



February 2023 Dolton

From the Desk of Velma Meek, Site Director

Hello Families,

We are in Fabulous February, where we want to highlight the people that the children feel are heroes to them. We have asked the children who is the hero in their family, and they may talk about any family member that has made an impact in their lives.

The staff here is dedicated to building positive relationships with our families. Our Family Engagement Specialists will continue working with each of you to complete a family assessment to identify your family's strengths, interests, and needs.

Please spread the word. I am inviting all parents and guardians to attend our monthly Parent Committee Meetings every second Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023. By attending this meeting, you will have the opportunity to get your name placed on the raffle wheel to win one of two \$25 gift cards. Thank you to all the parents who attended the parent meeting last month.

We want to assure you that we will continue to take all precautions to keep your child(ren) safe by practicing social distancing, washing hands frequently, and wearing masks. Please don't forget to turn all in-kind paperwork that is needed for your child(ren).

We are here for you. If you have any questions, please call the office for assistance. Thank you for choosing the Dolton Early Learning Center.

 **708.365.1500**



@IAFC_Cares



<http://earlylearning.actforchildren.org>



earlylearning@actforchildren.org

CLASSROOM NOTES:

Our hours of operation are from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. please plan accordingly for the arrival and departure times.

The parents will be allowed into the center for drop off and pick up only. All children will undergo a morning health screening before entering the building. Children and parents must always wear their masks. Parent and child should come into the building with a mask on. Once the parent/guardian signs their child in, their temperature will be taken, then the student will receive a new mask to wear. Although CDC guidelines for mask mandates have changed, Illinois Action for Children's policy mandates masks. Please always wear a mask in the building, even if you have been vaccinated.

With the weather changing, please do not forget to bring an extra pair of clothing for your child. Our children go outside every day, we have the 25/90 rule, which means if the temperature is 25 to 90, they will be going outside.

Classroom Staff:

Room 1- Karen Lewis

Room 2-Wanda King-Mustiful

Room 3- Felicia Cotton and Crystal Jackson

Room 4- Lachesha Morgan, Alexia McClellan

Room 5-Latasha Davis, and Tiffany McKay

Room 6- Ida Hoover, Carolina Rodriguez

Support Staff:

Velma Meek- Site Director 708-365-1546

Corliss Cosby -Program Aide

Alexia McClellan - Program Aide

Shekinah Smith -Family Engagement Worker- Office:708 365-1513, Cell:312-385-9271

De Lean Shumpert - Family Engagement Worker- Office: 708-365-5624, Cell: 312-485-6511

Lovell Walker - Maintenance Specialist

Cornelius Bardney - Cook

The Dolton ELC would like to prevent the spread of germs, communicable illness and COVID-19. Children with the symptoms listed below must stay at home until they are 100% symptom-free:

1. Vomiting two or more times within 24 hrs.
2. Body rash especially with a fever or itching
3. Three or more watery stools in 24 hours
4. Thick mucus or pus draining from the child's eyes.
5. Cough, fever with swollen glands, and runny nose.

Non-Federal Share aka In-Kind

Please do not forget to turn in your at-home activities work to your teachers. The more you turn in, the more money we get for our program.

Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendar!

- **Thursday, February 3, 2023 - Staff Workday - No School**
- **Thursday, February 9, 2023** - 10 a.m. Virtual Parent Meeting and tentative Dental Workshop

From the Desk of Catalina Torres, Parent Involvement Coordinator

February is Dental Awareness Month

What can parents and caregivers do to clean the babies' teeth?

- Wipe their gums twice a day with soft, clean cloth in the morning after the first feeding and right before bed to wipe away bacteria and sugars that can cause cavities.
- When their teeth come in, start brushing twice a day with a soft, small-bristled toothbrush and plain water.
- Visit the dentist by your baby's first birthday to stop sign of problems early.
- Talk to your dentist or doctor about putting fluoride varnish on your child's teeth as soon as the first tooth appears.

For children younger than two, consult first with your doctor or dentist regarding the use of fluoride toothpaste.

