

Staff Development and Retreat Day at The Botanic Gardens a Key to Success for IWSE programming!



On August 23rd of this year IWSE staff and teachers spent the day at the Chicago Botanic Gardens Early Childhood Center to engage with some of their teachers and directors and learn more about their STEM programming and how they utilize outdoor spaces. We participated in a hands on workshop that highlighted the STEM work that is being done at CBG.

Later that morning we had trauma informed expert, Terese Castellanos, LCSW work with our staff on recognizing secondary trauma and some of the experiences we have to understand as we work within our classroom environments. Early childhood education can bring high stress levels and can impact our ability to be at our best in the classrooms.

Later in the afternoon we enjoyed a catered meal and did some team building and stress reduction activities. It was a great day for IWSE.



IWSE teachers and staff had an amazing day of learning, relaxation and stress reduction in the beautiful garden

A Focus on STE(A)M Curriculum in our Early Childhood Classrooms.

STE(A)M activities or (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) are encouraged in Early Childhood Education. However, recently we have understood that these skills and opportunities can be found everywhere in the environment. Infants, toddlers and young children are naturally exploring the world around them in all that they do. It is up to us as early educators to encourage this exploration and spark a desire in STE(A)M work while the brain is learning and developing so quickly.



Our Pre-K students explore butterfly larva as they begin to build their cocoons

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IWSE Hosts Local Legislators as They Support the 10th Anniversary of Child Safety Laws in Illinois

In August IWSE hosted KID, Inc. and multiple State lawmakers in support of Danny's Law, a crib law that was passed 10 years ago along with multiple other infant and child safety laws in the State of Illinois. It was a beautiful summer morning. Some of our teachers and board members were present for the event to support this law and take a stand for child safety.

Illinois Representative Jan Schakowsky and US Representative Bobby Rush were two of the politicians that were present to support this achievement and their commitment to infant and child safety. IWSE was glad to serve as a backdrop for all of the Early Childhood Programs in the State of Illinois.



Years ago IWSE purchased all new cribs at both of our program sites in response to this law's passing in 2008. IWSE believes that child safety awareness is critical in our consumer products and we stand behind and support "Danny's Law".



US Representative Bobby Rush and State Representative Jan Schakowsky speak during the 10 year anniversary of "Danny's Law" which was created to protect children

Director's Corner:

Baby Toddler Nursery:

Where has the summer gone? I can hardly believe that October is already here. I would like to thank all the families who attended our annual open house in September. I hope you had fun and enjoyed the dishes from around the world. I would also like to welcome new families to our program. Below are a few important dates to remember:

November 23-24, 2018 CLOSED for Thanksgiving break

December 5, 2018 Early Dismissal

December 24-31, 2018 CLOSED for Holiday Break



Pamela Staples

Teen Baby Nursery/Family Support:

Greetings IWSE families!!! We had quite an adventurous summer from having a family day at the Lincoln Park Zoo to bringing a traveling zoo to our Center and oh how fun that was! As we start the new program year we look forward to more exciting and engaging activities and learning. Fire Prevention week is Oct 7-13 so please check out important information on our parent board as reminders and safety tips will be posted weekly. The Family Support Team would like to extend a special welcome to Bushra Ahsan who recently joined the team as our Home Visitor.



Tiffany Culpepper

Northwestern Athletic Department Volunteers Support IWSE this Summer.

The Northwestern University baseball program came out to IWSE in support of our two facilities. Many athletes helped out in our classrooms working with infants and toddlers while others picked up brushes and rollers and gave us a fresh coat of paint.

It was another great day of community volunteerism in Evanston. NU has supported IWSE through their Athletic Department for many years. Thanks again, Northwestern Baseball, for all the hard work and support!



Northwestern Athletes help in the classroom, paint Baby Toddler Nursery a beautiful blue while others pose in front of Teen Baby Nursery. It was a great day of support by Northwestern University's Athletic Department

Special Recognition of Baby Toddler Nursery 5 year NAEYC Re- Accreditation

Thanks to Director, Pam Staples and all of the Baby Toddler teachers and staff for their amazing work!

Congratulations!

The Zoo comes to the IWSE Home Visiting Program Families of Evanston and Skokie/Morton Grove.

Our Family Support /Home Visiting program has recently added 60 slots in the Skokie/Morton Grove Community with school District 69. We brought many of our Evanston and Skokie/Morton Grove families and children together for a great experience with the Scales and Tales Traveling Petting Zoo.

All of our parents and children loved seeing and petting the animals. A chinchilla, baby chicks, a hedgehog, a pig and even an 8 foot snake made the trip to IWSE. What a great experience for all of our families to get together, learn and enjoy one another. Thanks to Scales and Tales Petting Zoo for travelling to our program at IWSE!



Staff, parents and children all had an opportunity to hold and play with one or more of the zoo animals at IWSE. What fun!!!

Lets welcome our new IWSE staff at Baby Toddler, Administration and the Family Support Program!

Baby Toddler Nursery:

Nikaya McWilliams recently started as our Assistant Director at the Baby Toddler Nursery. Nikaya attended Northern Illinois University and received a bachelors degree in Early Child Development and a Master's degree from National Louis University in Early Childhood Administration. Nikaya brings years of experience as an Early childhood teacher as well as working with women and families in the City of Chicago. Lets all welcome Nikaya to IWSE!



Nikaya McWilliams

Assistant Director, BTN

IWSE Administration

Nancy Phillips comes to IWSE via Ohio but is a long time resident of Evanston and has years of experience in early childhood education and non-profit development work and fundraising. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago bringing years of expertise and skill to IWSE . She hopes to lead our development and communications department into the future. Welcome Nancy!



Nancy Phillips

Director of Development

Family Support:

Bushra Ahsan is now our newest Home Visitor! She comes to IWSE as a former participant in our Home Visiting/ Family Support Program in the D69 community. Bushra has her Bachelors of Arts and Education from Pakistan and ECE credentialing from Wright College in Chicago. She served as a Parent Mentor with D69 and will continue to support the children and families in her new role. We are excited to bring Bushra on to our team and share her knowledge and expertise.



Bushra Ahsan

Family Support Specialist

Contact Us

For more information about becoming involved with your child's school, or learning more about IWSE programs, please contact:

IWSE

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Evanston, Illinois 60202

(847) 491-9650

Visit us on the web at
www.iwse.org

Donate on line and support our programming today!

IWSE Staff Spotlight:



Geri Pace recently completed 43 years at the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston as a teacher at the Baby Toddler Nursery.

Geri currently works in the Peacock 2 classroom with some of our toddlers. Geri brings years of experience, commitment and dedication to the children and families of IWSE.

It is an honor to have had Geri with us for so many years and we are grateful for her service and the high level of skill, nurturing and care she provides our children.

Congratulations & Thank You!!!