

THE SPOTTED ZEBRA

Learning Center

May 2026

Reminders:

- ❖ The center will be closed on 5/25 in observance of Memorial Day



Admin News

Welcome to May!

We have a bunch of exciting announcements this month! Starting off, our new playground is almost complete! We are so excited to explore a new play area and develop some new games and activities to try out there.

As Mother's Day and Father's Day approach, we wanted to share that at Spotted Zebra we traditionally combine these celebrations into one special "Family Day."

Over the years, we have found that Family Day allows us to celebrate the many different people who play loving and important roles in our children's lives — moms, dads, grandparents, guardians, foster parents, step-parents, and all of the other special people who make up a family. Our goal is always to create a celebration that feels inclusive, welcoming, and meaningful for every child.

More information about our Family Day activities will be shared by your classroom, but we wanted to give everyone a little heads up as we head into the spring celebrations.

Our graduation ceremonies are approaching as well! Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday, June 22, 2026

- 9:00 AM – Violet Room
(Bagels, juice, and coffee to follow)
- 11:30 AM – Blue Room
(Pizza and water/juice to follow)

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

- 9:00 AM – Green Room
(Bagels, juice, and coffee to follow)
- 11:30 AM – Orange Room
(Pizza and water/juice to follow)

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

- 9:00 AM – Teal Room
(Bagels, juice, and coffee to follow)
- 11:30 AM – Yellow Room
(Pizza and water/juice to follow)

We are going to hold the ceremonies in the gym this year. Due to size limitations on the space, we ask that attendance is limited to 4 guests per family. Chairs will be provided, and refreshments will be served after each ceremony.

What is Happening in the Classrooms...



Teal Room News

Hello Families,

We're excited to welcome May and all the growth and discovery it brings! This month, our classroom themes will focus on the wonders of nature, including caterpillars and butterflies, bugs and insects, birds, and pond life.

Throughout the month, children will explore how living things grow and change. We will begin by learning about caterpillars and butterflies, focusing on life cycles and transformation. Children will engage in hands-on activities like sequencing, movement, and creating butterfly art as they learn how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

As we move into our bugs and insects theme, students will discover different types of insects and their habitats. They will participate in sensory play, sorting activities, and interactive games that encourage observation and curiosity about the small creatures around us.

During our bird theme, children will learn about feathers, nests, and the sounds birds make. Activities will include building nests, listening for bird sounds, and engaging in creative art projects using different materials.

To wrap up the month, we will explore pond life and the animals that live in and around water, such as frogs, fish, turtles, and ducks. Children will participate in simple science activities like sink and float, as well as imaginative play centered around a pond environment.

This month will be full of exploration, hands-on learning, and opportunities for children to connect with the natural world. We look forward to a fun and engaging May!

-Ms. Heather, Ms. Sara, Ms. Khrista, Ms. Kaitlin, Ms. Alli, and Ms. Kelly



Violet Room News

May has arrived and with the sun shining around us, we're happy to welcome blooming flowers, insect visitors, and new adventures to our classroom! We've raised our caterpillars who will be hatching this month, planted marigolds that will begin to bloom, and are already excited to take on more projects this spring! April was full of fun and discovery, especially during the Week of The Young Child. We enjoyed many unique experiences with guest visitors, hands-on activities, and special crafts.

As we move into May, we'll be exploring some fun and exciting themes including The Five Senses, Dinosaurs, The Zoo, and Camping! With plenty of sunshine and more energy, we're excited for more walks, outdoor learning opportunities, and gross motor activities incorporated into our day. With our year coming to a close, we've built many strong skills to further challenge in multi-step activities & projects. We will continue with letter work weekly, which we've already progressed so far in! We'll also continue to focus on strengthening our social & self-help skills through daily responsibilities, roles, and independent activities. We are excited to host a family event at the end of this month, so please be on the lookout for more information regarding plans.

We will continue to enjoy sunny spring weather daily, so please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate clothing and footwear each day, and that they have a packed water-bottle & sunscreen.

Lastly, we'd like to wish a Happy Birthday to Evelyn (16th) and Iyla (28th)!

Ms. Brittany, Ms. Terry, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Allison



Blue Room News

Happy May!

We hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather and sunshine. We had an amazing time in April discovering all things weather, celebrating Earth Day, and learning many ways we can help protect the earth.

As the weather gets warmer, please be sure to send in your child with a labeled water bottle as well as labeled sunscreen. Thank you in advance. This month, we will continue to learn about insects. We also now have caterpillars in the classroom so we will be learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly and releasing our own butterflies once they have hatched. We look forward to this activity every year. It is always such an engaging and fun time for all the kids. We will also continue to practice handwriting this month. We will explore letters P, Q, and R. Lastly, we will conclude the month by learning about Memorial Day and why it is important to honor the people who have served our country.

As always, thank you for your continued support in our classroom. Please do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy Birthday this month to:
Elijah- 5/21

Best,

**Blue Room Team- Ms. Jackie, Ms. Katina,
and Ms. Khrista**



Green Room News

With the arrival of May, we're welcoming longer days, blooming flowers, and the joy of consistent warm weather. The sunshine and gentle spring breeze have brought a renewed sense of energy to our Green Room community.

