



Welcome Back IWSE Families!

Thanks to all of the IWSE family and friends for your patience. We are excited to announce the reopening of the IWSE facilities on July 20th with new guidelines in place. Responsibility for implementing the COVID-19 risk management policy and developing of this plan is in line with the Center for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Department of Children and Family Services. The agency plan contains all of the recommended and required changes per the guidance of these groups. We have also enhanced our risk management procedures. Any child, parent or staff member suspected of having COVID-19, diagnosed with COVID-19, or having been in contact with persons suspected of or diagnosed with COVID-19 shall be excluded from the center for a minimum of 2-5 days and may have to quarantine for up to 14 days. A test will need to be done with negative test results in order to return to the center with written documentation that they are no longer at risk. Any person who has traveled out of the country via airplane or motor vehicle will be required to quarantine for 14 days and/or provide a negative test prior to return. New State travel guidelines and restrictions will be followed as they change and are updated. Our current hours of operations at both centers are from 8am-4pm. See full guidelines at www.iwse.org. With all of these new changes, we are committed to continue our high quality of care, education and support to our children and families.



Pam Staples, Site Director, providing hard-to-find supplies, masks worn by children made by our Board and volunteers!

Our Communities Working Together!

Over the last several months of being shut down and shifting our focus to emergency support, we have relied heavily on our relationships and partnerships with other organizations and various community groups during the Coronavirus pandemic. Very early on, we knew that our families would need financial support and other aid to make it through these unprecedented times.



The Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) stepped up and provided over \$12,000, the United Way \$25,000 and The FDC Foundation \$15,000 in emergency aid that was converted to \$100 Visa gift cards for our families and staff in need. On top of the emergency assistance, ECF has provided three operational grants totaling \$75k that has helped us to keep our staff working full time and our agency running. During this time we had

various community members and organizations also provide support. Cradle to Crayons provided dozens of boxes of toothpaste, shampoo, hairbrushes, school supplies and more that was given out on a weekly basis with the gift cards. Share Our Spare also provided dozens more boxes full of toys, diapers, and needed bathroom supplies. Kemone Hendricks and some of our board members worked on creating and distributing home-made masks to our families. Others donated volunteer time and resources to support all of our efforts. Without these partnerships and community support and engagement, IWSE would not have been able to make the powerful impact we have during this time. Thank you to all of our supporters, friends and partners in this effort!

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Community Partnership and Advocacy is the Key to Success in Early Childhood Education!



IWSE has been a leader in the Early Childhood Community for many years. During the last year specifically, IWSE has been the fiscal agent and chair of the Evanston Early Childhood Council (EECC) which is comprised of over 35 Early Childhood programs and ECE leaders in the community of Evanston. Due to the financial challenges of the State of Illinois and across the country, Early Childhood has been hit hard in funding, grants and our usual financial support. Due to COVID -19 we have been unable to host the fundraising events we normally do. This has demanded a need to communicate with our political leaders and representatives. We were fortunate to have met as a coalition with Rep. Robyn Gable, Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz and Rep. Laura Fine who represent our community in Springfield. They were very receptive and interested in the challenges facing our EC community and were surprised to hear of some of the funding deficits that we are confronting. We hope to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus and continue our advocacy work and make sure everyone understands that Early Childhood is an essential part of our economy and must be financially supported. We look forward to continuing our leadership in Evanston and in partnership with the other early childhood providers to make lasting and systemic change in our industry.

Director's Corner:

Baby Toddler Nursery:

I would like to welcome the families and staff back to the program. Our first week was a test of our COVID-19 resiliency. There is an uncertainty on all fronts and may continue to be. But, we are determined to maintain safety and stay vigilant in our efforts. As week three has approached, children, parents and staff have become accustomed to our "New Normal". This includes having temperatures taken and recorded upon arrival and at any point of the day. If children or staff feel sick or start to display any symptoms, staff will be asked to leave and contact their physician. Parents will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their child. We will continue to practice social distancing, washing our hands and wearing our masks.

We also continue to give support in the best way we know how and look forward to staying healthy with you in the process!



Pamela Staples

Teen Baby Nursery/Family Support:

Welcome Back! We are so excited to be returning to work with all of you. The past few months we experienced quite a bit of change in our normal way of operating by shifting to virtual education and virtual home visits with our team of Family Support Specialists. This shift has allowed us to continue to offer high quality support and education even though we were unable to be in person. As we move forward to reopening our centers and offices, you will notice that there have been quite a few adjustments to our classrooms to provide additional space for free play and instruction as well as to our procedures which will allow us to operate in the safest manner. I want to say thank you in advance for allowing us to walk alongside you as we strive to provide the best care and education to support you and your children in this educational journey of growth and development.



Tiffany Culpepper

The Effect Racism Has On Young Children

When we enter the world as babies, we enter with pure innocence. We feed on our immediate surroundings and the feelings of safety and security keep us going. All the things that help to build a healthy child often come from our environment. What we are exposed to in this critical time can play an important role in how we see the world. When George Floyd was murdered by the Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in late May of this year, it set in motion a level of action and activism in society at large not seen in decades.