For children:

- Brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Help your child brush their teeth until they have good brushing skills. If your child is younger than six, watch them brush. Make sure they use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and always spit it out rather than swallow.
- Ask your child's dentist to apply dental sealants when appropriate.
- Drink tap water that contains fluoride.

To see if your community's water is fluoridated, you can view your water system on CDC's My Water's Fluoride website.

You can also call your water utility company and request a copy of the utility's most recent "Consumer Confidence Report." This report provides information on the level of fluoride in your drinking (tap) water.

If your drinking water does not have enough fluoride to prevent cavities (the optimal amount of 0.7 milligrams per liter), ask your dentist, pediatrician, family doctor, or nurse if your child needs oral fluoride supplements, such as drops, tablets, or lozenges.

RESOURCES/AROUND TOWN:

EXTRA POINT is a way for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness to get the help they need. The Extra Point call center can connect you with a housing provider or homelessness prevention services such as housing problem solving, legal services, eviction prevention, or financial assistance, if available. Call 1.977.426.6515 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon & Fri; and from 8:30 a.m. - 7p.m. Tue, Wed and Thur.

If you are fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking:

- Call 911 if you are in immediate danger
- Call the National Domestic Violence hotline for free and confidential services. Call 1-800-799-SAFE or text 1-800-787-3223 or visit www.thehotline.com

PATHLIGHTS - Grandparents Raising Children Support Group, the fourth Monday of every month starts at 11 a.m. This event is free. Registration required: Call 708.362.0219 or email mmiitoraj@pathlights.org.

Did you know PATHLIGHTS offers community resources to older adult relatives who provide a vital safety net to children? Join the new support group for inspiration encouragement, and education about resources that are available to help you.

ENVISION UNLIMITED Empowering People. Creating Possibilities. Welcome to the recovery drop-in center. The drop-in center is dedicated to people who lived experiences of mental illness. It is a non-clinical setting that includes recreational activities like game nights, karaoke, movies, and outings, as well as skill building classes such a self-care, budgeting skills, nutrition, computers and more. Additionally, participants can join on three outside excursion each month. Location: 9648 S Pulaski, Oak Lawn, IL 60453, call 708-512-0048 Mon-Friday 3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 12-4 p.m. Visit www.envisionunlimited.org.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 943 East Lincoln Highway, Ford Heights, IL 60411 WWW.CORNERSTONE-CDC.ORG. Job securing opportunities for success (SOS) offer all services at no cost. Certifications: Bio-Hazard/COVID-19 Clean Up, Construction Flagger/Construction Forklift, Environmental Abatement (Asbestos, Lead, RRP, & Mold), Firs Aid/CPR, Home Inspection Certification, OSHA Safety Certification, Armed & Unarmed Security, and Job readiness Training and Employment Opportunities.

CEDA is excited to announce that they are processing Barrier Removal Program Rental Assistance application. To qualify for this program, you must:

- Be working and provide proof of employment, enrolled in a vocational training program or provide supporting documentation to show that you are seeking employment
- Provide proof of current SNAP enrollment or proof of a recent (within past nine months) SNAP removal/termination
- Provide proof of residency in Suburban Cook County
- Provide proof of identification
- Meet CEDA program income guidelines

If you feel that you meet the criteria and are interested in participating in this program, request a query at brprental@cedaorg.net.

The Adler Planetarium offers a variety of discounted tickets throughout the year. Upcoming **FREE** museum days for Illinois residents are Wednesday evenings from 4–10 p.m.

Upcoming **FREE** Field Museum in 2023: February 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 20.

The **Art Institute of Chicago** is **FREE** Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from January 9–March 24, 2023. To receive **FREE** admission tickets, Illinois residents must reserve them online in advance.

Shedd Aquarium upcoming **FREE** museum days for Illinois Residents February 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, and 28. Advance reservations are required: no tickets will be available onsite. A \$3-per order transaction fee applies to Illinois Free Day tickets reserved online.