



Collaboration for  
Early Childhood  
*Strong Start, Bright Future*

# Early Childhood Resource Directory

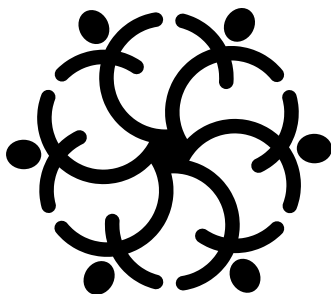
OAK PARK | RIVER FOREST | FOREST PARK

**2016-2017 Edition**

[collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org)







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## Collaboration for Early Childhood

*collab4kids.org*

### **How Can the Collaboration for Early Childhood Help You?**

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. The Collaboration's parent information and support programs provide parents with tools, information and connections to resources and other parents to enable them to gain confidence and be successful.

Contact the Collaboration for Early Childhood ([info@collab4kids.org](mailto:info@collab4kids.org)) in order to receive our newsletter, find timely and important information on parenting and child development and to stay up-to-date on parenting workshops and other events of interest for parents of children before birth and through age five.

Our website also provides links to a resource library for parents which includes information about health & safety, your child's development, children with special needs, and much more.



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

*Join our League and become a member of the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country!*

Join us for our free monthly events:

Second Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 am

Nineteenth Century Club

and

Drinks & Dialogue, 5:30-7:00 pm

Third Wednesday of the month

Doc Ryan's

Complete calendar of speakers and topics on our website calendar



Have questions about membership or the League in general?

Call us at 708-342-0803

or email us at [lwvoprf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvoprf@sbcglobal.net)



Add your voice and make a difference!

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*The content of this publication has been compiled solely by the Collaboration for Early Childhood. The information provided herein with regard to hours and programming of listed facilities is listed as it was provided to the Collaboration. Any of the information listed herein may change at any time. The Collaboration in no way intends to convey a rating or endorsement of any provider nor to indicate that these listings are comprehensive.*

# CHILD CARE CENTERS & PRESCHOOLS LISTINGS

The listings in this directory include some preschools with extended day options. When exploring a school with extended hours, look at its preschool programming, as well as the quality of its child care facility.

Unless noted, all of the child care facilities listed have ongoing enrollment as long as there are openings. Please note that some programs may fill up in January or February for the following fall. Typically, the age eligibility listed is the child's age as of September 1st of the upcoming school year. Many programs housed in religious institutions will give preference to members. Call for specific information if you are interested in a particular program.

By law, all child care agencies must be open to children with special needs. However, some facilities may work better for a child with special needs and this should be considered when making your decision.

## Parenthesis Preschool Fair

Each January, Parenthesis Family Center hosts an annual preschool fair where parents can explore many local preschools. For more information, call 708-848-2227 or go online to *parenthesis-info.org*.

## Choosing Center-Based Care & Preschools

Children who have rich learning environments during their early years are better prepared for school and are more likely to have the social-emotional skills needed for kindergarten and beyond.

Look for a place where your child is warmly welcomed, where safety and health are priorities and where learning happens through play. Choose a center or school where children experience words and develop pre-reading skills through books, songs, and meaningful conversations with their caregivers.

Make appointments to visit each place on your list and plan to stay for a while to watch what goes on. An overview of what to look for and questions to ask can be found on page 4.

## **ExceleRate Illinois** ([exceleRateillinois.com](http://exceleRateillinois.com))

The state of Illinois rates all licensed early childhood programs with a quality rating system called ExceleRate Illinois.

Gold, silver and bronze ratings all indicate that a center or a preschool exceeds the basic state licensing requirements. The ratings indicate increasing levels of program quality based on the physical environment, staff education and training, and curriculum and activities for the children. This print edition specifies if a center has been given a gold, silver, or bronze ExceleRate rating as of December 2015.

## **Child Care/Preschools**

In order to be licensed, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) requires that child care centers and preschools meet minimum standards of health, safety, and appropriate practices for group care of children. The summary of DCFS licensing standards for homes and centers can be found on the DCFS website, [illinois.gov/dcfs](http://illinois.gov/dcfs). (Under the “Brighter Futures” tab, click on “Finding Quality Child Care.”) These standards are also available at the Oak Park Public Library. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed voluntary measures of quality that show that a center has met higher standards that go beyond state requirements. For more information about NAEYC accreditation and quality standards, visit their website, [families.naeyc.org](http://families.naeyc.org), or call 800-424-2460.

For a comparison of NAEYC and DCFS standards, go to the online Resource Directory at [collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org).

## **License-Exempt Child Care**

Preschools that are part of an existing school system – public, faith-based, or Montessori – as well as government programs, are not required to meet DCFS standards; these centers are noted as “License-exempt” in the Early Childhood Resource Directory.

## **If You Cannot Afford Child Care**

If you cannot afford long-term child care, Action for Children can help ([actforchildren.org](http://actforchildren.org)), or 312-823-1100. This state agency oversees an assistance program for low-income working families.

Action for Children will send you the necessary application forms if your family qualifies.

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**ABC Toon Town, Inc.** ● ■

146-148 W. Harrison Street, Oak Park IL 60304

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**PHONE: 708-848-9714**

**WEB: ABCTOONTOWN.COM**

**FAX: 708-848-9783**

**EMAIL: ABCTOON98@SBCGLOBAL.NET**

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 weeks-3 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm, M-F

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program (limited spaces) • Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS Standards • Toilet training not required • 49 total slots available

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**ABC Toon Town II** ● ■

208 W. Harrison Street, Oak Park IL 60304

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**PHONE: 708-848-0701**

**WEB: ABCTOONTOWN.COM**

**FAX: 708-848-0702**

**EMAIL: ABCTOON98@SBCGLOBAL.NET**

Full-Time/Part-Time Preschool, Kindergarten: 3-12 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm, M-F

Extended Care: Before and after school care available

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 8/1 • Flexible hours • Offers Illinois State Funded Preschool for All (part-time preschool) designed to meet the needs of children and families with stress/risk factors; developmental screening, parent interview used to determine eligibility • Toilet training required • 65 total slots available ● **SILVER EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**Academy of Movement & Music Preschool** ■

605 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-848-2329**

**WEB: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC.COM**

**FAX: 708-848-2391**

**EMAIL: STEPHANIECLEMENS@HOTMAIL.COM**

Preschool: 2-6 years; 8:45-11:00 am, 12:45-3:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 5/1 (2-3 years); 8/1 (4-6 years) • Days vary by age • License-exempt • Registration usually 1st Sunday in February • Toilet training not required

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**Alcuin Montessori School** ● ■

324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-366-1882**

**WEB: ALCUIN.ORG**

**FAX: 708-386-1892**

**EMAIL: ADMISSION@ALCUIN.ORG**

Full-Time/Part-Time Preschool: 2-3 years, 3-5 years; 8:30-11:30 am,

8:30 am-3:00 pm

Extended day option available (age 3 and up) for Alcuin students

Child/Staff Ratios: 5/1 (age 2); 8/1 (3-6 years) • Days/times vary by age • Financial aid available • License-exempt Montessori school; American Montessori Society • Ongoing enrollment • Parent/caregiver-child classes available for children (12-24 mos) • Toilet training required for children ages 3+



**Ascension Catholic School** ● ■

601 Van Buren Street, Oak Park IL 60304

**PHONE: 708-386-7282****WEB: ASCENSIONOAKPARK.COM****FAX: 708-524-4796****EMAIL: INFO@ASCENSIONOAKPARK.COM**Preschool: 3-5 years; 9:00-11:40 am, 12:20-3:00 pm

Extended day option available for Ascension students (7:00 am-6:00 pm)

Child/Staff Ratios: 15/2 (age 3); 20/2 (age 4); 25/2 (ages 5-6) • License-exempt Parochial Catholic school • Open house on last Sunday in January • Registration for parish members in February; open enrollment in March • Some scholarships available for parish members • Toilet training required

**Blocks 24-Hour Child Care Center** ● ■

815 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park IL 60304

**PHONE: 708-445-1572****FAX: 708-445-1573****EMAIL: BLOCKSCENTERS@GMAIL.COM**Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 weeks-5 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Flexible hours available • Provides toilet-training services • Spanish language and music & movement classes available • 43 total slots available

**Children's Garden Montessori School** ● ■

165 N. Lombard Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-6570****WEB: CHILDRENSGARDENMONTESSORI.ORG****FAX: 708-784-1164****EMAIL: RMAWANI@AOL.COM**Preschool: 2 years-6 years; 8:45-11:45 amFull-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: Preschool: 10/1; Child care: 6/1 (ages 2-3); 8/1 (ages 3-6)

• License-exempt Montessori school; Association Montessori Internationale • Optional Spanish language immersion (for toilet-trained children ages 3+) • Toilet training not required • 54 total slots available

● *Full-time Child Care*■ *Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

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**Concordia University Early Childhood Education Center** ● ■

Christopher Bldg., 7400 Augusta Boulevard, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-209-3099**

**WEB: CUCHICAGO.EDU/EARLYCHILDHOOD**

**FAX: 708-488-4304**

**EMAIL: CRFECEC@CUCHICAGO.EDU**

Preschool: 9:00-11:30 am, 1:00-3:30 pm

Kindergarten: 8:45-11:45 am or 8:45 am-3:15 pm

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 weeks-8 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meets NAEYC optimal standards • After school care available (K-2nd grade) • Applications accepted on last Wednesday in February for preschool • License-exempt Religious Lutheran school that chooses to be licensed; National Lutheran School Association Accredited • Ongoing registration for full-time programs • Toilet training required for children ages 3+ • 192 total slots available ★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED, GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**Creative Children's Day Care Center** ● ■

6139 W. North Avenue, Unit #45, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-445-9522**

**FAX: 708-445-1637**

Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Before and after school care available • Flexible hours • Toilet training not required

★ **SILVER EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**First Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten** ● ■

820 Ontario Street, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-1190**

**FAX: 708-383-4662**

**EMAIL: FBC820@YAHOO.COM**

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 2 years-12 years; 6:30 am-6:00 pm

After school care available for Kdg-6th graders (child/staff ratio 20/1) •

Non-denominational Christian center • Toilet training must be in process •

Transportation available from school to center • 130 total slots

★ **SILVER EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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*Full-time Child Care*



*Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

**First United Church Nursery School** ■

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301

**PHONE: 708-848-4910    WEB: FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM**  
**FAX: 708-386-7480    EMAIL: JWWHITE@FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM**

Preschool: 2-6 years; 2 1/2-, 3-, and 3 1/2-hour options available, T-F

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 4/1 (age 2); 5/1 (age 3); 6/1 (ages 4-6) • Financial aid available • License-exempt but chooses to carry DCFS license • Open house on 3rd Tuesday in January • Optional 2-hour Lunch Bunch available • Toilet training required for ages 3+ ★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED, GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

**Forest Park District 91 Junior Kindergarten** ■

At Garfield School, 543 Hannah Avenue, Forest Park IL 60130

**PHONE: 708-366-6945    WEB: FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-366-8044**

Pre-kindergarten: 4 years; 8:15-11:00 am; 12:00-2:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 10/1 • Limited enrollment (40 total slots available) • Must be age 4 by September 1 and reside in Forest Park • Registration begins in August, by appointment only • \$35 materials fee per semester

**The Giving Tree Early Learning Center Forest Park Campus** ●

7510 W. Randolph Avenue, Forest Park IL 60130

**PHONE: 708-209-1555    WEB: GIVINGTREESCHOOLS.COM**  
**EMAIL: INFO@GIVINGTREESCHOOLS.COM**

Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS Standards • Toilet training not required

**Glasser Preschool at Oak Park Temple** ■

1235 N. Harlem Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-386-3937    WEB: GLASSERPRESCHOOL.COM**  
**FAX: 708-386-0955    EMAIL: GLASSERPRESCHOOL@OAKPARKTEMPLE.ORG**

Preschool: 2-5 years; 8:30-11:00 am; 12:00-2:30 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meet NAEYC optimal standards • Extended day option (8:30 am-1:15 pm); Financial aid available • Ongoing enrollment • Religious Jewish preschool open to all regardless of religious affiliation • Parent/caregiver-child classes available for children age 9 months to 2 1/2 years • Toilet training not required • 78 total slots available

★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED**

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## Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education


Priory Campus, 7200 W. Division Street, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-714-9150    WEB: DOM.EDU/GOEDERT**  
**FAX: 708-714-9151    EMAIL: PRESCHOOL@DOM.EDU**

Preschool: 2-5 years; 7:00 am-12:30 pm, 3 days or 5 days

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 7:00 am-6:00 pm, 3 days or 5 days

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meets NAEYC optimal standards • Program of Dominican University • Toilet training required for children age 3+ • 96 total slots available  **NAEYC-ACCREDITED, GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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## Good Shepherd's Learning Center

326 Lake Street, #8, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-386-2060**  
**FAX: 708-386-2059    EMAIL: GSLC97@YAHOO.COM**

Full-Time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS standards • Toilet training not required • 41 total slots available

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## Grace Lutheran School

Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 W. Division Street, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-6900    WEB: GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-366-0966    EMAIL: OFFICE@GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG**

Preschool: Age 3; 8:15-11:30 am; two, three, or five day options

Junior Kindergarten: 8:15-11:30 am; Kindergarten: 8:15 am-3:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 10/1 • Before school care (7:00-8:15 am), extended day available (ages 4-14, 3:00-6:00 pm) • License-exempt Religious Lutheran school; Evangelical Lutheran Education Association • Registraton begins end of January for congregants; open registration March 15 • Toilet training required • 20 slots available per classroom

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## Hephzibah Head Start

Hephzibah Children's Association, 946 North Boulevard, Oak Park IL 60301

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**PHONE: 708-649-7119    WEB: HEPHZIBAHHOME.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-649-7120    EMAIL: MSMITH@HEPHZIBAHHOME.ORG**

Subsidized Preschool: 3 years-5 years; 8:00 am-11:30 am or 12:00-3:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 13/2 • Must reside in West Suburban Cook County • No cost to income-eligible families • Ongoing enrollment • 26 slots available for AM classes, 26 slots available for PM classes • Toilet training highly recommended

