

# Chick Hatching Project



May 2018

Winfield Public Library

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## Week 4 Update

### **Tuesday, May 1: Day 21: Hatch Day**

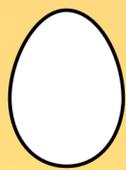
The wait is over! Our first chick had hatched before our arrival at the library. Soon after that by 9:00 our second chick hatched before our eyes and by 11:30 a.m. our third chick hatched. All of them are the Cornish Rock variety. Two of the chicks are brown, and one is black. Our children have already started naming them! A few more eggs had cracks in them, so we are expecting more very soon.

### **Wednesday, May 2: Day 22: Hatch Day**

We arrived this morning to discover that two more chicks had hatched overnight! We were excited to see that one of the White Leghorn chicks hatched, and the resulting yellow chick is quite the songbird. Another Cornish Rock chick hatched, giving us three brown, one black, and one yellow chick. At 12:30 another White Leghorn unexpectedly burst from its shell and set about the business of standing up and moving around. At 1:30, while our attention was turned to the brooder, another Cornish Rock emerged. Shortly thereafter, at 2:10, another White Leghorn won its battle against the shell after struggling for about a half hour. The other chicks seem to be encouraging the new ones. We set up the brooder, using a plastic bin lined with paper towels, and placed food and water inside. We suspended the heat lamp from plastic pipe and taped our thermometer to the side to measure the temperature. Our target temperature is 85-90°. We moved the first three Cornish Rock chicks to the brooder at 1:30 and introduced them to their food and water. They seem to be adapting nicely to their new environment. To round out the day, our 9th chick hatched at 5:45, and our 10th at 9:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, May 3: Day 23: Hatch Day**

Upon our arrival at the library this morning, we discovered that 3 more chicks had hatched overnight. By 11:00 a.m. we had 17 chicks! We moved 5 chicks into the brooder to join the other 3. Unfortunately, a baby chick had a wry neck and we could see that it could not hold its neck up or couldn't seem to balance properly. Saddened by our first sick chick, we researched what to do. We gave it some baby Pedialyte fortified with baby vitamins, vitamin E and selenium after a couple hours of hatching and again after lunch. Our community joined the effort by donating the ingredients for our chick medicine. We spoke with our consultant, who came to visit the checks, and she recommended splinting the chick's neck. With her assistance, we attached a craft stick to its back with first-aid tape. We hope to see improvement soon. We also moved all but two of the other chicks to the brooder to give the sick chick some extra room.



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### **Friday, May 4: Day 24: Last Chance!**

We cleaned the brooder on Friday morning and all of our chicks appeared healthy and lively. We checked on our sick chick and did not see any improvements, and gave it a dose of medicine. At that point we removed the last 2 chicks and hoped our last 3 eggs would eventually hatch. In the afternoon our Adult Librarian, Dawn came in and checked on our chick and administered medicine again and cleaned the brooder. She also removed the splint, as the chick was getting her leg caught in it. At 6:00 p.m. our Youth Librarian, came in to check on our chick. Our little chick appeared in distress and her future was dismal. At that point, a decision was made to take her home and watch and medicate her on a regular basis. Wry neck is not uncommon in new chicks but it was scary to see our little chick not be able to eat or drink because she was unable to hold its neck up.

### **Saturday, May 5: Day 25: Project Complete!**

As soon as we came in Saturday morning, we unplugged and removed the incubator from the desk. I examined the last 3 unhatched eggs. One had started to break through but died, and the other died around day 19 or 20. We cleaned out the incubator and sanitized it for the next time. We can report that our wry neck chick was doing a little better, although she would stress when administering medicine. Her neck would bend backwards but after calming down we saw improvement.

### **Sunday, May 6: Day 26: Brooder**

Our YS came in 3 times on Sunday to check our 16 chicks and clean the brooder. Boy, do they eat a lot! Each time more food was added and the water changed! They are starting to get feathers on their wings. Our little disabled chick is showing improvements and is moving around better. The baby Pedialyte fortified with baby vitamins, vitamin E and selenium is actually making a difference. Our YS librarian held her head as she gave her some scrambled egg. Needless to say she loved it and it gave her much needed nutrition.

### **Monday, May 7, Day 27: Chicks!**

Our fluffy little chicks are growing and doing great! Today we put pine shavings in the brooder. By now they know what to eat and we don't have to worry about them eating the shavings any longer. Our YS librarian made a trip to Farm and Fleet to buy a smaller feeder and a bag of baby chick feed. They have voracious appetites and were surprised to find the feeder empty so often.