



# September 2021

## Home Visiting

### *From the Desk of*



### Parent Educators at the IAFC Early Learning Department

Hello Families,

Welcome to our 2021-2022 School Year! Thanks for choosing Illinois Action for Children Early Learning Program!

As we continue to recruit families for our Early Learning Programs (EHS, HS, PI, PFA, PFA-E Home Based and Center Based), please support us by spreading the word among your neighbors, relatives, and friends about our open enrollment.

Some enrollment facts:

- Families must live in a surrounding area of the South Suburban Area of Cook County.
- Also keep in mind that child tax credit and other American Rescue Plan (ARP) payments do not affect family income in determining eligibility for Head Start and Early Head Start or count towards adjusted gross income for tax filers.

If you at any time are not available for your scheduled home visit, please call your Parent Educator to re-schedule your visit. Your Parent Educator may leave weekly recommended at Home Activities. Please work with your child on those activities, fill out the forms, sign, and return them to your Parent Educator. You will be enhancing your child's development and will be assisting the program in meeting federal mandates.

Your Parent Educator is a very resourceful person, please contact your Parent Educator when you need any kind of resources to meet your interests or needs. You will continuously receive resources; if you ever receive services out of those resources, please let your Parent Educator know you receive the service.

#### ***Classroom or Home Educators' Notes***

In September, the Parent Educators will be providing in person socializations to our families, if CDC guidelines permits, otherwise we will continue to do virtual socializations. Socializations will include an opening song, small snack, parent child activity, and closing remarks about the day! During in-person socializations, we will safely plan socially distanced activities for families to enjoy in an outdoor setting (weather permitting) where 6ft social distancing may occur. Look forward to more information, such as dates and times from your parent educator!

Staff will be in constant communication with you to share resources and keep you informed of engagement.

Site locations:

Chicago Heights

Ford Heights

Dolton

Harvey-South Holland

#### ***UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!***

9/6/2021 Closed in observance of Labor Day

Your Parent Educator will let you know when the Parent Committee Meeting and Parent Orientation will be at your Center.



## Notes from:

Catalina Torres, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Family Engagement is basic in our Early Learning Programs. At Illinois Action for Children, the Family Engagement Component Area remained intact, meaning families are still engaged in parental activities, such as e-learning and at-home activities with their child, parent meetings, workshops, family fun nights, parent cafés, and at-home learning activities. Family Engagement also includes working in partnership with Family Engagement Specialists and Parent Educators in the completion of a Family Assessment, establishing a Family Goal Partnership, distribution of resources and services to assist families in meeting their needs and interests, and accomplishing your goals. If you at any time have any needs or interests, please contact your Family Engagement Specialist or your Parent Educator, and they will guide you with resources and services.

Staff is implementing “The Pyramid Model” across all our early learning programs in partnership with families. The Pyramid Model is a framework for teaching social-emotional skills to young children: Social-Emotional brain development occurs between 0-5 years old and positive social-emotional skills are the greatest predictors of success in school or life. By using The Pyramid Model strategies at school and home, children will be taught the social-emotional skills they need to succeed. Our schools will follow behavior expectations for everyone who is in our schools: children, staff, and families. The program-wide expectations include: Be Respectful; Be Kind; Be a Good Citizen; and Be a Participating Family. You will be hearing a lot more about the Pyramid Model and receiving a lot more information about it soon. Please plan to participate in Parent Committee Meetings, Parental Activities, and complete and return At-Home Activities weekly throughout the school year.

## *Around Town/Resources*

Join Security Opportunities for Success (SOS) and receive job training at no cost. Certifications offered: Biohazard-COVID-19 clean up, Construction Flagger, Construction Forklift, Environmental Abatement (Asbestos, Lead, RRP and Mold), Home Inspection Certification, OSHA and Safety Trainings, and Unarmed Security. For more details and enrollment assessment call 708-251-4965. For more information and other services visit [WWW.CORNERSTONE-CDC.ORG](http://WWW.CORNERSTONE-CDC.ORG).

Food Pantries:

Bloom Township 425 South Hasted St., Chicago Heights, IL (708) 754-9400

Thornton Township 15340 Page St., Harvey, IL (708) 596-6040 ext 3180

South Suburban Family Shelter provides crisis intervention, resources, short-term emergency shelter for victims and survivors seeking immediate safety (708) 335-3028. They also offer Community Education, Counseling Services, Court Advocacy, Domestic Violence Advocacy, a Partner Abuse Intervention Program, and a Housing Program. Visit [www.ssfs1.org](http://www.ssfs1.org) for more information.

Pathlights offers services to grandparents raising grandchildren. Among others, they provide free consultation, education, encouragement, and in some cases, emergency funding. To learn more about this and other services they offer, call (708) 361-0219 or visit [www.pathlights.org](http://www.pathlights.org).

CEDA offers Family Support and Community Engagement and assistance with water bills, telephone bills, care for essential workers, medical supplies and prescription costs, and emotional counseling services. Call (312) 795-8948 or visit [www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net) for more information.

Contact your Family Engagement Specialist/Parent Educator for further resources.

@IAFC\_Cares



[www.actforchildren.org](http://www.actforchildren.org)