 **NAEYC-ACCREDITED, GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**Hephzibah Children's Association** ■

1144 Lake Street, 5th Floor, Oak Park IL 60301

**PHONE: 708-649-7140**    **WEB: HEPHZIBAHHOME.ORG****FAX: 708-649-7194**After-school care: (K-5th grade) at D97 elementary schools until 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 10/1 • Applications accepted in April prior to Kdg for Kdg after-school care; maintains waiting list  
 • Council on Accreditation • Full-day child care available on school holidays & during summer (9 wks), 7:30 am-6:00 pm • Ongoing enrollment • Sliding fee scale

**Howard Mohr Community Center Clubhouse** ■

7640 Jackson Boulevard, Forest Park IL 60130

**PHONE: 708-771-7737**    **WEB: FORESTPARK.NET****FAX: 708-771-7736**    **EMAIL: BPOWERS@FORESTPARK.NET**Before/After School Care: K-6th grade; 6:30-8:15 am; 2:30-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 7/1 • Must reside in Forest Park • Register in late summer for school year • 60 total slots available • Tutoring and transportation available

**Intercultural Montessori Language School** ● ■

301 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-6626**    **WEB: INTERCULTURALMONTESSORI.ORG****FAX: 708-848-0407**    **EMAIL: OAKPARKADMIN@INTERCULTURALMONTESSORI.ORG**Preschool/School: 3-12 years; 8:15 am-12:30, 2:30 or 4:30 pmFull-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 11/1 • Chinese, Japanese, Spanish immersion • Financial aid available • License-exempt Montessori school • Ongoing enrollment • Toilet training required

**Kangaroo Korner Early Learning Center** ●

900 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park IL 60130

**PHONE: 708-366-4452**    **WEB: KANGAROOKORNERLEARNINGCENTER.COM****FAX: 708-689-0356**    **EMAIL: SUZANNE.LOGAN@COMCAST.NET**Full-time Child Care: 15 mos-8 years; 6:30 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 5/1 (15-23 months); 6/1 (age 2); 10/1 (ages 3-4) • After-school care available (ages 5 - 9) • Toilet training not required • 70 total slots available

*Full-time Child Care**Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

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## Keystone Montessori School

7415 W. North Avenue, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-1080**

**WEB: KSMONTESSORI.ORG**

**FAX: 708-366-1083**

**EMAIL: VSHAE@KSMONTESSORI.ORG**

Preschool: 2-4 years; 8:30-11:30 am, days/times vary by age; Kdg: 8:30 am-2:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 6/1 (age 2); 11/1 (ages 3 - 6) • Before/after-school care for Keystone students (ages 4-14), 7:30-8:30 am, 2:45-6:00 pm • License-exempt Montessori School; American Montessori Society, Association Montessori Internationale • Ongoing registration • Parent/caregiver and infant classes available (4-22 mos) • Toilet training not required

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## Kings Kidz Academy Inc.

206 Chicago Avenue, #208, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-434-5463**

**FAX: 708-434-5482**

**EMAIL: KINGSKIDZACADEMY@YAHOO.COM**

Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-midnight

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Toilet training not required • 69 total slots available

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## La Casa Montessori

514 Adams Street, Oak Park IL 60304

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**PHONE: 708-613-0514**

**WEB: LACASAMONTESSORI.ORG**

**FAX: 708-788-3261**

**EMAIL: INFO@LACASAMONTESSORI.ORG**

Preschool: 2 years, 3-4 years; 8:00 am-12:00 pm; School: 5-12 years; 8:00-3:00 pm

Full-Time/Part-Time Extended Child Care: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 5.5/1 • License-exempt Montessori school; American Montessori Society • After-school enrichment programs available • Toilet training not required • 50 total slots available

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## The Language and Music School

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-524-5252**

**WEB: LMSCHOOL.COM**

Preschool: Ages 3-6; 9:30 am-12:30 pm, 12:00-3:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 8/1 • Child care hours as needed • License-exempt; Illinois Music Association • Ongoing enrollment • Spanish immersion available • Toilet training not required

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*Full-time Child Care*



*Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

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**Little Beginnings Daycare and Preschool** ● ■847 W. Madison Street, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-445-0909****FAX: 708-445-7457    EMAIL: BEGINNINGSINC@AOL.COM**Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pmExtended Care: until 12:00 midnight

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS standards

• Toilet training not required ★ **SILVER EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**Montessori Language Academy** ● ■314 Circle Avenue, Forest Park IL 60130

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**PHONE: 708-771-5030    WEB: MONTESSORILANGUAGEACADEMY.COM****FAX: 708-771-5230    EMAIL: INFO@MONTESSORILANGUAGEACADEMY.COM**Preschool/Kindergarten: 3-6 years; 8:45-11:45 amExtended day available: 7:30 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 30/9 • License-exempt Montessori school; American Montessori Society • Japanese language immersion • Ongoing enrollments • Summer programs available • Toilet training required

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**Mosaic Montessori Academy** ● ■At River Forest United Methodist Church, 7970 Lake Street, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 312-351-0074    WEB: MOSAICMONTESSORI.ORG****EMAIL: INFO@MOSAICMONTESSORI.ORG**Preschool: 2-6+ years; 8:30 am-11:45am/ 2:00 pm/ 3:15 pmAfter-school care: 3:15-5:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 10/1 • License-exempt Montessori preschool • AMI/USA Recognized Member for Primary (3-6) Class; AMI/USA Associated Member for Toddler (2-3) Class • Toilet training not required

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**Oak Leaf Academy** ●200 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-212-8410    WEB: OAKLEAFACADEMY.COM****EMAIL: OLA.OAKPARK@GMAIL.COM**Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS Standards • 60 total slots available

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## Oak Park Building Blocks

At Cornerstone Church, 171 N. Cuyler Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302

**PHONE:** 708-386-1033    **WEB:** OAKPARKBUILDINGBLOCKS.COM  
**FAX:** 866-204-9650    **EMAIL:** ADMIN@OAKPARKBUILDINGBLOCKS.COM

Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks -5 years; 7:00 am-5:45 pm

Toilet training required for Pre-K room • 60 total slots available

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## Oak Park Friends

1192 S. Cuyler Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60304

**PHONE:** 708-247-5772    **WEB:** OPFS.ORG  
**FAX:** 708-628-3354    **EMAIL:** INFO@OPFS.ORG

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 wks-12 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS Standards • Flexible hours • 88 total slots available  
• Toilet training not required

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## Oak Park Elementary Schools District 97 Prekindergarten Partnership (PKP)

Longfellow School, 715 S. Highland Avenue, Oak Park IL 60304

**PHONE:** 708-524-3060 EXT 2655    **WEB:** OP97.ORG  
**FAX:** 708-524-3037    **EMAIL:** DFARMER@OP97.ORG

Subsidized Preschool: 3-5 years; M, T, Th & F (8:10-10:50 am or 12:00-2:40 pm);  
Wed (8:10-10:00 am or 12:00-1:50 pm)

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1 • Designed to meet the needs of children and families with stress/risk factors; developmental screening, parent interview used to determine eligibility • License-exempt • Ongoing enrollment if spaces are available • Toilet training not required • 120 Total slots available ★ **SILVER EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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## Oak Park Montessori School-Forest Park location

16 Lathrop Avenue, Forest Park IL 60130

**PHONE:** 708-435-4309    **WEB:** OAKPARKMONTESSORI.COM  
**FAX:** 708-358-8091    **EMAIL:** OAKPARKMONTESSORI@HOTMAIL.COM

Full-time Child Care: 6 wks-6 years; 8:00 am-5:00 pm

License-exempt Montessori School; American Montessori Society • Toilet training not required • 43 total slots available

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*Full-time Child Care*



*Preschool or Part-time Child Care*



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**Oak Park Montessori – Oak Park Location** ● ■

937 Garfield Street, Oak Park IL 60304

**PHONE: 708-358-6000****WEB: OAKPARKMONTESSORI.COM****FAX: 708-358-8091****EMAIL: OAKPARKMONTESSORI@HOTMAIL.COM**Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 6 wks-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pm

License-exempt Montessori School; American Montessori Society • Toilet training not required • 49 total slots available

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**Oak Park River Forest Day Nursery** ● ■

1139 Randolph Street, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-8211****WEB: OPRFDAYNURSERY.ORG****FAX: 708-383-0692****EMAIL: OAKPARKDN@ATT.NET**Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: Ages 2 1/2-6 years; 7:00 am-6:00 pmAccepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 7/1 • Illinois State funded Preschool for All program • Designed to meet the needs of children and families with stress/risk factors; developmental screening, parent interview used to determine eligibility • Sliding fee scale • Toilet training required • 77 Total slots available ★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED AND GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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**Park District of Oak Park Preschool** ■

Administration Building 218 Madison Street, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-725-2106****WEB: PDOP.ORG/PRESCHOOL/****FAX: 708-725-2301****EMAIL: AMANDA.HEIMAN@PDOP.ORG**Preschool: 2-5 years; half-day programs start at 9:00 am; end times vary

Child/Staff Ratios: 6:1 (ages 2-3); 9:1 (ages 3-4); 10:1 (ages 4-5) • License-exempt but chooses to carry DCFS License • January registration for current families, February registration for all remaining slots • Registration online or in-person at two locations (Ridgeland Commons Recreation Complex-415 Lake Street, or Gymnastics &amp; Recreation Center-21 Lake Street) • Several locations throughout Oak Park (Andersen Center, Barrie Center, Carroll Center, Field Center, Longfellow Center) • Toilet training required for children age 3+ • 200 total slots available

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## **Pilgrim Community Nursery School** ■

460 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-5869    WEB: PILGRIMSCHOOL.NET**  
**FAX: 708-848-6880    EMAIL: OFFICE@PILGRIMSCHOOL.NET**

Preschool: 2-5 years; 2 1/2-, 3 1/2- and 4-hour options, M-Th

Child/Staff Ratios: 4/1 (age 2); 8/1 (age 4) • Early Start option 8:00-8:45 am •  
Financial aid available • Friday enrichment option • January registration •  
Toilet training required for children age 3+ • 88 Total slots available

★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED, GOLD EXCELERATE CIRCLE OF QUALITY RATING**

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## **River Forest Community Center Early Childhood Learning Center** ●

Oak Park River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave., Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 708-434-3592    EMAIL: KHOUGHTON@OPRFHS.ORG**

Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-5 years; 7:00 am-5:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 4/1 (6 weeks-3 years); 10/1 (ages 3-5) • Follows OPRFHS  
teacher calendar (closed during OPRFHS summer break) • Registration begins in  
Jan-Feb; maintains a mailing/waiting list • Toilet training not required

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## **River Forest Community Center Early Childhood Learning Center** ● ■

8020 Madison Street, River Forest IL 60305

**PHONE: 708-771-5127    WEB: RFCC.INFO**  
**FAX: 708-771-8958    EMAIL: LMADONIA@RFCC.INFO**

Preschool: ages 3-5; 9:15-11:30 am

Full-Time/Part-Time Child Care: 7:00 am-6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program • Child/Staff Ratios: 10/1 • Before and  
after school care available • Flexible hours available • Parent/child classes available  
for children (15-23 months) • Toilet training required • 120 total slots available •  
Transportation available in River Forest and some Oak Park schools

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## **Seed Montessori** ■

500 Madison Street, Oak Park IL 60302

**PHONE: 225-773-0386    EMAIL: SEEDMONTESSORI@GMAIL.COM**  
**FAX: 708-771-8958**

After School Care: 1st-6th grades; 2:30-6:30 pm

License-exempt Montessori school

● *Full-time Child Care*    ■ *Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

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**Sprout and Spruce Daycare Center** ●112 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-445-7500**Full-time Child Care: 6 weeks-5 years; 7:00 am-5:45pmChild/Staff Ratios: Meet DCFS standards • Toilet training not required • 26 total slots available

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**St. Catherine - St. Lucy School** ● ■25 W. Washington Boulevard, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-386-5286    WEB: SCCLSCHOOL.COM****FAX: 708-386-7328    EMAIL: CYPSE2001@YAHOO.COM**Preschool/School: 3-14 years; 8:05 am-2:15 pm;Extended day options: 7:00-8:00 am, 2:15-4:00 pm, 2:30-6:00 pmChild/Staff Ratios: 15/1 • License-exempt Parochial Catholic school • Registration begins in March • Toilet training required

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**St. Edmund Parish School** ● ■208 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park IL 60304

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**PHONE: 708-386-5131    WEB: STEDMUNDSCHOOL.ORG****FAX: 708-386-5616    EMAIL: SCHOOLINFO@STEDMUND.ORG**Preschool/School: 3-14 years; 8:00-11:30 am, 8:00 am-3:00 pmExtended day options: 7:00-8:00 am, 3:00-6:00 pmChild/Staff Ratios: 9/1 • Affiliated with Dominican University; Speech and Language Pathologist provides early childhood speech and language screenings for all early childhood students • Financial aid available • License-exempt Parochial Catholic school • Register by September 1 • Toilet Training Required

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**St. Giles School** ● ■1034 Linden Avenue, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-6279    WEB: STGILESSCHOOL.ORG****FAX: 708-383-9952    EMAIL: OFFICE@STGILESSCHOOL.ORG**Preschool: 3-5 years; Age 3: 8:15 am-11:15 am; days/times vary by ageExtended day options: 7:00-8:20 am, 11:15 am-3:10 pm, 3:10-6:00 pmChild/Staff Ratios: 8/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5) • Full-day/morning kdg options • License-exempt Parochial Catholic school • Registration begins end of January • Toilet training required ★ **NAEYC-ACCREDITED**

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**St. Luke Parish School** 

519 Ashland Avenue, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-8587    WEB: SCHOOL-STLUKEPARISH.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-366-3831    EMAIL: JSCHWARZBECK@STLUKEPARISH.ORG**

Preschool: 3-5 years; 8:00-10:50 am or 12:20-3:00 pm; days vary by age

Child/Staff Ratios: 9/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5) • Full-day option, 8:00 am-3:00 pm (ages 4-5) • License-exempt Parochial Catholic school • Registration begins last week of January • Toilet training required

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**St. Vincent Ferrer School**  

1515 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest IL 60305

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**PHONE: 708-771-5905    WEB: SVFSCHOOL.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-771-7114    EMAIL: CTERRY@SVFSCHOOL.ORG**

Preschool: (3-5 years ); times vary by age

Extended day options: ages 3-14; 7:00-8:20 am, 11:00 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 9/1 • Full-day kdg (8:00 am-3:10 pm) • Registration begins last week in January • State of Illinois Advance-Ed Accredited • Toilet training required

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**West Cook YMCA Preschool & Y Kids Programs** 

255 S. Marion Street, Oak Park IL 60302

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**PHONE: 708-434-0230    WEB: WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-383-0159    EMAIL: ELOPEZ@WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG**

Preschool: ages 2-5; 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Extended day options: 7:00-9:00 am; 2:45-7:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 2/1 (age 2); 6.5/1 (age 3); 8/1 (age 4); 13/1 (ages 5- 12) • Before/after school program available (ages 6-12) • Financial aid available • Swimming 2x weekly • Toilet training required after age 3 ½ • Transportation available for after-school program • YMCA Scholarship Available

**West Suburban Montessori School** ● ■

1039 S. East Avenue, Oak Park IL 60304

**PHONE: 708-848-2662    WEB: WSMS.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-848-1977    EMAIL: INFO@WSMS.ORG**

Preschool: ages 3-4; 8:30-11:30 amExtended Day options: 7:00-8:30 am, 11:30 am-6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratios: 15/1 (classroom); 10/1 (child care) • Extended day, flexible hours, full-time child care available • License-exempt Montessori School; Association Montessori Internationale • Ongoing enrollment • Scholarships available • Toilet training required

**West Suburban Temple Har-Zion Early Childhood Center** ■

1040 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest IL 60305

**PHONE: 708-366-9000    WEB: WSTHZ.ORG**  
**FAX: 708-366-9006    EMAIL: PRESCHOOL@WSTHZ.ORG**

Preschool: 2-5 years; 8:30-3:30 pm; days/times vary by age

Child/Staff Ratios: 4/1 (age 2); 8/1 (ages 3-5) • License-exempt preschool with some Jewish observance • Ongoing registration • Reggio-inspired school, summer camp available • Mom & Tot class for children under age 2 ★ **NAEYC AND KEHILLAH ACCREDITED**

*Full-time Child Care**Preschool or Part-time Child Care*

# FAMILY CHILD CARE LISTINGS

A home child care provider opens up his or her home to children - often with one adult in charge. Home child care providers must be licensed by the state if they are caring for four or more children (including their own or relatives), unless all children are from a single household.

