

IWSE helps over 70 families and staff with COVID-19 Emergency Funds

Since Monday, March 30th, IWSE provided over \$7,500 worth of emergency diapers, wipes, and Visa Gift Cards to dozens of families in the community of Evanston, Skokie and Morton Grove. Staff who are in need also received additional resources. The Emergency Fund is supporting our program participants and staff who are in critical financial need due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Our third Drive-Thru distribution of emergency funds will be held Monday, April 13th for the families we serve. We have continued to practice Social-Distancing and other safety precautions throughout these interactions. In addition, we felt honored and a great sense of community to help others thanks to your contributions.

Please search [IWSE Emergency Fund on www.GoFundMe.com](https://www.GoFundMe.com) to support our initiative.



Pictured: Staff providing hard-to-find supplies, IWSE volunteers make masks for the families & staff!

The Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child is quickly approaching April 11th-17th. This is an important celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize early childhood programs & services to meet those needs. This is our best chance every year to shine a bright light on the importance of early education and activity to massively increase the chances for later life success.



IWSE is keenly aware that this year presents an especially difficult set of circumstances amid the current public health crisis. Many of you have valid questions and concerns about the tough decisions many educators are having to make during this difficult period. This year, we will focus on providing resources that can be used wherever young children are being celebrated in ways that help keep us safe. It is the duty of IWSE, the community, and the nation to continue the push for educating our youngest to give them their very best chance to be prepared for kindergarten. For additional resources, support, and information, please visit the www.naeyc.org site and www.iwse.org.

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“WE PARTIED WITH A PURPOSE!” Annual Mardi Gras Fundraiser was a Huge Success!

This was a February to remember. We came, we saw, we partied! Our board of directors, staff, sponsors, and our patrons showed up in a major way for IWSE’s Mardi Gras Fundraiser at Mayne Stage.

Our fundraising goal was \$100,000, challenging with no development lead for a few months. Thanks to our tremendous Board of Directors, Sponsors and Staff, we are happy to report that we met and exceeded that goal! Special thanks to our newly-hired Development & Communications Director, El Cabrel Lee for organizing and facilitating our Development Committee. This gives us so much to build on for future events. We know that we have the team, the ideas, and the ability to raise much needed unrestricted funding for our community programs!



Saturday, February 22nd, 2020. Fun times at our signature fundraiser!
Celebrate Mardi Gras with the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston at the exquisite Mayne Stage.

Director’s Corner:

Baby Toddler Nursery:

We are in the midst of unprecedented times where we are navigating through a global health crisis, COVID-19. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude in having you all be a part of our family. That being said, we want to continue supporting you in any way that we can. Teaching staff is stepping up in doing their part to ensure they are building deeper relationships with parents by using virtual classroom engagement and activities. They are reworking the lesson plans to adapt to these unusual circumstances.

In closing, I would like to say continue practicing social distancing, wash hands often, and don’t touch your eyes, face and mouth. We are here for you when you need us! I am so grateful for all of you. **#WEAREINTHISTOGETHER**



Pamela Staples

Teen Baby Nursery/Family Support:

Time flies when you’re having fun! Teen Baby Nursery and Family Support have been doing some amazing things over the last few months. From active story time with an EPL Librarian to Family Fun Reading Night to Basic CPR Training for Parents, we are continuing to enhance our support for the early growth and learning of our children. Despite our current situation with the shift in how we provide our services I wanted to share that it is a privilege to work with such a dedicated staff but also an amazing group of young learners. I look forward to seeing what is in store for the months to come! Stay safe, Stay Healthy!



Tiffany Culpepper

It's Time To Play! Tom Kendall Gross Motor and Play Space is Up and Running.

To be a kid again! The Tom Kendall Gross Motor and Play Space is now complete. Thanks to the generous funding from the George R. Kendall Family Foundation and the City of Evanston's Block Grant, IWSE children can continue to build crucial motor skills all year long.

