativity, exploration, and lots of hands-on fun in Waddler 2! During Bakers & Chefs Week, our little learners will create paper plate muffins and a sweet cherry pie craft while exploring colors, shapes, and imaginative play. For Jungle Jamboree Week, the children will make their own binoculars and safari hats as they embark on exciting jungle adventures and learn about wild animals. To wrap up the month during our End of Summer Celebration Week, the class will create a cheerful lemonade name craft, helping them practice letter recognition while celebrating the final days of summer. We look forward to a month full of learning, laughter, and wonderful memories together!

Waddler 1

August is sure to be another month full of exciting discoveries and hands-on learning in Waddler 1! During Bakers & Chefs Week, our little chefs will enjoy a pretend spaghetti and meatball sensory activity, encouraging imaginative play while strengthening fine motor skills through scooping, stirring, and serving. For Jungle Jamboree Week, the children will create fun lion and tiger masks as they learn about jungle animals and explore dramatic play. To celebrate our End of Summer Celebration Week, the class will make adorable cotton pad ice cream cone crafts while practicing gluing, color recognition, and creativity. We can't wait to make wonderful memories together as we wrap up the summer with lots of fun, learning, and laughter!

Toddler 1

Our Toddler 1 friends are excited for another month of hands-on learning and summer fun! During Amazing Bakers & Chefs Week, we'll become little bakers as we make Smart Cookies and create colorful blueberry pie and apple pie crafts, encouraging creativity while exploring food-themed activities. For Jungle Jamboree Week, we'll go on a wild adventure by creating adorable popsicle stick hippos and exploring a fun jungle slime sensory activity that encourages curiosity, fine motor development, and imaginative play. As we celebrate our End of Summer Celebration, we'll create a sweet s'more craft and a colorful ice cream cone craft to remember all the fun we've had this summer. We can't wait to end the season with lots of laughter, creativity, and wonderful memories together!



HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

August 2026

Toddler 2

August is packed with exciting hands-on activities and opportunities for learning in Toddler 2! During Bakers & Chefs Week, the children will create fun kitchen utensil crafts while exploring the tools used for cooking and baking. For Jungle Jamboree Week, they'll enjoy a variety of jungle-themed activities as they learn new safari vocabulary and discover amazing wild animals through stories, songs, and play. To celebrate our End of Summer Celebration Week, the class will create colorful watermelon squish bags for sensory exploration and decorate bright popsicle tissue paper crafts to welcome the close of a fun-filled summer. We can't wait to learn, create, and make lasting memories together this month!

Preschool

August is full of exciting opportunities for our Preschoolers to learn through creativity, exploration, and hands-on experiences! During Bakers & Chefs Week, the children will decorate their own chef hats and participate in a fun scent matching game, using their senses to identify familiar baking and cooking aromas. For Jungle Jamboree Week, they'll create vibrant fork-painted tigers while learning about jungle animals and their unique habitats. To celebrate End of Summer Celebration Week, the class will make adorable footprint flip-flop keepsakes, creating a special memory to remember another wonderful summer at Over the Rainbow. We look forward to a month filled with imagination, discovery, and lots of fun together!

Toddler 3&4

Our Toddler 3 & 4 friends are in for an exciting month filled with creativity, imagination, and movement! During Bakers & Chefs Week, the children will make pretend cookies out of salt dough and enjoy dramatic play by running their own pretend restaurant, encouraging creativity, communication, and social skills. For Jungle Jamboree Week, they'll participate in jungle animal yoga, stretching and moving like their favorite safari animals while building balance, coordination, and body awareness. To wrap up our End of Summer Celebration Week, each child will create a "My Favorite Summer Memory" collage, giving them the opportunity to reflect on their favorite summer experiences while practicing cutting, gluing, and self-expression. We look forward to another month of fun, learning, and wonderful memories!

Pre-K

Our Pre-K class is ready for an exciting August filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and sensory exploration! During Bakers & Chefs Week, the children will enjoy playing with vanilla cupcake cloud dough while exploring different textures and scents, and they'll create colorful pom-pom stamped cookie jar crafts to celebrate all things baking. For Jungle Jamboree Week, the class will take part in a fun "Rescue the Animals" sensory bin activity and design their own safari hats as they learn about jungle animals and their habitats. To wrap up our End of Summer Celebration Week, the children will explore a sea foam sensory bin and create beach sand handprint keepsakes, a special memento to remember a summer full of learning, friendship, and fun at Over the Rainbow!



HAMDEN SPOTLIGHT

August 2026

The Morton Family

This month, we're excited to shine the spotlight on a wonderful family who loves making memories together! Their favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, when they enjoy cooking together, hosting family and friends, and gathering around the dinner table to celebrate.

When they're not celebrating the holidays, you'll often find them swimming, barbecuing, and opening their home to loved ones. They believe some of life's best moments happen when everyone feels welcome and has a chance to laugh, relax, and spend quality time together.

Their favorite meals are anything Dad cooks, especially his delicious homemade pasta! They also enjoy trying new recipes and sharing family meals. One of their most treasured memories is celebrating Walter's first birthday and watching him excitedly dig into his birthday cake with the biggest smile on his face.