DCFS allows a single provider to care for 12 children (ages 12 and under), including the caregiver's own. However, the Village of Oak Park has more rigorous rules and only allows a total of eight children in a home. The National Association for Family Child Care provides accreditation for home child care providers that meet additional quality standards. The state of Illinois is also planning to credential and rate family child care providers; see [excelerateillinois.com](http://excelerateillinois.com) for more information.

When choosing family child care, be sure to request two or three references and observe the home while children are present.

Many of the guidelines for child care centers also apply to home child care providers, but also examine the following:

- Is a current child care home license on display?
- Does the caregiver have written policies and a contract for parents?
- Are there others living in the home? Who and what age are they?
- Who, besides the provider, may be caring for my child?
- Will my child be taken out of the home while in your care?
- Are there pets or smoking in the home?
- Are bathrooms, diapering areas, and food preparation areas kept clean, safe and separate? Is the house baby-proofed?
- Are toys for older children kept out of reach of younger children?
- Are there any guns in the home? Any guns must be locked and stored separately from ammunition.
- Are there arrangements for substitutes if the caregiver is ill?
- Is a daily schedule posted for parents to see?
- Is there enough safe space for play (indoors and out) and for naps?
- Can parents visit at any time when their children are in care?
- Are there opportunities for parents and caregivers to talk to each other about what is happening in the child's life?

## For more information about:

Choosing child care wisely: See pages 28-29 or go to [collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org), select “Resource Directory.”

Licensing standards: The summary of DCFS licensing standards for homes and centers can be found on the DCFS website, [illinois.gov/defc](http://illinois.gov/defc). (Under the “Brighter Futures” tab, click on “Finding Quality Child Care.”) These standards are also available at the Oak Park Public Library, or call 312-328-2464.

National Association for Family Child Care standards: Call 801-886-2322 or go online to [nafcc.org](http://nafcc.org), select “Accreditation.”

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### **West Suburban Home Day Care Association**

P.O. Box 1156, Oak Park IL 60304

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**PHONE: 708-848-8931      WEB: WSHDCA.ORG**

A non-profit organization of local home-based child care providers; provides monthly training opportunities and networking; a referral line helps parents find provider options among local members.

## Family Child Care Listings

*A note about these listings:* We do not list addresses for home care providers due to privacy concerns. Please contact them directly for more information.

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### Bertha Cervantes Home Day Care

Bertha Cervantes | Oak Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-574-6696**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

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### B.J.'s Kids

Bj Richards | Oak Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-524-2659    EMAIL: BJANDARA@GMAIL.COM**

**CELL: 708-220-2546**

Ages: 2 - 5 years • Hours: 8:00 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

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### Bobbie Brown Tiny Treasures

Thelma Brown-Gates | Oak Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-848-4606**

Ages: 6 months - 12 Years • Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

---

### Bright Star Learning Center

Ronna Kowalski | Oak Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-925-1690    EMAIL: RONNA.KOWALSKI@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 8:15 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

---

### The Busy Bee Learning Academy

Leticia Canchola | Oak Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-445-2761    EMAIL: LETICIACANCHOLA84@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

---

### Candie's Home Daycare

Candice M. Dever | Forest Park, IL

**PHONE: 708-307-7353    EMAIL: CANMFOX@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 6 months - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/2



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**Candy Montanez Home Day Care**Candy Montenez | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 709-386-5393    EMAIL: CSRM0856@YAHOO.COM**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years; Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

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**Cathy's Day Care Home**Catherine Hoffman | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-386-6134    EMAIL: HOFFMANS2@SBCGLOBAL.NET**Ages: 2 months - 6 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

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**Cristy's Home Daycare**Luz Cristina Solis-Black | Oak Park, IL

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**EMAIL: LUZCRISTINAS@YAHOO.COM**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

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**Daniela's Day Care & Preschool**Ana Perez | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-383-3859**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 12/2

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**The Early Learning Development Center**Jeanette Streeter | Oak Park, IL

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**EMAIL: JEANETTE.STREETER@YAHOO.COM**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

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**Gaby's Day Care**Gabriela Serratos | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-948-7112    EMAIL: GABYDAYCARE72@GMAIL.COM**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 12/2

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**Kathleen Garness Home Day Care**Kathleen Garness | Forest Park

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**EMAIL: KMGFINEARTS@COMCAST.NET**Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

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## Honeybee Child Care

Erika & Rosetta Abel | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-848-7424**    **EMAIL: HONEYBEECDC@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 6 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

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## The Itsy Bitsy Home Day Care

Vicki Hutsler | River Forest, IL

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**PHONE: 708-366-5674**    **WEB: ITSYBITSYHOMEDAYCARE.COM**  
**EMAIL: VLHUTSLER@ATT.NET**

Ages: 6 weeks - 5 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

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## Jessica's Daycare

Jessica Montenez | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-613-5548**

Ages: 6 weeks-12 years • Hours: 8:00 am- 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

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## Louise Kelly

Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-524-0432**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am-5:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

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## Flavia Lamb Home Day Care

Flavia Lamb | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-445-7344**    **EMAIL: BEVINLAMB@GMAIL.COM**

Ages: 4 weeks - 5 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

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## Madge Laitala

Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-848-6782**

Ages: 1 - 6 years • Hours: 7:00 am -5:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/2

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## Marcela's Day Care

Marcela Serratos | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-383-0741**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 12/3

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**Margie's Kids Home Daycare**

Margarita Guzman | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 773-727-2538**

Ages 2 months - 4 years • Hours: 7:45 am - 5:15 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/2

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**Montessori Academy Spanish Immersion**

Maria Rueda | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 630-670-7521**

**WEB: MYSpanishMontessori.com**

**EMAIL: MONTESSORI-ACADEMY@HOTMAIL.COM**

Ages: 15 months - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

---

**Montessori Espanol**

Rosario Sanchez | Oak Park, IL

---

**EMAIL: CHARITOL@SBCGLOBAL.NET**

Ages: 2 - 12 years • Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 12/2

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**Nancy Carl Home Day Care**

Nancy Carl | River Forest

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**PHONE: 708-366-4695**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

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**Parent's Helper Home Daycare**

Melody Robinson | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-383-7209**

**WEB: PARENTSHELPERDAYCARE.ORG**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - midnight • Child/Staff Ratio: 3/1

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**Prairie Home Kids**

Pamela Van Natter | Oak Park, IL

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**EMAIL: PAMVANNATTER@GMAIL.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 5 years • Hours: 6:00 am - 5:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 3/1

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**Quetzali Child Care**

Alma Martinez | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-655-1082**

**WEB: QUETZALI.ORG**

**EMAIL: ALMA.QUETZALICHILDCARE@GMAIL.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm; 6:00 pm - 12:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

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## **S.D. Studios After School Care (Art-based Child Care)**

Sandra Dawson | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-908-0057    WEB: SDSTUDIOS.ORG**  
**EMAIL: SANDRADAWSON@COMCAST.NET**

Ages: 3 - 11 years • Hours: 2:55 pm - 5:45 pm, M, T, Th, F • 1:55 - 5:45 pm, W  
Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 • After-school care only • near Beye School

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## **Small Wonders**

Pamela Daniels | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-948-7820    EMAIL: PAMELARDANIELS@COMCAST.NET**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1; 12/2

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## **Step by Step Family Day Care**

Jerri Thurman | Forest Park, IL

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**EMAIL: JRRHURPHUR@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 6 months - 12 years • Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 •  
Weekend child care available

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## **Susan's Garden Child Care**

Susan Bjornson | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-848-9515    WEB: SUSANSGARDENCHILDCARE.COM**  
**EMAIL: SUSANBJORNSON@YAHOO.COM**

Ages: 18 months - 5 years • Hours: 7:45 am - 5:45 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

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## **Toni's Tykes**

Antoinette Kizak | Oak Park, IL

---

**PHONE: 708-445-0290    EMAIL: ANTOINETTER@COMCAST.NET**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2;  
4 add'l after school

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**Diane Toppen Home Day Care**

Diane Toppen | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-383-8924**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

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**Jessica Worthington**

Oak Park, IL

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**EMAIL: JESSRW@COMCAST.NET      JESSICAS-DAYCARE.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 12 years • Hours: 6:30 am - 6:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

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**Young Learners of Oak Park**

Maria Salazar | Oak Park, IL

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**PHONE: 708-383-2559      EMAIL: YLOOP@AOL.COM**

Ages: 6 weeks - 5 years • Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm • Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

# CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE

## Points to Consider During the Decision-Making Process

### *Staff Background and Training:*

- Licensed and/or accredited facility; see “Child Care Resources,” page 31
- Low staff turnover
- Director ideally holds a college degree in a child-related field.
- Conducts background checks for all caregivers
- Staff participates in professional development programs.
- Staff is trained to recognize and report suspected child abuse.

### *Atmosphere:*

- Makes you and your child feel welcome
- Engages children in activities and creates a happy environment
- Respects each child’s individual cultural, ethnic and/or religious background
- Encourages positive, meaningful interactions between staff and children
- Provides consistency in terms of its caregivers
- Welcomes parents to drop in at anytime
- Supports discipline policies that are fair, positive, and consistent
- Offers clear and ongoing communications between the center, teachers and families through newsletters, conferences and events

### *Health:*

- Promotes cleanliness; equipment and play materials are regularly disinfected
- Requires current immunizations for staff and children
- Emphasizes proper hand-washing rules for staff and children
- Maintains clean diapering and toilet training areas
- Staff is certified in first aid and CPR
- Has policies in place for giving out medication and caring for sick children

***Safety:***

- Provides adult supervision at all times
- Follows “safe sleep” practices
- Keeps playground equipment fenced in, in good repair and securely anchored
- Offers safe and age-appropriate toys and play equipment
- Regularly checks for safety recalls of toys, cribs, and playground equipment
- Locks away all potentially poisonous substances including medications and cleaning supplies
- Has clear emergency procedures for accidents, missing children, custody situations, fires and other disasters

***Program:***

- Values learning through play
- Has clear educational and social goals
- Creates an environment where children learn words and pre-reading skills through books, songs, and two-way conversations
- Encourages children to become deeply engaged in play and allows them to make choices throughout the day
- Offers a lot of books, blocks, puzzles, art, music and dramatic play activities
- Makes sand and water play available on a regular basis
- Limits screen time (television/videos/computer/portable devices limited to 1 hour/week in full-day program)
- Refrains from any screen time at all for children under two
- Provides space and equipment for indoor and outdoor gross motor (large muscle) play

***Nutrition:***

- Serves healthy and appetizing snacks and meals
- Safely handles food allergies, dietary restrictions and ethnic preferences
- Posts breakfast and lunch menus; ask to see one
- Allows for flexibility in eating patterns, whether children leave food on their plates or ask for seconds

## Care in Your Own Home: Nannies and Au-Pairs

Some parents may prefer the one-on-one contact that an in-home provider can offer. A nanny works on a live-in or live-out basis performing child care and some minimal household duties. Usually unsupervised during the day, the nanny generally has a 40-60 hour work week. Check with an accountant or tax professional to learn about taxes you may be required to pay.

An au pair lives as an extended member of the family and provides up to 45 hours of in-home care per week. Au pairs cannot be left alone overnight with children or alone with an infant under the age of three months; they do not do housework that does not relate to the care of children. The au pair program in the United States is closely regulated by the State Department; it is intended to be a cross-cultural exchange program with a child care component.

Many of the guidelines for center-based care apply for care in your home, but there are additional issues that should be addressed.

- Interview the prospective caregiver at least twice. Ask for and speak to at least two or three references.
- Conduct a criminal background check with the Illinois State Police, and a DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS) check. In order to do a CANTS check, the prospective employee must sign a release form giving permission. (See page 32.)
- Offer “what if” scenarios on discipline, eating habits, etc., to discover responses on how the caregiver would handle different situations.
- Make sure your caregiver understands and is comfortable with your rules, expectations, discipline guidelines, and parenting philosophy. Also, help your caregiver establish his/her authority with your child.
- Make sure that your caregiver has a signed consent form that allows medical treatment. (A blank consent form is available in the appendix of this directory.)
- Draw up a specific contract outlining expected duties, hours, salary, paid vacation and sick leave. Include parental obligations and set up periodic review dates. Many websites have sample nanny contracts.
- Observe the caregiver’s interaction with your child routinely and without advance notice.
- As your child grows older, consider whether your caregiver will adapt to changing demands and responsibilities.