As we look forward to spending more time outdoors, please make sure your child has a **labeled water bottle** and **aerosol spray sunscreen** at school. We will apply sunscreen before outdoor play to help keep everyone comfortable, protected, and ready to enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who participated as mystery readers. Your visits brought so much joy and excitement to our classroom. The children absolutely loved guessing who would walk through the door next—we can't wait to continue the fun in May.

This month is full of exciting themes and hands-on learning:

- Exploring the life cycle of a caterpillar
 - Discovering fruits and vegetables in the garden
 - Learning about pets and how to care for them
 - Exploring outer space and the planets
- It's shaping up to be a month filled with curiosity, creativity, and discovery.

We'd also like to send big birthday wishes to Asher!

We're looking forward to a wonderful May filled with learning, laughter, and lots of sunshine.

Warmly,
Ms. Michelle, Ms. Elle, and Ms. Jennifer



Orange Room News

Happy May! We're so excited to welcome a new month filled with creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning in the Orange Room. The children continue to grow in confidence, curiosity, and independence, and it's been such a joy to watch their ideas and imaginations come to life in new ways each day. With warmer weather and the end of the school year approaching, May is sure to be a fun and engaging month for everyone!

Here's a look at what we'll be exploring in May:

Pets – We'll begin the month by learning about pets and how we care for them. Children will talk about their own pets (or pets they wish they had), explore different types of animals, and discuss what animals need to stay healthy and happy. We'll incorporate pretend play, pet-themed art, and stories that help build empathy and responsibility.

Restaurants – Our dramatic play area will transform into a restaurant as we explore food, cooking, and dining experiences. Children will take on roles such as chefs, servers, and customers while practicing communication, cooperation, and imaginative play. We'll also incorporate activities like creating menus, "cooking" in the classroom, and talking about different kinds of foods.

Tubes & Tunnels – This theme will invite children to build, experiment, and explore! Using a variety of materials, we'll create tunnels and pathways while incorporating balls to see how they roll, travel, and move through space. Children will investigate concepts like speed, distance, and motion as they test out different designs and problem-solve together. These hands-on experiences introduce early STEM concepts in a fun and engaging way.

Lights & Shadows – Toward the end of the month, we'll explore light and shadow through creative and scientific experiences. Children will experiment with flashlights, create shadow art, and observe how light changes throughout the day. This theme encourages curiosity, observation, and lots of fun discovery!

As the weather continues to warm up, we're looking forward to spending as much time outside as possible. Please be sure your child comes to school dressed for active outdoor play, and continue to keep extra clothes in their cubby.

We're so excited for a month filled with imagination, discovery, and joyful learning. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—we're so grateful to share this special time with your children.

Warmly,
Ms. Katie, Ms. Tami, and Ms. Daphne
The Orange Room Team



Yellow Room News

How is it already time to say "hello" to May? We have had so much fun learning together this year! We have begun planning for our graduation celebration, and we are compiling a list of ideas as we brainstorm with the kiddos! Save the date – Wednesday, June 24th!

Math instruction has focused on teen numbers, such as counting, ordering them between 10 and 20, and what they look like written. In addition, we have practiced teen numbers by showing one group of ten and extra ones, counting on from 10, and developing an understanding of place value by writing the 1 first (in the 10s place). Next, is addition and subtraction within 5, then within 10. Then, we will move on to measurement - height, length, and weight.

Regarding literacy, we have almost completed the alphabet with Mat Man and his letter books and have also learned a lot about letter formation, phonics, and comprehension of simple texts (Meaning Making). We will continue to build on previously learned literacy skills for the rest of the year. As we continue to be "reading detectives"; practice with sight words (popcorn words), ending sounds, and middle sounds of words will be added to develop further reading and writing skills. In addition, we are learning about end of sentence punctuation, rhyming, word families, and comprehension of text.

Science in April focused on life cycles, signs of spring, and keeping the Earth healthy. In May, we will move on to pollination, farms/gardens/food, and maps. These are sure to be hot topics for our budding scientists!

Before we close, we would like to wish the moms in our families a Happy Mother's Day! Also, Happy Birthday to Ms. Megan this month!

Warm wishes,

Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Chris

Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psychology
Ms. Marlis	OT
Ms. Shawna	Speech (Teal)
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B, O)
Ms. Rachel C	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, G)
Ms. Allison S	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V, Teal)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)
Ms. Kelly	OT (Teal)
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech (Teal)

Offsite Therapists

Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Laura D	Speech
Ms. Debbie	PT
Ms. Claire	Speech
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech

Floating Teachers

Ms. Karen
Ms. Emily
Ms. Allison K
Ms. Tristyn
Ms. Josilyn
Ms. Cadence
Ms. Jennifer S
Ms. Dillyn
Ms. Jaia
Ms. Jillian
Ms. Monica
Ms. Jescyka

Admin Team

Ms. Sheri
Mr. Matt
Ms. Shannon
Ms. Amy
Ms. Victoria
Ms. Rachael
Ms. Jenna
Mr. Derek