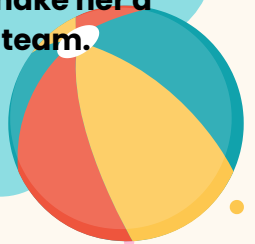
Their family also includes a playful Jack Russell Terrier named Lola, who keeps everyone entertained with her energy and love of play. As a blended family with Italian, Dominican, and African American roots, they enjoy celebrating their cultures through food, traditions, and time spent with loved ones. For family movie nights, Moana is the top pick, especially because Walter loves singing and dancing along to the music! One of their favorite places to visit is Newport, Rhode Island, where they enjoy walking along the waterfront, taking in the beautiful scenery, and creating lasting family memories.

Thank you for sharing your family's story with us!

Miss Olivia



Olivia is an outstanding floater who is passionate about what she does. She has built wonderful relationships with both the children and her coworkers, and she is well-liked by everyone. She is dedicated to providing a positive learning environment and consistently goes above and beyond for the children in her care. Olivia is always willing to lend a helping hand by assisting other teachers and covering classrooms whenever needed. She is dependable, flexible, and a true team player. One of Olivia's greatest strengths is her creativity. She creates beautiful classroom bulletin boards and plans engaging, hands-on activities that keep the children excited to learn. Her hard work, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence make her a valuable member of our team.



LITERACY RAINBOW

August 2026



As we enjoy the final days of summer and begin preparing for new routines and adventures, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn is a beautiful story to share as a family. This heartwarming book follows Chester Raccoon as he learns that his mother's love stays with him wherever he goes, even when they are apart.

After reading together, talk with your child about special ways your family shows love and how it feels to try something new. Create your own family tradition by tracing your child's hand on a piece of paper and adding a heart in the center to represent your "kissing hand." Your child can keep it nearby as a reminder that they are loved and supported all day long.

For an extra special activity, decorate your handprints with crayons, stickers, paint, or glitter and display them somewhere your family can enjoy. This simple project creates a meaningful keepsake while encouraging children to talk about their feelings, build confidence, and celebrate the love that connects your family.

Reading together helps children develop language skills, imagination, and a lifelong love for books. Take a few minutes each day to cuddle up, share a story, and make memories together.



NOURISHING MOMENTS

August 2026



Frozen Banana Pops

Beat the summer heat with these easy, healthy, and delicious Frozen Banana Pops! This no-bake recipe is perfect for little hands to help make and is a great way to spend quality time together as a family.

Ingredients

- 2–4 ripe bananas
- 1 cup vanilla or strawberry yogurt
- Popsicle sticks or wooden craft sticks
- Your favorite toppings:
 - Granola
 - Crushed graham crackers
 - Crushed cereal
 - Mini chocolate chips
 - Rainbow sprinkles
 - Shredded coconut

Directions

1. Peel the bananas and cut each one in half.
2. Insert a popsicle stick into the flat end of each banana half.
3. Dip each banana into the yogurt until well coated.
4. Roll or sprinkle with your favorite toppings.
5. Place the banana pops on a parchment-lined baking sheet or plate.
6. Freeze for 2–3 hours, or until firm.
7. Enjoy your homemade frozen treat!

Cooking together helps children build confidence, practice fine motor skills, and explore healthy foods in a fun way. Frozen Banana Pops are a refreshing summer snack that encourages creativity and gives children the opportunity to make something all on their own, with just a little help from a grown-up!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

August 2026



Sidewalk Chalk Family Art Day

Make the most of the sunny August weather with a colorful Sidewalk Chalk Family Art Day! Grab a bucket of sidewalk chalk and head outside to transform your driveway, sidewalk, or patio into a giant canvas. Invite every member of the family to join in the fun by drawing favorite animals, flowers, rainbows, silly faces, or even creating an obstacle course or hopscotch board.

For younger children, encourage them to practice drawing simple shapes, lines, letters, numbers, or even trace their hands and feet.

Older siblings can help create murals, write encouraging messages, or design a pretend town complete with roads and buildings. There are no rules, just lots of imagination and creativity!

Want to make it even more exciting? Try one of these fun ideas:

- **Create a family self-portrait.**
- **Draw your favorite summer memory.**
- **Design an "Under the Sea" or "Safari" adventure.**
- **Make a giant game of tic-tac-toe or hopscotch.**
- **Have each family member decorate one square of the driveway to create a collaborative masterpiece.**

Before the artwork disappears with the next rainstorm, take a family photo with your colorful creations. It's a wonderful way to capture a special summer memory that you'll enjoy looking back on for years to come.

Sidewalk chalk play encourages creativity, strengthens fine and gross motor skills, promotes early writing and drawing skills, and inspires imaginative play. Best of all, it's an easy, screen-free activity that brings families together while enjoying the fresh air and making the most of the final days of summer!



OTR BLOG

August 2026

Making the Most of Summer Together

As summer begins to wind down, August is the perfect time to soak up every last bit of sunshine, laughter, and family fun! At Over the Rainbow, this month is filled with exciting opportunities for children to explore, create, and learn through hands-on experiences.