## Child Care Resources

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### Action for Children

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**PHONE:** 312-823-1100

**EMAIL:** [REFERRALS@ACTFORCHILDREN.ORG](mailto:REFERRALS@ACTFORCHILDREN.ORG)

**WEB:** [ACTFORCHILDREN.ORG](http://ACTFORCHILDREN.ORG)

The Quality Counts Online Child Care search helps parents search for child care programs in Cook County. Action for Children (an affiliate of INCCRRA – see below) helps parents determine if they qualify for assistance in paying for child care and to receive the appropriate forms to apply. Both services are free.

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### Child Care Aware

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**PHONE:** 800-424-2246

**WEB:** [CHILDCAREAWARE.ORG](http://CHILDCAREAWARE.ORG)

Information hub for parents; helps families learn about the elements of quality child care and how to locate programs in their communities. A toll-free line (staffed by Child Care Consumer Education Specialists) offers parents information about quality child care and providers.

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### ExceleRate Illinois

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**WEB:** [EXCELERATEILLINOIS.COM](http://EXCELERATEILLINOIS.COM)

Click on “Find an Early Learning Program”

ExceleRate Illinois helps find early learning providers who make quality a priority. By supporting and recognizing continuous quality improvement in early learning, ExceleRate Illinois helps families make informed decisions about a child’s early learning setting.

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### Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

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**WEB:** [ILLINOIS.GOV/DCFS](http://ILLINOIS.GOV/DCFS)

Learn more about a licensed program’s compliance with Illinois Licensing Standards by searching the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services “Sunshine Illinois Accountability Project” online at [sunshine.dcfs.illinois.gov](http://sunshine.dcfs.illinois.gov).

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### IL Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA)

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**WEB:** [ILQUALITYCOUNTS.COM](http://ILQUALITYCOUNTS.COM)

Easy-to-read online resource which includes an overview of child care options, a quality checklist, how to pay for child care, and a link to Action for Children, INCCRRA’s affiliate in the Chicago area (see listing for Action for Children above).

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## National Association for the Education of Young Children

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**PHONE:** 800-424-2460    **WEB:** [FAMILIES.NAEYC.ORG](http://FAMILIES.NAEYC.ORG)

Organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children from birth to age 8.

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## Oak Park Department of Public Health

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**PHONE:** 708-358-5480; **OPTION 3**

Provides a list of licensed centers and providers in Oak Park.

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## West Suburban Home Day Care Association

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**PHONE:** 708-848-8931    **WEB:** [WSHDCA.ORG](http://WSHDCA.ORG)

A non-profit organization of local home-based child care providers; a referral line helps parents find provider options among local members.

## Child Care Provider Background Checks

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### Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS)

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To check if a caregiver has ever been investigated for child abuse and neglect in Illinois, call the local DCFS Field Office (708-338-6600), or go online to [illinois.gov](http://illinois.gov) and search for “CANTS form” to download Form CFS-689, Authorization for Background Check for Programs NOT Licensed by DCFS.

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### Illinois State Police

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**PHONE:** 815-740-5160

Provides criminal background checks on prospective caregivers

## Babysitters

The top priority when seeking a babysitter is to find someone who can keep your child safe and happily entertained.

A good babysitter will:

- Have the attention span needed to actively watch your child.
- Have the patience to handle difficult behavior.
- Be able to keep him/herself and your child safe.
- Have the presence of mind to stay calm in an emergency.
- Know when to ask for help.

Before you leave the babysitter with your child:

- Allow enough time to orient a new babysitter to your child, your home, and your routines.
- Discuss expectations, additional responsibilities, and family rules.
- Discuss what to do in case of fire or another emergency.
- Take the sitter on a tour and show him/her the location of all doors, the burglar/fire alarms, the fuse box, and the first aid kit.
- Make sure the sitter knows where diapers, clothes, bottles, and other important items are kept.
- Leave written instructions for warming up food and bottles.
- Leave a list with your home's address and phone number, the number where you can be reached, emergency numbers including Poison Control (800-222-1222), your child's doctor, and a readily-available neighbor.
- Include a signed consent form to be used if your child needs medical treatment. (A blank form is included in the appendix of this directory.)

All sitters should be trained in CPR and be aware of your house safety rules. The Red Cross offers a babysitting course for teenage sitters, as does the Park District of Oak Park.

## Finding Nannies and Babysitters Locally

There are a number of ways to find nannies and babysitters in our community:

### ***MomMail***

MomMail is a free local resource that sends out a weekly “Sitters Wanted/ Available” email post every Monday to MomMail subscribers. Requests for inclusion should be emailed to [OPRFMomMail@gmail.com](mailto:OPRFMomMail@gmail.com). (For more information about subscribing to MomMail and to check the deadline for inclusion in the weekly email posts, go online to [mommail.wordpress.com](http://mommail.wordpress.com).)

### ***Job Boards***

Parents who need regular babysitting services can post their openings on job boards in the student career centers at Concordia and Dominican Universities.

#### **Concordia Babysitting Job Board**

Koehneke Community Center  
Concordia University  
Phone: 708-209-3090  
Email: [campus.events@cuchicago.edu](mailto:campus.events@cuchicago.edu)

#### **Dominican Babysitting Job Board**

Career Center, Room 216  
Dominican University  
Phone: 708-524-6822  
Email: [jpaulus@dom.edu](mailto:jpaulus@dom.edu)

There are also consultants and online resources that allow one to search for child care providers and babysitters by zip code and by individualized criteria. For a fee, these resources will expedite the background check process.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

### **Parents are their children's first teachers**

Children learn from the moment they are born. They are learning all the time, at greater speeds than at any other time in their lives. More than 80% of brain development happens before the age of three. Imagine if your child grew to be five-feet tall before his or her third birthday.

When wondering about how to help promote your child's development, or looking for programs for your child, keep the following in mind:

#### ***Play***

Children learn through play. Through play, children learn to follow directions, take turns, solve problems, and learn about the world. Engaging your child in the routines and activities that make up a normal day are terrific ways to help your child learn. Children also need lots of different people to play with them.

#### ***Relationships***

Loving and caring relationships with the people in their lives are critical for children's successful development. Children need lots of different people – parents, caregivers, brothers and sisters, friends – to talk to and play with. Through relationships with other people, children learn about themselves and gain the confidence they need to try new things. Making friends, expressing anger through words, working through conflicts, showing concern for others, waiting patiently, and having fun with others are all part of healthy emotional and social development. As with any skill, children learn how to do these things in small steps, with the help of those around them.

#### ***Talking and Listening***

Talk with and listen to your child. It's the best way to help them learn language and to support their brain development. From the very first day of their lives, children are listening and learning to understand the language they hear. But it's not just numbers and words; conversation is most meaningful when you look directly at your child. Facial expressions, gestures, and sounds also help your child learn language and learn to relate to the world. Responding to your child's communication, whatever form it comes in, helps your child understand that words have meaning and that communication is a two-way street.

## **Supporting Your Child's Development** *(continued)*

### ***Muscles Big and Small***

Learning how to control muscles is an important job for very young children. Children use their big muscles—in the arms, legs, and trunk—to crawl, walk, jump, climb, and balance. Activities that use big muscles are often referred to as “gross motor skills.” One of the best ways to support the development of these muscles is to give young infants lots of “tummy time” to play on their bellies.

Small muscles in the hands, fingers, and face let children express themselves or handle simple tools like spoons. Pushing toy buttons, stacking blocks, grasping toys, finger painting, playing with clay or play-dough and using crayons, markers and pencils are great ways to develop small muscles. These small-muscle activities are “fine motor skills.”

### ***Becoming Independent***

Children become independent through little steps that parents and caregivers can encourage. Teaching children to hold their cup, hold onto a spoon, and pick up food with their fingers can help them take the first steps toward eventually feeding themselves. Asking children to participate in the dressing process by lifting arms and legs or putting little feet into shoes are the early steps in teaching children to dress themselves. Letting children participate in clean-up activities by washing faces and hands and helping with bathing, putting toys away and wiping down tables and chairs encourage independence.

## Help Your Child Love to Read

Read to your child from an early age. This helps your child reach his or her full potential and strengthens the bond between parent and child.

The very first lessons in reading do not happen in school; they begin at home.

To help build a love for words and books you can...

- Talk to your children from the day they are born.
- Read aloud to your child each day. Start when your infant is young enough to grab the book and chew on it (or even earlier). Continue – if your child is willing – even when they are old enough to read by themselves.
- Use story time to cuddle with and be close to your child.
- Don't be afraid to read from the same books again and again. Young children enjoy and learn from when things are repeated to them.
- Use interesting and funny voices, if you are comfortable, when you read aloud. Act out the story and use different voices for different characters.
- Ask questions or play guessing games about the story. Talk about what you see on the page.
- Point to the words on the page as you read them. This helps your child connect spoken words with the printed words on the page.
- When they are old enough, give your child paper and crayons, so they can scribble, draw pictures, and pretend to write stories.
- Talk about letter sounds and names when you read to your preschooler. Young children are ready to learn about the sounds within words.
- Let your child see you enjoying yourself with a good book.
- Let your child read before bedtime. Make sure everyone has a good bedside light for reading.
- Let your child pick his/her own books. They will read with more interest when they have picked the books themselves.
- Use your public library. Look for story times, reading programs, and special events that might interest kids. (Public libraries also provide free internet access to adults.) Contact information for local public libraries is listed in the section Music, Gym, Swim and More beginning on page 69.

## **Before the First Day of Kindergarten**

Children must be 5 years old by September 1st in order to start kindergarten. Registration typically begins:

- Forest Park District 91– in April; call 708-366-6945 if you live north of I290; call 708-366-7498 if you live south of I290.
- Oak Park District 97– in early February; call 708-524-3000.
- River Forest District 90 – in late January; call 708-771-8282.

To register your child, you will need proof of residency-such as a lease agreement/mortgage statement and utility bills-and your child’s birth certificate. Contact your local school district for more details.

Forest Park and Oak Park school districts have full-day kindergarten. River Forest currently offers half-day kindergarten.

Oak Park District 97 asks all incoming kindergarteners to participate in a Kindergarten Readiness Screening. This screening does not affect a child’s ability to enroll in kindergarten. Rather, it helps teachers get a snapshot of each child’s readiness to learn. Screenings last about 90 minutes and include both the test, as well as a meeting with the child’s parents/guardians. Call the District 97 office (708-524-3000) for more information or to make an appointment.

- Illinois law requires proof of a dental exam, and proof of immunizations for all kindergarteners.
- Before the first day of school, familiarize your child with the school, the teacher, the room and even the bathrooms.
- If possible, introduce your child to other children who will be in the same kindergarten class. Take your child to play on the school’s playground.
- Talk to your child about how about how he or she will get to and from school.
- Develop daily school routines, including consistent wake-up times and bedtimes.
- Help your child become independent. For example, have them keep track of their own things and put on their own clothes and shoes.



## Is My Child's Development on Track?

Skills such as smiling at a familiar face, babbling, and throwing a ball show that your child is developing on track. Although children develop skills at different times, there are some expected age ranges for reaching these goals.

Our guide for parents called “Watch and Help Me Grow” provides a timeline of when children generally learn new skills (crawling, talking, grabbing, etc.). It’s available on our website, [collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org), along with more information about “developmental milestones.” There are also several other web resources where you can track your child’s development and find suggestions for activities, including:

### **PBS Parents-Child Development Tracker**

[pbs.org/parents/child-development](http://pbs.org/parents/child-development)

### **Centers for Disease Control-Parent Milestones Page**

[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov); search for “developmental milestones”

## The Importance of Developmental Screening

Ask your child’s medical provider, preschool or child care provider about developmental screenings for your child. The Collaboration works with local professionals to promote and support developmental screening. Our website also has dates and locations of screenings for Oak Park and River Forest residents, and an extensive listing of developmental service providers. Go to [collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org) and click on “Resource Directory.”

A “developmental screening” is a brief check that provides a picture of a child’s communication, motor, cognitive, self-help and social-emotional skills. This screening can be conducted by a doctor, a child care provider, or other trained professional. A screening can determine whether your child’s development is appropriate for his or her age. If your child’s development is on track, a developmental screening can help you to identify your child’s areas of strength. Your child’s doctor or child care provider can help you find ways to continue to support your child’s development.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that doctors informally monitor children’s development at each well-child visit, and conduct formal screenings at the 9-, 18-, and 24- or 30-month visits.

If the developmental screening indicates a possible delay, it is very important to have your child formally assessed through the Illinois Early Intervention system (ages birth to three), local school district (ages three to five) or medical providers (any age) as quickly as possible. See page 21 for more information about a formal assessment. Research shows that children get along better in school and with other children the earlier they get help with a delay.

# CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

## Early Intervention for Special Needs

### *Younger than Age 3*

If your child is under the age of three, and you have any concerns after speaking to your child’s doctor, you may wish to contact your local Child and Family Connections office directly. They can help determine if your child is eligible for early intervention services, and help you get those services.

#### **Child and Family Connections (CFC) #7**

#### **West Suburban Cook County**

1 Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 640

Westchester, IL 60154

Phone: 708-449-0625 or toll-free: 888-566-8228

### *Age 3 or older*

Contact your local school district’s department of special education. School districts in Forest Park, Oak Park, and River Forest provide screening to children over age three in the areas of communication, social/emotional development, cognition, motor skills, hearing, and vision on a regular basis, in compliance with federal law. Further evaluations are completed for children as determined by screening results.

All three local school districts house early childhood programs for eligible children, age three and up, in at least one of their elementary schools. See the listings on page 44 for contact information for the local elementary school districts.

Check our website, [collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org), for dates and locations of screenings for Oak Park or River Forest residents. Look for the section called “Resources for Children with Special Needs.”

The diagrams on the following pages outline the Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education systems and the initial eligibility process for Early Childhood Special Education Services for children age three and older. We have also included a sample letter that can be used to request an evaluation for special education services.