While this type of anti-black racism is nothing new, there was something particularly appalling about this racial incident, at this time, in the collective mind of our country. That being said, incidents like these are nearly impossible to shelter children from as much as we may try. Depending on the immediate environment, prejudiced behavior and racism can become a normal part of many children of color's lives. In a New York Times article entitled: *The Impact of Racism on Children's Health*, Dr. Maria Trent, a professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine says that "Racism is a significant social determinant of health clearly prevalent in our society now." From the beginning of life in the womb through entering the world, children can feel the effects of racism. Studies show that the effects can run deeper than we know. Based on their parents' experiences, those stressful feelings created by racism are transferred to children. These factors have shown to increase learning disabilities, behavioral problems, as well as mental and physical health issues. Dr. Spinks-Franklin, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician, said that "racial awareness in children follows a set of milestones." At the age of 3, children can differentiate skin color and human variations without any value placed on it. By 7, children have racial permanency and become comfortable or uncomfortable in their own skin. At age 9 children can more easily recognize when they are being treated differently.



Finding schools and daycare facilities that show diversity with toys, books and the staff will be key to decreasing the effects of societal racism on the health of your child. Racism may never totally go away, but we can equip our professionals with as much cultural education and ethnic inclusivity as we can to deal with this complicated society. The magic is in the effort, so let's do our best to intentionally make safe spaces for all children.

Children can begin to perceive race and the effects of institutional racism as early as 3 years of age!



Save The Date

A CONVERSATION, PANEL DISCUSSION, AND Q&A WITH ANTI- RACISM ACTIVIST

JANE ELLIOTT



Wednesday, October 7th 6:00pm – 8:00pm
-Virtual Event-

Moderated by **Cristina Pacione-Zayas, PhD** of the Erikson Institute

Join us in a discussion about the intersectionality of Race, Social Justice and Early Childhood Education

Presented by:

evanston!
community
foundation



Early
Childhood
Alliance

Erikson
Institute

Contact El Cabrel Lee for more information 704-858-5694 elee@iwse.org

Registration Information to Follow

IWSE Grieves the Loss of Two Special Volunteers



On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and families at the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, we are deeply sorry about the loss of Suzi Reese and Sally Schwarzlose, beloved volunteers with our non-profit organization.

Suzi and Sally loved our infants and toddlers! Their energy, commitment and excitement every day they were engaged with IWSE was evident to all around them.



As your families grieve, know that we are remembering and honoring their service and commitment to quality early care and education. Your ongoing support and kindness enables their spirit to live on and impact our families in need. We wish your families love, peace and the fond memory of their kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,

The IWSE Family

If you would like to support IWSE and our mission of serving infants, children and their families, please go to our website and follow the donate button:

www.iwse.org

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Contact Us

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

IWSE

2200 Main Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202
(847) 491-9650

Learn more at www.iwse.org

To donate, create a memorial or partner with IWSE.

Contact: El Cabrel Lee,
email: elee@iwse.org

IWSE Staff Spotlight:

While many of our IWSE staff stand out and are committed to the children and families we serve, we wanted to highlight a few individuals that helped to run our emergency distribution for four months straight, meeting families in the parking lot consistently every Monday afternoon and distributing thousands of dollars in gift cards and essential supplies.

Pamela Staples Tiffany Culpepper

Natasha Brown Stephen Vick

Mary Aceron Lorie Saint Cyr

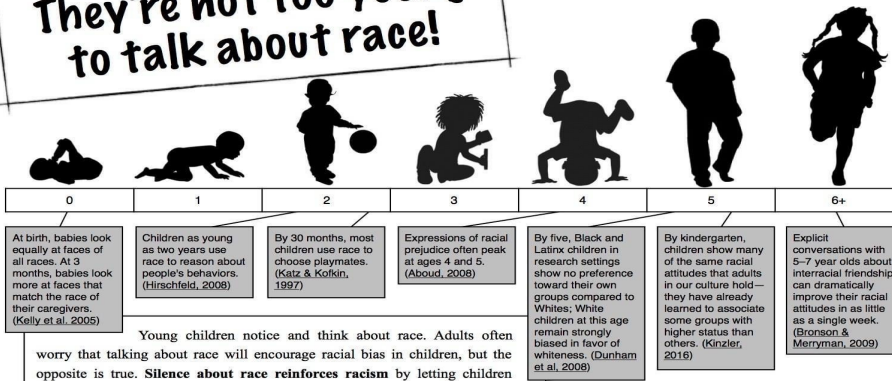
New Development and Communications Director Joins the IWSE Team.

We want to welcome El Cabrel Lee to the IWSE family. El brings years of development experience and specific efforts in support of Early Childhood Education throughout his career.



El grew up in Evanston and is now back in the Chicago area. We look forward to his experience and expertise to help move IWSE in a positive and exciting direction. Please join us as we welcome El back to the Chicago area and as a member of the IWSE leadership team.

They're not too young to talk about race!



Young children notice and think about race. Adults often worry that talking about race will encourage racial bias in children, but the opposite is true. **Silence about race reinforces racism** by letting children draw their own conclusions based on what they see. Teachers and families can play a powerful role in helping children of all ages develop positive attitudes about race and diversity and skills to promote a more just future—but only if we talk about it!

- Do some learning of your own** to get ready for conversations with children. Here are some good places to seek *information and training*:
- Teaching Tolerance — tolerance.org
 - Raising Race Conscious Children — raceconscious.org
 - Embrace Race — embrace.org
 - Teaching for Change — teachingforchange.org
 - AQR/TA Cooperative — aqrta.coop
 - Fortify Community Health (CA) — fortifycommunityhealth@gmail.com
 - Delaware Valley Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (PA) — dvaeyc.org