Filled with books, toys and a large open space to exercise, it's easy to forget about those cold days in Evanston when outside isn't really an option. Factor in the rubberized heated floors and the play room is definitely a little chunk of heaven! This amazing space is accessible to all 70 of our children from the Baby Toddler Nursery.



Children Playing in The New Tom Kendall Gross Motor and Play Space!

[Upcoming events this Summer!](#)

Due to COVID-19, All Summer Activities Have Been Postponed Until Further Notice.

Activities to do with Children During Quarantine

Who knew that you could make playdough right in your kitchen? Without any harsh chemicals or difficult to find ingredients. Most of us already have on hand all of the things needed for this fun-filled activity.

Playdough Recipe for Cooked Playdough:

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1/4 Cup Salt
- 2 Tbsp. Cream of Tartar
- 1 Cup Water
- 1 Tbsp. Cooking Oil
- Food Coloring (Optional)

Mix all the ingredients in a medium size pot and cook for 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly until thick. Knead as it cools. Store in an airtight container.

*These activities are great for strengthening the parent-child bond!



Did You Know? Reading aloud to your baby sets the stage for school readiness?

The Fun Continues!

Toilet Roll Race Cars!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Tools:

Scissors / Craft knife
Hole puncher
Glue
Paint brush

Supplies / ingredients:

Toilet paper roll or tube
Acrylic paint (can use washable paint or finger paint)
Cardboard
Paper for decorations/stickers (optional)
Small prong fasteners/brads



Let your imagination go wild or use instructions provided!

<https://www.handimania.com/diy/toilet-paper-roll-race-cars.html>

GET CREATIVE DURING SUNNY DAYS

Not into crafts?

Sidewalk chalk gets your kids outside to get some much needed vitamin D and it is so much fun!

Go old school and draw **hopscotch** squares on the ground.



Advocacy Corner:

The Evanston Early Childhood Council (EECC), currently led by IWSE, is made up of over 40 early childhood programs in Evanston. The council was created to provide support and advocacy for early childhood leadership and families as well as to help shape the policy and practice in Evanston around 0-5 services. During the COVID-19 crisis the EECC has been working with our partner organizations to provide up to date emergency information while communicating with city leadership to help respond to the childcare needs of our first responders and essential service workers. Though most center based care has been closed, the council has been working on the creation of an in-home volunteer pool of childcare providers to meet the individual childcare needs in our community. Safety concerns are high in this situation, the Council believes that in-home care is the safest and most individualized response to support this need. The EECC and IWSE are helping to provide leadership, direction and support in the 0-5 learning community during COVID-19.

Stephen Vick, MA
Executive Director
Infant Welfare Society of Evanston



Contact Us

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

IWSE

2200 Main Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202

(847) 491-9650

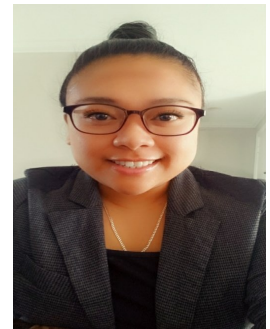
Learn more at www.iwse.org

To donate or partner with IWSE contact: El Cabrel Lee, email: elee@iwse.org

IWSE Staff Spotlight:

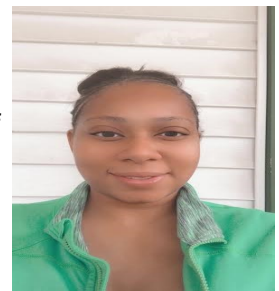
Mary Aceron

Congratulations to Mary Aceron on her new role as Master Teacher at TBN. Over the past four years Mary has proven herself to be very dedicated and passionate in her work with children and families. Mary stated, "with IWSE I have found my purpose and that's to serve the families and community to better support our children." We couldn't agree more! Thanks



Natasha Brown

Natasha Brown has been a part of the Baby Toddler Nursery family since January 2012. She started as an Assistant Teacher in the infant room and quickly moved into the Head Teachers position within the same classroom. Natasha has a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Child Studies. She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Family Counseling. As of March 4, 2020 Natasha moved into Family Advocate position where she will be providing resources and guidance to families.



Let's all welcome Natasha!