## Comparing Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Services

	Early Intervention	Special Education
Governing Federal laws	Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004)	Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA, 2004)
Ages for services	Birth to 3	3 through 21
Goal of the program	Helping the family meet the developmental needs of their child with a delay or disability	Educating the child with a delay or disability
Evaluation	Two or more professionals from different disciplines complete a developmental evaluation of all five areas of development.	A team of professionals completes an evaluation in the area(s) of suspected disability.
Eligibility	A child must have a 30 percent delay in one area of development or a documented medical condition, as determined by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention.	A child is found eligible using one of the eligibility categories for special education and related services.
Service delivery model	Parents and caregivers enroll their child in EI services. The type(s), frequency, location and duration of services, including individuals providing services, are determined through the IFSP process.	Local education agencies (LEAs) are required to provide special education and related services to eligible individuals, ages 3 through 21 years. Services are determined by the IEP team.
Family involvement	Families must be involved in the process to develop the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).	Parents must be a member of any team (e.g., planning and placement) that makes decisions regarding the education of their child.

*When I'm 3, where will I be?, Page 26, Illinois State Board of Education, 2007*

## Initial Eligibility

### Step 1: Request for Evaluation

A request for an evaluation is made by the parent to determine the child's eligibility for special education. It is best practice to make the request in writing. A phone call may not be sufficient to guarantee consideration of an evaluation.



14 School Days

### Step 2: Decision to Proceed

At this stage the school district meets with the parent to determine whether evaluation should proceed. If yes, the district needs to determine what domains will be evaluated and will request the parent's consent to do the evaluation.



Timeline begins when parent signs consent

### Step 3: Consent to Evaluate

The evaluation cannot proceed until the parent has provided informed written consent for the district to begin the evaluation. Timelines for completing the evaluation do not start until consent has been given by the parent.



### Step 4: Evaluation

During a period of up to 60 school days, district personnel can take steps needed to complete evaluation. If any part of the evaluation is written in final form, it may be shared with the parent.

60 school days  
Step 5 *must* occur by the 60th day



### Step 5: Eligibility Conference and IEP

By the end of the 60th day, the evaluation team must meet with the parent to decide if the child is eligible for special education. If yes, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) team must then meet with the parent to develop the IEP for the student.



Initial Placement does not occur until the parent signs consent

### Step 6: Consent for Placement

Before special education services begin, the parent must provide written informed consent to allow the district to proceed with placement. Placement may begin no sooner than 10 days after the parent consents unless the parent gives permission for it to start sooner.

*Educational Rights and Responsibilities, Page 17, Illinois State Board of Education, 2009*

## SAMPLE PARENT LETTER TO REQUEST SPECIAL EDUCATION EVALUATION

Today's Date

Your Name

Your Address

City, State, Zip Code

Daytime Telephone

Name of Principal or Special Education Administrator

Name of School

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Dear *(Principal's or Administrator's name)*,

I am writing to request that my son/daughter, *(child's name)*, be evaluated for special education services. I am worried that *(child's name)* is not doing well in school and believe he/she may need special services in order to learn. *(Child's name)* is *(age)*.

Specifically, I am worried because *(child's name)* does/does not *(give a few direct examples of your child's issues or reasons for your concerns)*.

We have tried the following to help *(child's name)*: *(If you or the preschool/child-care center has done anything extra to help your child, briefly state it here)*.

I understand that I have to give written permission in order for *(child's name)* to be evaluated. Please consider this request for evaluation as my written consent to evaluation. Before the evaluation begins, I have some questions about the process that I need to have answered *(list any questions you may have)*. I would be happy to talk with you about *(child's name)*. You can send me information or call me during the day at *(daytime telephone number)*.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my request.

Sincerely,

*(Your Name)*

## Resources for Children with Special Needs

The following is a list of resources that families with special needs children may find useful. There are many additional resources, although we have attempted to list most local groups – or regional/national organizations if a local resource does not exist. The print version of this directory lists general resources for families whose children have special needs. Additional resources relating to specific areas of development or diagnosis can be found on our website, *collab4kids.org*; click on “Resource Directory.”

Links to additional resources for specific special needs are also available online at *thecenterweb.org*; click on “STAR NET REGION II.” (STAR NET stands for Support and Technical Assistance Regional NETwork).

Please note that many of these resources depend upon local, state, or federal funding and that availability of services may vary based upon government funding levels.

### *Local School Districts*

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#### **Forest Park (District 91) Student Services Department**

925 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130

**PHONE: 708-366-5742**

**WEB: FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG/INFORMATION-SPECIAL-SERVICES-MY-CHILD**

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#### **Oak Park (District 97) Special Education**

970 Madison, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-524-3000**

**WEB: OP97.ORG/SPECIAL-EDUCATION**

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#### **River Forest (District 90) Special Education**

7776 Lake Street, River Forest 60305

**PHONE: 708-771-8282**

**WEB: DISTRICT90.ORG**

## General Resources

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### Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

836 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago 60657

**PHONE: 773-296-7450    WEB: [ADVOCATECHILDRENSHOSPITAL.COM](http://ADVOCATECHILDRENSHOSPITAL.COM)**

**FAX: 773-296-7370**

Click the “Care & Treatment” tab to find links to “Autism Treatment Center” and “Specialty Programs and Clinics.”

Audiology, developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social-emotional/mental health therapy and speech therapy.

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### Aspire Children’s Services

1815 South Wolf Road, Hillside, IL 60162

**PHONE: 708-236-0979    WEB: [ASPIREOFILLINOIS.ORG](http://ASPIREOFILLINOIS.ORG)**

Provides family-centered early intervention and specialized services for children with developmental delays or disabilities, and their families.

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### Community Support Services

9021 W. Ogden Avenue, Brookfield 60513

**PHONE: 708-354-4547    WEB: [COMMUNITYSUPPORTSERVICES.ORG](http://COMMUNITYSUPPORTSERVICES.ORG)**

Case management/social work; developmental disabilities services; parent support/training; respite care.

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### Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)

at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

**PHONE: 800-322-3722    WEB: [DSCC.UIC.EDU](http://DSCC.UIC.EDU)**

Care coordination for children from birth to age 21 with physical disabilities. Financial assistance with medical costs for qualifying income-eligible families. Information available in English and Spanish.

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### Family Resource Center on Disabilities

20 E. Jackson Boulevard, Room 300, Chicago 60604

**PHONE: 312-939-3513    WEB: [FRCD.ORG](http://FRCD.ORG)**

Provides information, training, and support for families who have children with disabilities.

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## **Fussy Baby Network at Erikson Institute**

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**PHONE: 888-431-BABY (2229)      WEB: FUSSYBABYNETWORK.ORG**

Variety of services including free parent support phone line, home visit program, English and Spanish support groups, and fussy baby clinic.

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## **Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center**

9649 W. 55th Street, Countryside 60525

**PHONE: 708-352-3580, EXT. 383      WEB: HHREHAB.ORG**

**FAX: 708-352-9728**

Developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy.

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## **Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse**

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**PHONE: 877-275-3227      WEB: EICLEARINGHOUSE.ORG**

**FAX: 217-522-4670      EMAIL: ILLINOIS-EIC@ILLINOIS.EDU**

Provides library and information services to Illinois residents on health, educational and developmental concerns of infancy and early childhood; call to order materials at no cost.

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## **Imagine Pediatric Therapy**

606 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago 60607

**PHONE: 312-588-5050      WEB: IMAGINEPEDS.COM**

**FAX: 312-588-5040**

Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

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## **Kids Unlimited Therapeutic Services LLC**

820 North Boulevard (side entrance), Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-524-2445      WEB: KIDSUNLIMITEDTHERAPYSERVICES.COM**

**FAX: 708-524-2443**

Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

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## **Lekotek (National Center)**

2001 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago 60614

**PHONE: 773-528-5766      WEB: LEKOTEK.ORG**

**FAX: 773-537-2992      EMAIL: LEKOTEK@LEKOTEK.ORG TOY RESOURCE**

**HELPLINE: 800-366-PLAY**

National resource on toys and play for children with special needs. Services include toy lending libraries, family playgroups, home visits, parent support groups, special events, and advocacy.



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**Lurie Children's Outpatient Center at Westchester**

2301 Enterprise Drive, Westchester 60154

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**PHONE: 708-836-4800      FAX: 708-836-4805**

Audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

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**Oak-Leyden Developmental Services**

411 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-524-1050 EXT. 107      WEB: OAK-LEYDEN.ORG**

Individualized, family-centered services for young children from birth to age 5 with developmental delays or disabilities. Program services include: physical, occupational, speech, and developmental therapies, play groups, family training and support, and family events. Developmental screenings available upon request.

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**Pillars**

6918 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn 60402

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**PHONE: 708-745-5277      WEB: PILLARSCOMMUNITY.ORG**

**FAX: 708-795-4834**

Social-emotional/mental health therapy.

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**Smart Love Family Services**

610 S. Maple Avenue, 2nd Floor, Oak Park 60403

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**PHONE: 773-665-8052, EXT. 4      WEB: SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG**

**FAX: 708-660-4301**

**EMAIL: CONTACT@SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG**

Hours: 10:00 am-9:00 pm, M-Th; 9:00 am-6:00 pm Friday;

8:00 am-3:00 pm Saturday

Mental health services for children and adults; diagnostic evaluations; individual and group counseling; play therapy; psychological and neuropsychological testing; autism treatment program.

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**STAR Net Region II**

2626 S Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights 60005

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**PHONE: 224-366-8579      WEB: THECENTERWEB.ORG/STARNET**

Support and Technical Assistance Regional Network provides training and technical assistance to parents of children with special needs (birth-age 8) in western Cook County.

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**Thrive Counseling Center**

120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-7500    WEB: THRIVECC.ORG**

**FAX: 708-383-7880**

Social-emotional/mental health therapy.

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**Vital Rehabilitation**

5820 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago 60634

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**PHONE: 773-685-8482    WEB: VITALREHABILITATION.COM/INDEX.PHP**

**FAX: 773-685-8479**

Developmental therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social-emotional/mental health therapy and speech therapy.

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**West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA)  
& Lekotek**

2915 Maple Street, Franklin Park 60131

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**PHONE: 847-455-2100    WEB: WSSRA.NET**

Cooperative extension that provides recreational opportunities for children and adults with special needs, disabilities, or handicapping conditions. WSSRA also offers Lekotek, a lending library of toys for children with disabilities.

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

### Questions to Ask When Choosing Your Child's Healthcare

It is very important to find out whether your doctor's views on parenting issues mesh with your own. Do the doctor's views on issues like circumcision, breastfeeding, immunizations, nutrition, use of antibiotics, and alternative medicine match your own? Is the doctor aware of and sensitive to any cultural issues your family may have?

#### Other questions to ask include:

- What are the office hours? Are weekend or evening hours available?
- How are sick children separated in the office from children who are visiting for a checkup?
- Who will see your child if the doctor is on vacation or otherwise not available?
- With which hospitals are your doctors affiliated? If your child needs to be hospitalized, who will care for your child there?
- How does the office handle phone calls during and after hours? How quickly can you expect a call back during the day? After hours?
- Are there special call times for parents with non-emergency questions or is someone available during office hours?
- Does the doctor perform routine developmental screenings as part of well-baby visits?
- Will your child's doctor handle emergencies or will your child be referred to an urgent care center or emergency room?
- Are lab tests done in the office?
- What are the policies regarding referrals to specialists? Is the doctor penalized by your health plan for referrals to specialists? If you are in an HMO, how does your doctor handle out of network referrals?
- What are the fees for services and the payment policies? Must fees be paid in full or are payment plans available?
- Are there extra charges for things like advice calls, after-hour calls, paperwork, etc?

## **Paying for Children’s Healthcare and Eye Care**

Illinois provides several insurance programs intended to serve uninsured or income-eligible families with children.

### ***All Kids***

Provides comprehensive, affordable health insurance, regardless of immigration status or health condition. Children can get All Kids health insurance if: they live in Illinois; they are age 18 or younger; they meet the insurance requirements for All Kids; and their family’s income meets the All Kids Income Limit.

### ***Family Care***

Will provide health insurance for uninsured parents/caregivers who meet income eligibility guidelines. This program is available only for legal residents and U.S. citizens. For more information on All Kids and FamilyCare, call 866-ALL-KIDS (866-255-5437) or go online to [allkids.com](http://allkids.com).

### ***Moms & Babies***

Pays for all healthcare (inpatient and outpatient) for income-eligible women who are pregnant until 60 days after the baby is born regardless of immigration status. To apply for the Moms & Babies program, contact the Oak Park Department of Public Health (708-358-5484) or call the All Kids hotline (866-255-5437).

### ***Affordable Care Act***

Get Covered Illinois information and assistance is available at the Oak Park Health Department (email [health@oak-park.us](mailto:health@oak-park.us) or call 708-358-5483), for Oak Park residents. Information is also available at Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (call 708-240-4435 or email [affordablecare@ptmhc.org](mailto:affordablecare@ptmhc.org)).

### ***Eye Care Resources***

Check with your health insurance provider to see if visits to an eye doctor and/or optometry services for eyeglasses are covered. If your health insurance does offer vision coverage, check the American Optometric Association’s website, [aoa.org](http://aoa.org). Click on “Find an Optometrist” and search by zip code. If you have All Kids/Medicaid insurance, call the member hotline at 877-912-1999 to find an eye doctor in your area.

## Your Baby's Teeth

Start wiping your child's gums and teeth with a clean, damp washcloth or gauze pad when teeth appear. At age 18 months, begin using a small soft-bristled toothbrush and water. At age three, add a pea-sized dab of toothpaste with fluoride when brushing. If your baby is being exclusively breastfed, your pediatrician or dentist may prescribe a fluoride supplement. Consult with a dentist or healthcare professional by the age of one to discuss your child's teeth. Start visits to the dentist by the age of two.

### *Baby Bottle Cavities*

Baby teeth are prone to cavities very early on. Letting your child drink at will from a bottle containing milk, breastmilk, formula, fruit juices or sweetened liquids can cause rapid and severe decay. Your child should not fall asleep with a bottle containing anything other than water.

### *Dental Exam Requirements*

Illinois law now requires that children in kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades have proof of a dental exam; report cards can be withheld if parents do not take children to visit the dentist.

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## The Children's Clinic

Sponsored by Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society  
320 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-0528    WEB: CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG**  
**EMAIL: INFO@CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG**

Preventive and restorative dental services including endodontics and interceptive orthodontics. Available to low-income children birth to age 18. Accepts Medicaid, All Kids; sliding fee scale. No child is refused care for inability to pay.

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## PCC South Family Health Center

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

**PHONE: 708-286-0845    WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG**

Diagnostic, preventative, and restorative procedures; endodontics, periodontics and oral surgery; available to PCC patients under the age of 20; accepts All Kids, Medicaid & commercial insurance; sliding fee scale (based on procedure) available to uninsured patients.