Our classrooms will be transformed into places where imaginations can run wild. During our Amazing Bakers and Chefs theme, children will mix, measure, create, and pretend as they discover the joy of cooking through fun crafts, sensory activities, and dramatic play. These experiences help strengthen fine motor skills, encourage creativity, and introduce early math and science concepts in an exciting way.

We'll then head out on a Jungle Jamboree, where little explorers will learn about wild animals, lush habitats, and the importance of caring for nature. Through animal-themed games, art projects, and sensory play, children will build their curiosity while developing language, social, and problem-solving skills.

To wrap up the season, we'll celebrate with our End of Summer Celebration and Spirit Week! It's a wonderful opportunity for children to reflect on the friendships they've made, the new skills they've learned, and the memories they've created throughout the summer. Be sure to watch for our Spirit Week schedule so your child can join in the themed dress-up days and special activities.

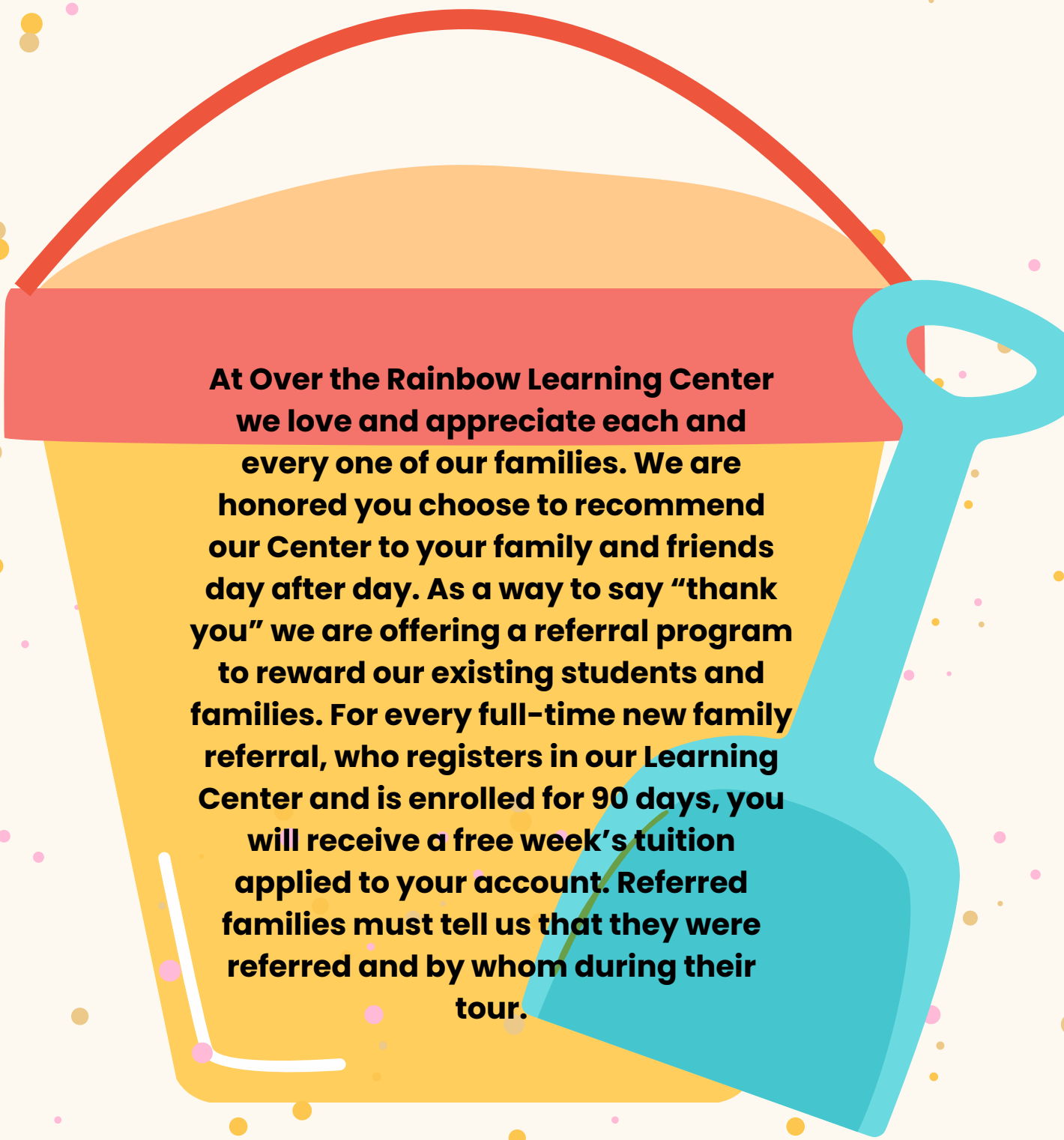
As families begin preparing for the new school year, remember that learning doesn't stop when children leave the classroom. Reading together, taking nature walks, cooking a simple recipe, or talking about your day are all meaningful ways to continue learning at home.

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day. We are grateful to be a part of their journey and look forward to ending the summer with smiles, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Here's to a fantastic August!



OTR REFERRAL

August 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.