### *Other Dental Resources*

American Dental Association .....	312-440-2500
Chicago Dental Society .....	312-836-7300
University of Illinois Dental School .....	312-996-7530
University of Illinois Pediatric Clinic .....	312-996-7532
University of Illinois Orthodontics Clinic .....	312-996-7505

## Health and Safety Issues

Accidents are the number one cause of injury and death for children.

### *Car Safety*

Illinois law requires that children 8 years old and younger use a child restraint system (car safety seat or booster seat, depending on age and weight); children over the age of 8 must wear seatbelts.

A child safety seat is the key to preventing injury and death. When selecting a car seat, carefully check the manufacturer's limits for age and weight.

- Check the car seat label for the manufacturing date. If the car seat is older than 10 years, it should be discarded. Some makers recommend that seats only be used for up to 5 years. Check with the manufacturer if you have questions.
- Do not reuse a car safety seat that has been involved in an accident.
- Check for car safety seat recalls through the U.S. Department of Transportation hotline (800-424-9393).
- Various organizations offer information about selection and the correct installation of car safety seats: the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, *nhtsa.gov*, the American Academy of Pediatrics, *healthychildren.org*; under "Safety and Prevention," select "On The Go" or SeatCheck (call 866-SEAT-CHECK or visit *seatcheck.org*).
- The American Academy of Pediatrics and various other groups offer smartphone apps that help parents select the proper car seat.
- SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., *carseat.org*, lists car seats suitable for children with special needs. (Click on "Helpful Handouts," and then click on "Handouts for Parents," look for Item #173, "Automobile Restraints for Children with Special Needs: Quick Reference List.")

### *Fires/Burns*

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. (Carbon monoxide gas is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and poisonous.)
- Check batteries and detectors twice a year. To help remember, check them when you change clocks for daylight savings time.
- Young children have thinner skin that burns more easily. Turn the hot water heater temperature down to 120 degrees.
- If burned, put the injured area in cold water, bandage loosely and call your child's doctor.

### ***Choking***

- Children under three should not play with small toys or toys with small parts or pieces. Remember to read labels for age recommendations.
- If a toy can slide through the inside of a toilet paper roll, it's too small for a baby or preschooler.
- Do not keep soft toys or objects in your infant's bassinet or crib.
- Children should always be seated and supervised while eating.
- Avoid small round or hard pieces of food that can cause choking.
- Children should be supervised while playing with latex balloons.
- Regularly check your floors for buttons, coins and other small objects.
- Parents and child care providers ideally should know rescue procedures and CPR. Your local Fire Department offers classes in CPR. (See resource listings on Health & Safety beginning on page 55).

### ***Immunizations***

- The scientific evidence is clear: vaccines do not cause autism.
- The websites of the Centers for Disease Control, *cdc.gov*, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, (*chop.edu*; search for "Vaccine Education Center"), have useful information about vaccinations.
- The CDC's recommended vaccine schedule is revised every year and is available from your healthcare provider or from on the CDC's website (*cdc.gov/vaccines*, select "Immunization Schedules").
- The Oak Park Health Department provides immunizations for under- and uninsured residents under the age of 18. Call 708-358-5491 for information.

### ***Lead Poisoning***

- Lead comes from two main sources in the home: water from lead pipes and dust from lead paint. If you are rehabbing an older home, make sure that the lead levels in your home are normal. Home testing kits are available at local hardware stores.
- Research shows that lead dust in soil can cause problems for children living in urban areas. Have your children remove their shoes and wash their hands after playing outside.
- If you have concerns, have your child's doctor test your child's blood levels for lead.
- There have been cases where high amounts of lead or toxic chemicals are found in children's toys. Stay informed about product recalls and other children's safety issues.

### ***Poisoning:***

- If you have a poisoning emergency, call Poison Control immediately (800-222-1222).
- Keep poison hotline numbers posted at home and programmed into your cell phone.
- Many poisons are tasteless and don't smell.
- Keep all medicines, vitamins, and household cleaning products out of the sight and reach of children.

### ***Other Accidents:***

- Visit *healthychildren.org*, the website for parents designed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, to find detailed information on many topics related to children's health and safety, such as allergens, car seats, childproofing your house, first aid, lead poisoning, water safety, and more.
- The website for the Consumer Protection Safety Commission, *cpsc.gov*, has a link where one can sign up to receive regular email alerts about recalls for children's toys and other products.
- There are also a number of smartphone apps that help you stay informed about product safety recalls.
- Never leave a baby unattended in a high place such as a changing table, bed or sofa, even in a bouncy seat or car seat.
- Get on your hands and knees to explore your home and any safety risks from your child's perspective.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that families do not keep a loaded gun in a home where children live or visit. If you choose to keep a gun, keep it locked and store ammunition separately from the gun.



## Health and Safety Resources

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### All Kids Covered and Illinois Health Benefits Hotline

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**PHONE:** 866-ALL-KIDS (255-5437) **WEB:** [ALLKIDSCOVERED.COM](http://ALLKIDSCOVERED.COM)

Provides health insurance for uninsured children regardless of family income or immigration status. Services include doctor visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, eye care, dental care, and eyeglasses.

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### American Red Cross Greater Chicago Chapter

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**PHONE:** 312-729-6100 **WEB:** [CHICAGOREDCROSS.ORG](http://CHICAGOREDCROSS.ORG)

Provides training in CPR, AED, lifeguarding and first aid; babysitting and caregiving course for teenagers.

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### Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

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Main Hospital: 225 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago 60611

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**PHONE:** 312-227-4000 **WEB:** [LURIECHILDRENS.ORG](http://LURIECHILDRENS.ORG)

**TOLL FREE:** 800-KIDS-DOC (543-7362)

One of the region's major children's hospitals; uses a multi-disciplinary approach (RN, speech, and occupational therapy).

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### Centers for Disease Control

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**PHONE:** 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) **WEB:** [CDC.GOV](http://CDC.GOV)

Provides health/safety information in English and Spanish 24/7.

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### The Children's Clinic

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Sponsored by Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society  
320 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE:** 708-848-0528

**WEB:** [CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG](http://CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG)

**FAX:** 708-848-5855

**EMAIL:** [INFO@CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG](mailto:INFO@CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG)

Provides medical, dental and behavioral health services. Individual and family counseling services provided for children up to age 18 with a Pillars therapist onsite at the clinic. Enrollment center for Illinois' All Kids health insurance program. Accepts All Kids Medicaid; also offers a sliding fee scale.

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### Cook County Health Department

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**WEB:** [COOKCOUNTYPUBLICHEALTH.ORG](http://COOKCOUNTYPUBLICHEALTH.ORG)

Multiple clinic sites; call 708-786-4000 for clinic times and locations

Preventive health services for suburban Cook County residents, including well-child care, immunizations, dental and post-partum care; some services have income eligibility guidelines; other services available to everyone at no cost.

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## **Family Case Management-Oak Park Department of Health**

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**OAK PARK RESIDENTS: 708-358-5484**

Helps parents locate and use local care providers for themselves and for their children; must meet income/eligibility requirements.

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## **Forest Park Fire Department**

7625 Wilcox, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE: 708-366-1234**

Car seat check for residents.

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## **Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care at River Forest**

7617 W. North Avenue, Elmwood Park 60707

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**PHONE: 708-771-1300**

Hours: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm M- F; 8:00 am – 3:00 pm Saturday, Sunday & Holidays  
Provides immediate medical care for those without life-threatening injuries or illnesses.

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## **Immediate Care of Oak Park**

1000 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-660-1800**

Hours: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm M-F, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Provides immediate medical care for those without life-threatening injuries or illnesses.

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## **Loyola Medical Center Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital**

2160 S 1st Avenue, Maywood 60153

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**PHONE: 877-216-KIDS    WEB: [LOYOLAMEDICINE.ORG/CHILDRENS-HEALTH](http://LOYOLAMEDICINE.ORG/CHILDRENS-HEALTH)**

A full-service hospital focused on families.

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## **Maryville Academy Children's Healthcare Center**

4015 N. Oak Park Avenue, Building B, Chicago 60634

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**PHONE: 773-205-3600    WEB: [MARYVILLEACADEMY.ORG](http://MARYVILLEACADEMY.ORG)**

**FAX: 773-205-3630**

Transitional care between hospital and home for medically fragile children from birth to age 21; training for caregivers. Respite care services also provided.

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## Oak Park Fire Department

100 N. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-445-3300    EMAIL: FIRE@OAK-PARK.US**

**WEB: OAK-PARK.US/VILLAGE-SERVICES/FIRE-DEPARTMENT**

Regularly scheduled CPR classes (free for residents, \$50 fee for non-residents); certified safety technician will do free car seat check by appointment; call 708-358-5604 to schedule. Bring child and car seat to fitting; if possible, bring manuals for car and car seat.

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## Oak Park Police Department-Community Policing

123 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-386-3800**

Resident beat officers work with residents to resolve neighborhood safety issues.

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## Oak Park Department of Public Health

123 Madison Street or 6026 W. Roosevelt Road

**PHONE: 708-358-5480    EMAIL: HEALTH@OAK-PARK.US**

**FAX: 708-358-5515**

**FAX: 708-358-5116** (*for confidential health information*)

**WEB: OAK-PARK.US/VILLAGE-SERVICES/DEPARTMENT-PUBLIC-HEALTH**

Preventive health services, including family case management; information about lead screenings; WIC nutrition services; call for more information and appointment.

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## PCC Family Health Center

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-0113**

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

**PHONE: 708-386-0845**

**WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG**

Comprehensive health care for all ages, including prenatal care; accepts private insurance, Medicaid, All Kids; sliding fee scale discount program available for uninsured patients. Call for appointment.

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## Resurrection Immediate Care Center

7230 W. North Avenue, #106B, Elmwood Park 60707

**PHONE: 708-453-3000**

Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Mon - Sat; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sun; 365 days/year

Provides immediate medical care for those without life-threatening injuries or illnesses. If unsure whether to go to the emergency room or to immediate care, call 877-RES-INFO (877-737-4636).

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## River Forest Fire Department

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**PHONE: 708-366-7629    WEB: VRF.US/GOVERNMENT/DEPARTMENTS#FIRE**

CPR classes offered to River Forest residents.

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## Rush Oak Park Hospital

520 Maple Avenue, Oak Park 60304

**PHONE: 708-383-9300    WEB: ROPH.ORG**

One of Oak Park's two major hospitals; affiliated with Rush Hospitals and Wheaton Franciscan Services.

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## Rush University Medical Center Rush Children's Hospital

1750 W. Harrison Street, Chicago 60612

**PHONE: 888-RUSH-KID    WEB: RUSH.EDU** (*clinical services/pediatrics*)

One of the region's major children's hospitals.

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## Shriners' Hospital

2211 N. Oak Park Avenue, Chicago 60707

**PHONE: 773-622-5400    WEB: SHRINERSHOSPITALSFORCHILDREN.ORG**

Medical care free of charge for children under age 18 for certain orthopedic and neurological conditions, craniofacial surgery, spinal cord injury rehabilitation.

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## Tuberculosis Clinic-Cook County Dept of Public Health

7556 W. Jackson Boulevard, Forest Park 60130

**PHONE: 708-836-8600**

Free tuberculosis treatment for suburban Cook County residents; proof of residency required; please call for appointment.

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## West Suburban Medical Center

3 Erie Court, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-6200    WEB: WESTSUBURBANMC.COM**

One of Oak Park's two major hospitals; offers a full spectrum of medical services.

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## WIC-Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, Children: OP/CEDA WIC Program

6026 W. Roosevelt Road, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-445-3314    WEB: CEDAORG.NET (PROGRAMS AND SERVICES)**

Supplemental food, nutrition, education and counseling for pregnant women, teenage mothers, new mothers, breastfeeding women, and children up to age five who meet income/eligibility requirements.

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## New to the Community?

The following entities have information that may be helpful to new or prospective residents:

### *Village Governments:*

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**Village of Forest Park** | 517 Desplaines Avenue, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE:** 708-366-2323      **EMAIL:** [CONTACT@FORESTPARK.NET](mailto:CONTACT@FORESTPARK.NET)  
**WEB:** [FORESTPARK.NET](http://FORESTPARK.NET)

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**Village of Oak Park** | 123 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE:** 708-383-6400      **EMAIL:** [VILLAGE@OAK-PARK.US](mailto:VILLAGE@OAK-PARK.US)  
**WEB:** [OAK-PARK.US](http://OAK-PARK.US)

*under the “Our Community” tab, select “New Resident Information.”*

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**Village of River Forest** | 400 Park Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE:** 708-366-8500      **WEB:** [VRF.US](http://VRF.US)  
*under the “I Am a Resident” tab, select “New Residents”*

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### *Public Schools:*

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#### **Forest Park Elementary School District 91**

424 Des Plaines Avenue, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE:** 708-366-5700      **WEB:** [FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG](http://FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG)  
**FAX:** 708-366-5761

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#### **Oak Park Elementary School District 97**

970 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE:** 708-524-3000      **WEB:** [OP97.ORG](http://OP97.ORG)  
**FAX:** 708-524-3019

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#### **River Forest Elementary School District 90**

7776 West Lake Street, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE:** 708-771-8282      **WEB:** [DISTRICT90.ORG](http://DISTRICT90.ORG)  
**FAX:** 708-771-8291

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### *Other local entities:*

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#### **Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce**

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**PHONE:** 708-613-0550      **EMAIL:** [INFO@OPRFCHAMBER.ORG](mailto:INFO@OPRFCHAMBER.ORG)  
**WEB:** [OPRFCHAMBER.ORG](http://OPRFCHAMBER.ORG)

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#### **Oak Park Regional Housing Center**

1041 South Boulevard, Oak Park, 60302

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**PHONE:** 708-848-7150      **WEB:** [LIVEINOAKPARK.COM](http://LIVEINOAKPARK.COM)

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# LOCAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

## For Expectant and New Mothers

### *Prenatal Classes*

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#### **PCC Community Wellness Centers**

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**WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG**

PCC offers a four-week childbirth education series for pregnant women, partners, family, friends, and members of the support team. These classes are free and open to the public. Topics covered include: the process of labor; labor support techniques; understanding complications and interventions; infant care, nutrition, and feeding.

PCC also offers an intensive, 4-hour Saturday class that includes all topics in one session. Registration not required; for more information, call Mary Sommers at 708-386-0845 Ext 1009.

Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm

PCC South 6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

Saturdays 9:00-1:00 pm

PCC Lake Street Family Health Center

14 W. Lake Street Oak Park 60302

### *Prenatal Classes and Breastfeeding Classes*

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#### **West Suburban Medical Center Family Birthplace**

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**WEB: WESTSUBURBANMC.COM**

under “Our Services,” select “Women’s Services”

Free orientation classes for parents interested in water births and other non-interventive births; this class is required for those intending to use West Suburban’s Alternative Birthing Center. West Suburban also offers fee-based childbirth education and breastfeeding classes. Advance registration required; call 866-938-7256.

***About Breastfeeding and Bottlefeeding***

**HEALTHYCHILDREN.ORG** search for “breastfeeding”

The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that babies be breastfed for at least the first six months of life. Consider what makes the most sense for you and your family. Breastfeeding and bottlefeeding are both safe and healthy for your baby. Whether by breast or by bottle, feeding your newborn provides a great opportunity to cuddle and make eye contact.

Families whose babies are being breastfed may want or need specific support. It can take time and practice for mother and baby to settle into a breastfeeding routine.

Our website, *collab4kids.org*, has extensive resources for breastfeeding mothers – local resources, apps, and podcasts. Under “Resource Library,” click on “Resources for Parents.”

***Local Support Services of Special Interest to Nursing Mothers***

**La Leche League of Oak Park/River Forest**

**CONTACT: MARY 708-209-1127      WEB: LLLFIL.ORG**

Information and support for breastfeeding mothers; meets the first Friday of the month 10 am-noon at the Buzz Café (905 S. Lombard Avenue, Oak Park); also meets 7:00-8:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at Belmont Village Senior Living of Oak Park (1035 Madison Street, Oak Park).

**PCC Family Health Centers**

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302	<b>PHONE: 708-383-0113</b>
5425 W. Lake Street, Chicago 60644	<b>PHONE: 773-378-3347</b>
6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402	<b>PHONE: 708-386-0845</b>

All locations offer lactation consultation and home visits, breastfeeding peer counseling program for PCC primary-care patients. The Chicago location also provides free infant massage classes on Mondays from 1:00-2:30 pm.

**West Suburban Medical Center**

3 Erie Court, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 866-938-7256**

West Suburban offers a free breastfeeding support group led by a facilitated lactation consultant on the first Saturday of each month, 12:30 pm, as well as a breastfeeding class for expectant mothers on the third Saturday of each month (\$30 fee). Babies are welcome to accompany mothers. Advance registration for the support group is recommended and required for the breastfeeding class.

## Home Visiting: Supporting Parents and Children

Oak Park and River Forest are fortunate to have three agencies that offer home visiting services. Home visiting has been shown to be extremely helpful, particularly as part of a coordinated system of services to support families. The programs match parents with trained professionals to provide information and support during pregnancy and throughout their child's first years. They also offer group activities and connect parents to other resources and services.

Parents can contact the Collaboration for Early Childhood about the programs and which one may best meet their needs at 708-613-6122 or [info@collab4kids](mailto:info@collab4kids), or contact the programs listed below directly.

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### **Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago: Partnering with Parents**

120 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-434-2525    WEB: [EASTERSEALS.COM/CHICAGO](http://EASTERSEALS.COM/CHICAGO)  
**EMAIL: [COMMUNICATIONS@EASTERSEALSCHICAGO.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@EASTERSEALSCHICAGO.ORG)****

Partnering with Parents supports children prenatal to three years old in Oak Park and River Forest through home visiting and group activities that focus on helping parents grow as their child's first teacher, forming connections to other parents and fostering linkages to other services. Partnering with Parents offers high-quality and innovative services that are brought to children and families in the Oak Park and River Forest Community by Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago with support from the Collaboration for Early Childhood.

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### **Hephzibah Children's Association: Early Head Start Home-Based Program**

946 North Boulevard, Oak Park 60301

**CONTACT: [EVANGELINE LEGGIN 708-649-7101](tel:708-649-7101)**

Early Head Start services low-income pregnant women and families with children from birth through age 3. The program provides early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services. Early Head Start home-based services include weekly 90-minute home visits and two group socialization activities per month for parents and their children.

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### **Parenthesis Family Center**

405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-2227    WEB: [PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG](http://PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG)  
**EMAIL: [GSHELTON@PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG](mailto:GSHELTON@PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG)****

Parenthesis Family Center provides home- and community-based parent education and support to families from the time of pregnancy through the child's kindergarten year. Programs provided are home-based education, workshops, groups, and playgroups for families.



## Maternal Depression

Maternal depression (clinical depression that occurs during pregnancy or within a year of giving birth) affects as many as one in eight new mothers. Maternal depression is not the same thing as the “baby blues;” it is an illness that requires medical care and can be treated successfully. This illness impacts not only the mother, but the husband/partner, the baby, and the entire family unit.

### *Support Groups and Other Sources for Information*

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#### **Healthcare Alternative Systems Inc. (HAS)**

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**WEB: [HASCARES.ORG](http://HASCARES.ORG)    PHONE: 773-292-4242**

Community-based treatment program for maternal depression in the Chicago metropolitan area; provides services in English and Spanish.

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#### **National Institute for Mental Health**

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**WEB: [MEDEDPPD.ORG](http://MEDEDPPD.ORG)**

Extensive information about maternal/postpartum depression.

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#### **PCC Family Health Center**

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-0113**

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

**PHONE: 708-386-0845**

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**WEB: [PCCWELLNESS.ORG](http://PCCWELLNESS.ORG)**

Maternal depression support for PCC primary-care patients.

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#### **Postpartum Depression Alliance of Illinois**

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**PHONE: 847-205-4455**

**WEB: [PPDIL.ORG](http://PPDIL.ORG)**

**EMAIL: [SUPPORT@PPDIL.ORG](mailto:SUPPORT@PPDIL.ORG)**

Aims to return email inquiries and phone calls within 24 hours.

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#### **Postpartum Progress**

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**WEB: [POSTPARTUMPROGRESS.COM](http://POSTPARTUMPROGRESS.COM)**

Peer-to-peer support, information, and links to resources.

## Other Local Resources and Support Groups

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### **Catholic Charities**

1400 S. Austin, Cicero 60804

**PHONE: 708-222-1491, 708-329-4024 OR 708-329-4030 (DIRECT LINES TO INTAKE)**  
**WEB: CATHOLICCHARITIES.NET**

Food pantry, clothing, outreach for Medicare/LINK; referral to emergency assistance program; suburban shelter; family and elder services; counseling and psychotherapy; outreach to survivors of suicide; immigration; children and adolescent pregnancy program (CAPP); adoption services and intact family services program; respite services.

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### **CEDA (Community & Economic Development Assn.) Near West**

6141 W. Roosevelt Road, Cicero 60804

**PHONE: 708-222-3824 WEB: CEDAORG.NET**

A variety of services for income-eligible families including Family Case Management, Access to Care, WIC, energy assistance (LIHEAP), weatherization, rent and mortgage assistance.

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### **The Children's Clinic**

*Sponsored by Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society*

320 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-0528 WEB: CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG**  
**EMAIL: INFO@CHILDRENSCLINICIWS.ORG**

Provides mental health services including bilingual psychiatric evaluation and treatment. Available to low-income children (birth - age 18). Medicaid, All Kids, sliding fee scale. No child is refused care for inability to pay.

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### **Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago**

120 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-434-2525 EMAIL: COMMUNICATIONS@EASTERSEALSCHICAGO.ORG**

Home visiting programs and group activities to support families with children prenatal through age three.

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### **Erikson Institute Center for Children and Families**

Willett Center, 120 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

Erikson Institute, 451 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago 60654

**PHONE: 312-893-7119 EMAIL: CCF@ERIKSON.EDU**

Counseling services available free of charge for families with children 8 years old or younger.

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## Fussy Baby Network at the Erikson Institute

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**PHONE: 888-431-BABY    WEB: FUSSYBABYNETWORK.ORG**

Services including free parent support phone line, home visit program, English and Spanish support groups, and fussy baby clinic.

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## Hephzibah Children's Association

1144 W. Lake Street, 5th floor, Oak Park 60301

**PHONE: 708-649-7140    WEB: HEPHZIBAHHOME.ORG**

Services for children & families; case management/social work; parent support and training; foster care; information and referral; advocacy.

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## Housing Forward

**WEB: HOUSINGFORWARD.ORG**

Email [shelter@housingforward.org](mailto:shelter@housingforward.org), or call 708-338-1724 ext. 228 (toll free 888-338-1744) for information about availability of emergency shelter.

Oak Park office: 848 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 60301  
(First United Church of Oak Park, lower level parking lot entrance)

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**PHONE: 708-386-1946 OR 888-338-1744**

Main office: 1851 S. Ninth Avenue, Maywood 60153

**PHONE: 708-338-1724**

Emergency homeless shelter, supportive services & transitional housing, employment readiness and homelessness- prevention programs; Support Center for basic needs (showers, laundry, lockers, phones and a physical mailing address); case management involving medical, mental health and substance abuse services; formerly known as West Suburban PADS and Prevail.

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## Maryville Academy Children's Healthcare Ctr. & Crisis Nursery

4015 N. Oak Park Avenue, Building B, Chicago 60634

**PHONE: 773-205-3637    WEB: MARYVILLEACADEMY.ORG**

**FAX: 773-205-3633**

Short-term care for children birth-age 6, for families in crisis, such as domestic violence, medical emergencies, or family instability.

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## Mom Mail

**EMAIL: OPRFMOMMAIL@GMAIL.COM    WEB: MOMMAIL.WORDPRESS.COM**

Daily community email listserv on different topics (sitters wanted/available, items wanted/for free/for rent, for sale, etc.).

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## **Oak Park MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)**

at First Presbyterian Church, 7551 Quick Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**EMAIL: INFO@OAKPARKMOPS.COM      WEB: OAKPARKMOPS.COM**

Support for mothers of children birth-5 yrs; provides fellowship from a Christian perspective; meets 9:00-11:00 am on the 1st & 3rd Fridays, Sept–May. Children participate in supervised activities; variable fee structure. Online chat forum also available.

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## **Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry**

848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

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(basement of First United Church of Oak Park, enter thru parking lot)

**PHONE: 708-386-1324      WEB: OPRFFOODPANTRY.ORG**  
**EMAIL: INFO@OPRFFOODPANTRY.ORG**

Hours: Saturdays: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

1st Wednesday of month: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday of month: 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Clients select an allotment of food once a month; assistance with food stamp applications is available. Clients must reside within service boundaries; photo ID and proof of residence is required.

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## **Oak Park Area Moms Meetup Group**

**WEB: MEETUP.COM**; *search for "Oak Park moms"*

Group for parents of babies and toddlers from Oak Park and the surrounding areas: stay at home moms/dads, part-time and full-time working moms/dads. Maintains a message board and calendar of meetup events. New members must be approved by the group's organizer.

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## **Oak Park Women's Guild**

at The Nineteenth Century Club, 178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park 60301

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**EMAIL: OPWOMENSGUILD@GMAIL.COM      WEB: OAKPARKWOMENSGUILD.ORG**

Non-profit volunteer organization with a focus on community service as well as social opportunities. Meets 9:00 - 11:00 am, two Wednesdays per month Sept-May. Babysitting provided for a small fee.

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**Parenthesis Family Center**

405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-2227****WEB: PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG****EMAIL: INFO@PARENTHESIS-INFO.ORG**

Offers on-site and in-home parenting education and support for all families. Support groups for pregnant/parenting teens, single moms; Family Wrap parent coaching; Parent/child Drop-In program provides play-based, age-appropriate for children (ages birth - kdg). Parents of children ages 3 - 5 can use Drop-Off program two mornings per week.

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**PCC Family Health Centers**

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-0113**

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

**PHONE: 708-386-0845****WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG**

Behavioral health services include family and couples counseling for PCC primary-care patients.

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**Pillars**

6918 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn 60402

6415 Stanley Avenue, Berwyn 60402

**PHONE: 708-386-2100 OR 708-745-5277****WEB: PILLARSCOMMUNITY.ORG**

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline . . . . . 708-485-5254

24-Hour Sexual Violence Hotline . . . . . 708-482-9600

Community mental health center offering social services for children (ages 2-17) and their families; child psychologist on staff; early childhood mental health; bereavement, crisis, individual and family counseling; (SASS); domestic violence shelter.

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**Sarah's Inn**

P.O. Box 1159, Oak Park 60304

**PHONE: 708-386-3305****WEB: SARAHSINN.ORG****24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: 708-386-4225****EMAIL: SARAHSINN@SARAHSINN.ORG**

Comprehensive domestic violence services for children and women; individual and group counseling; parenting classes; court advocacy; abuser services; art therapy; computer training.

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### **Smart Love Family Services**

610 S. Maple Avenue, 2nd Floor, Oak Park 60403

**PHONE: 773-665-8052, EXT. 4**

**WEB: SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG**

**FAX: 708-660-4301**

**EMAIL: CONTACT@SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG**

Hours: 10:00 am-9:00 pm, M-Th; 9:00 am-6:00 pm Friday;  
8:00 am-3:00 pm Saturday

Mental health services for children and adults; diagnostic evaluations;  
psychological and neuropsychological testing.

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### **TAPP (Teenage Parent Program)**

at Oak Park-River Forest High School, 201 N. Scoville Avenue, Oak Park 60302

**CONTACT ERIN GRAZIANO: 708-434-3199 EMAIL: EGRAZIANO@OPRFHS.ORG**

Provides care for children (6 wks-5 yrs) of teenage parents while they attend classes at OPRFHS; sliding fee scale. For more support for teenage parents, see listing for Parenthesis Family Center.

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### **Thrive Counseling Center**

120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-383-7500**

**WEB: THRIVECC.ORG**

**EMAIL: ADMISSION@THRIVECC.ORG**

24 Hour Crisis Line: 708-383-7500

Community mental health center with 24 Hour crisis line; sliding fee scale; parent, family, and youth (ages 12-18) counseling; drug & alcohol prevention programs; bullying and conflict prevention programs; youth anger management; client advocacy and case management; victim and witness assistance program.

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### **West Suburban MOMS (Mothers of Multiples)**

**EMAIL: WSMOMS@GMAIL.COM**

**WEB: WSMOMS.ORG**

Provides support and encouragement to parents of twins, triplets, and multiple birth children. Online support group; monthly parent meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

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## Music, Gym, Swim and More

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### Academy of Movement and Music

605 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-848-2329**    **WEB: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC.COM**

**EMAIL: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC@GMAIL.COM**

Ballet, including boy's ballet (ages 3+), jazz (ages 6+) and Humphrey modern (ages 5+).

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### Brookfield Zoo

First Avenue, between Ogden Avenue and 31st Street, Brookfield 60513

**PHONE: 708-688-8000**    **WEB: CZS.ORG**

Open 365 days/year. Free general admission on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Oct.-Dec., and on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during Jan. and Feb. Many exhibits suitable for visits during bad weather. See website or call for special events and pricing.

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### De Maira Dance Studio

1146 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-386-1833**    **WEB: DEMAIRA-DANCE.COM**

**EMAIL: DEMAIRADANCESTUDIOS@COMCAST.NET**

Tot combination class—ballet, tap, creative movement, & tumbling (ages 3+).

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### Fenwick High School Swim Classes

505 W. Washington Boulevard, Oak Park 60302

**PHONE: 708-386-0127 X 346**

**WEB: FENWICKFRIARS.COM/PAGE/2555**

**EMAIL: KPERRY@FENWICKFRIARS.COM**

Three 2-week summer sessions, eight 45-minute lessons per session (ages 5+). Beginning swimmers focus on becoming safe and comfortable in the water; experienced swimmers improve competitive strokes (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly).

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### Forest Park Public Library

7555 Jackson Boulevard, Forest Park 60130

**PHONE: 708-366-7171**    **WEB: FPPL.ORG**

**EMAIL: ASKUS@FPPL.ORG**

Pre-K storytime 10:30-11:30 am on Mondays, with sensory play; Wednesdays, English/Spanish with music; and Friday Padooza. Pre-K play stations offered on Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am. Baby lapsit story time offered on Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am; Pre-K lunch box story time offered Tuesdays, 11-12 pm.

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## **Garfield Park Conservatory**

300 N. Central Park Avenue, Chicago 60624

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**PHONE: 312-746-5100    WEB: GARFIELDCONSERVATORY.ORG**

Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm (Wednesdays: 9:00 am-8:00 pm), 365 days/year

Parent-child nature education offered Mon., 10-12 am (Morning Glories);  
Wed., 4-7 pm (Wild Wednesdays); Sat. and Sun, 12-4 pm (Fiddleheads).

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## **The Gasse School of Music**

7641 Polk Street, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE: 708-488-8117    WEB: GASSESCOOLOFMUSIC.ORG**  
**EMAIL: GASSESCOOLOFMUSIC@GMAIL.COM**

Classes for children pre-K through high school Mon-Sat. Parent/child instrument lessons in guitar, cello, piano, violin, and viola (ages 4 and up); instruction for Spanish-speaking students; ongoing enrollment; class schedules follow public school calendar.

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## **Harold “Hal” Tyrrell Trailside Museum**

738 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-6530    WEB: FPDCC.COM**

Summer Hours (March-November) 9:00 am-4:45 pm, Saturday-Thursday

Winter Hours (December-February) 9:00 am-3:45 pm, Saturday-Thursday

Cook County Forest Preserve nature center with displays, including live animals, walking trails and an outdoor play area.

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## **Huskie Swim Camp at Oak Park River Forest High School**

201 N. Scoville Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-434-3431    EMAIL: PQUINN@OPRFHS.ORG**

Three 2-wk summer sessions (8 lessons per session) at 7 different start times, dates and times TBD. Online registration opens the beginning of April; walk-in registration at beginning of June (ages 4-10).

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## **INTUITdance**

237 Harrison Street, Oak Park 60304 | 7515 Madison Street, Forest Park

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**PHONE: 312-505-0186    WEB: INTUITDANCE.ORG**  
**708-524-0500    EMAIL: INFO@INTUITDANCE.ORG**

Beginning ballet, Dance for Children (creative movement), and Dance for Boys (boys' ballet).

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### The Language and Music School

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60301

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**PHONE: 708-524-5252**    **WEB: LMSCHOOL.COM**

Parent/tot, Pre-K and Kindergarten programs in Spanish (6 mos - 5 years); language immersion classes for most languages (ages 2 - 9); instruction for most orchestral and band instruments.

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### Legere Dance Centre

7377 W. North Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-771-9500**    **WEB: LEGEREDANCECENTRE.COM**

Beginning-advanced levels in Ballet, Pointe, Jazz, Contemporary and Tap for ages 3 - 18. Pre-K classes offered on Saturdays. Open auditions for the annual Nutcracker production.

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### Magical Minds Studio

343 Harrison Street, Oak Park 60304

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**PHONE: 708-948-7934**    **WEB: MAGICALMINDSSTUDIO.COM**  
**EMAIL: CONTACT@MAGICALMINDSSTUDIO.COM**

Magical Beginnings parent/child classes (18 mos - 3 years); art-based preschool offered that coordinates with school calendar; after-school programs for ages 3+; open studio sessions ongoing (punch card purchase); birthday parties.

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### Music Together at Oak-Leyden

411 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-524-1050, EXT. 107**    **WEB: OAK-LEYDEN.ORG**  
**EMAIL: RWOOD@OAK-LEYDEN.ORG**

Inclusive, family-focused classes for children (8 mos-5 years) and parents/caregivers.

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### Musikgarten of Oak Park

907 South Lombard Avenue, Oak Park 60304

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**PHONE: 407-271-6651**    **WEB: MAKINGMUSIK.COM/MSAMY/**  
**EMAIL: MUSIKGARTENOAKPARK@GMAIL.COM**

Music classes include Family Music for Babies (birth - 18 mos), Family Music (16 mos - 3 yrs), Cycle of Seasons (3 - 5 yrs) and Music Makers with keyboard (ages 4 ½ - 7 yrs). 14-week session classes. Mama and Baby FITness 4-week class also available.

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## **My Gym Children's Fitness Center**

7625 W. Lake Street, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-209-1600      WEB: MYGYM.COM/RIVERFOREST**  
**EMAIL: MYGYMOPRF@GMAIL.COM**

Classes for children (6 mos - 10 yrs) incorporate music, dance, relays, games, sports, gymnastics, and more. Birthday parties & camps. Ongoing classes; monthly fee.

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## **Oak Park Art League**

720 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-386-9853      WEB: OAKPARKARTLEAGUE.ORG**  
**EMAIL: OAKPARKARTLEAGUE@GMAIL.COM**

After-school art classes (age 5 yrs+) involving a variety of art materials. One-week summer art camps for children (ages 5 - 8, 9 - 12 yrs.), 9:00 am - 12:00 pm daily.

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## **Oak Park Conservatory**

615 Garfield Street, Oak Park 60304, across from Rehm Park

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**PHONE: 708-725-2460      WEB: FOPCON.ORG**  
**EMAIL: COORDINATOR@FOPCON.ORG**

Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday - Sunday

Parent-caregiver/Toddler Exploration Time (TET) every 3rd Friday (exc. Dec., summer) for ages 18 - 30 months, 10:30 - 11:15; ages 3 - 5 years, 12:15 - 1:00 pm. Online pre-registration required for TET; 15 family limit. Interactive Exploration Station for families open 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Sat., 1:30 - 3:30 pm Sun., Sept. - May. Annual Kids Fest with George the Parrot's birthday on 1st Sunday in March, 10 - 2 pm.

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## **Oak Park Gymnastics and Recreation Center (GRC)**

21 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-725-2200      WEB: PDOP.ORG/PROGRAMS/GYMNASTICS**  
**EMAIL: GYMNASTICS@PDOP.ORG**

Instruction for children (ages 2+). Parent/caregiver-supported Preschool Playtime (children under age 6) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, (Oct. - May) 10:00 - 11:30 am; Fridays, 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

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**Oak Park Public Library**

Main Library, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

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**PHONE: 708-452-3420 (CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT)**

**WEB: OPPL.ORG/KIDS**

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Dole Branch, 255 Augusta Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-386-9032**

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Maze Branch, 845 S. Gunderson Avenue, Oak Park 60304

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**PHONE: 708-386-4751**

Year-round activities, including story times and summer reading incentive programs. Call or visit website for more information.

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**Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts**

126 N Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, 60301

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**PHONE: 708-222-7564**

**WEB: OVATIONACADEMY.ORG**

**EMAIL: OVATIONACADEMYARTS@GMAIL.COM**

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Acting, voice, dance, musical theater classes (ages 4+).

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**Panda Dance Studio**

1003 Garfield Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-386-0743**

**WEB: PANDADANCESTUDIOS.COM**

**EMAIL: PANDASTUDIOS@COMCAST.NET**

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Combined ballet, tap, and tumbling classes (ages 3 - 5).

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**Park District of Forest Park**

7501 W. Harrison Street, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE: 708-366-7500**

**WEB: PDOFP.ORG**

Parent/child swim classes (for children 6 months & up), recreational programs for children of all ages. Aquatic Center includes zero depth pool and sprayground.

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**Park District of Oak Park**

218 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-0002**

**WEB: PDOP.ORG**

**FAX: 708-383-5702**

**EMAIL: INFO@PDOP.ORG**

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Family music classes for children (3 months - 5 years); children's dance, preschool arts and crafts, swimming, ice skating, hockey, sports at several locations (ages 3+); online brochure and registration available.

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## **Peekaboo Playroom**

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**WEB: PEEKABOOPLAYROOM.COM**

New location coming. Check website for current information.

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## **River Forest Community Center**

8020 Madison Street, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-771-6159**

**WEB: RFCC.INFO**

**EMAIL: JCONRAD@RFCC.INFO**

Parent/child programs (ages 15 - 23 mos); art, dance, music, gymnastics and general sports (ages 3+); birthday parties; summer camps.

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## **River Forest Park District**

401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-6660**

**WEB: RFPARKS.COM**

**EMAIL: INFO@RFPARKS.COM**

Activities for children (ages 4+), including pee-wee sports; arts and crafts; after school sports; summer camp for tots.

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## **River Forest Public Library (Children's Services)**

735 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest 60305

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**PHONE: 708-366-5205, EXT. 312**

**WEB: RIVERFORESTLIBRARY.ORG**

**EMAIL: CHILDRENS@RIVERFORESTLIBRARY.ORG**

Story times for infants-6 years, weekdays; monthly Pajama Story times; and special events. See website for details. All programs are free; some require registration.

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## **Steckman Studio of Music**

829 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60304

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**PHONE: 708-524-1954**

**WEB: STECKMAN-STUDIO.ORG**

**EMAIL: HARRY@STECKMAN-STUDIO.ORG**

Non-profit studio offering parent/caregiver and child music classes (12 - 35 mos), independent music classes (ages 3 - 5), individual and group instrument lessons.

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## **Transcendance Studios at EF Body Works**

711 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 773-944-5352**

**WEB: TRANSCENDANCESTUDIOS.COM**

**EMAIL: CAITJONES@TRANSCENDANCESTUDIOS.COM**

Pre-combo ballet-tap classes (ages 3 - 5).

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**Tri-Star Gymnastics**

1401 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130

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**PHONE: 708-771-STAR (7827)      WEB: TRI-STARGYM.ORG**

Parent/tot classes (2-3 years), independent gymnastics classes (ages 3+), weekly drop-in parent/child family fun classes; monthly parents' night-out drop-off (ages 3+); birthday parties. Competitive team participation offered with tryout (ages 4+).

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**West Cook YMCA**

225 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-520      WEB: WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG**  
**EMAIL: ELOPEZ@WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG**

Various activities offered to members and non-members including day camps, preschool family gym, storytime, dance and drama, gym & swim, and seasonal events.

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**Wonder Works Children's Museum**

6445 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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**PHONE: 708-383-4815      WEB: WONDER-WORKS.ORG**  
**EMAIL: INFO@WONDER-WORKS.ORG**

Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Mon, Wed-Saturday; noon - 5 pm Sunday; Tuesdays open for large field trips only (30+ students/chaperones)

Interactive non-profit children's museum for children ages 8 years and younger with six permanent exhibits; birthday parties. Special programs for music, arts & crafts, science and nature, and creative play included in museum general admission.

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## The Collaboration for Early Childhood: What We Do

The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a public/private partnership. We leverage the resources of more than 60 local agencies to promote the development of a comprehensive, community-wide system of high-quality services during the critical first five years of life so that our community's children may reach their fullest potential. Our programs and activities are research-based and evidence-informed, and designed to benefit all children, with a special focus on at-risk children.

The Collaboration's work focuses on:

- Parent Information and Support: home-visiting services, workshops, and publications, including Watch and Help Me Grow, and this Early Childhood Resource Directory
- Developmental Screening: development of a system to promote universal developmental screening for children birth through age five and hearing and vision screenings
- Professional Development: training for child care providers and preschool teachers to improve the quality of services children receive
- Public Preschool Coordination: coordinating outreach and linking eligible families with subsidized Preschool for All and Head Start programs, coaching and training staff to promote high-quality learning experiences
- Measurement and Research: development of a secure, voluntary database in order to track outcomes, carry out impact analysis, and help early childhood providers use data to improve the quality of services to families with young children

The Collaboration was founded in 2002, and all Oak Park jurisdictions participate: the Village of Oak Park, District 97, District 200, Oak Park Township, Oak Park Public Library and Park District of Oak Park. In addition to the jurisdictions, our partners include a wide range of early childhood service providers and stakeholders.

In April 2013, the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 and Oak Park River Forest High School District 200 approved a contract for services with the Collaboration for Early Childhood to establish a coordinated high-quality system of supports for families with young children. The funding from the jurisdictions makes possible all of the services described above including a significant expansion of home visiting.



## Medical Release Form

We, \_\_\_\_\_, residing  
at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

hereby give permission to

\_\_\_\_\_

to authorize medical care for our child/children

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

in the event of an emergency.

Permission is hereby granted to authorize the appropriate medical care, as ascertained by a certified physician in consultation with the above named caregiver.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

Date

# EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency/Police/Fire ..... 911  
Poison Control ..... 1-800-222-1222  
Child Abuse Hotline ..... 1-800-25 ABUSE

## *Personal Information*

Your home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your work number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Emergency Contacts*

Nearest relative \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor/friend \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor/friend \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbor/friend \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

Health care provider \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance company \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENT/PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_





Collaboration for  
Early Childhood

[collab4kids.org](http://collab4kids.org)



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