

Early Childhood Resource Directory

OAK PARK | RIVER FOREST | FOREST PARK

2018-2019 Edition

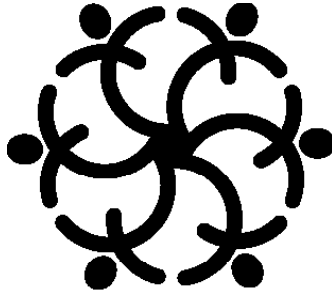


Collaboration for
Early Childhood

Strong Start, Bright Future



collab4kids.org



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 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.

Mission

We champion high-quality early childhood care and learning experiences and support for families so all children develop their full potential.

Vision

A community where every child thrives.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OAK PARK / RIVER FOREST

LOCAL ELECTIONS. STATE ELECTIONS. NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

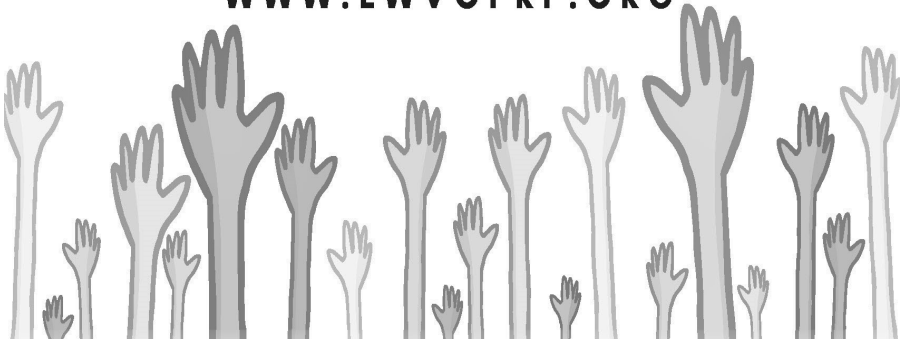
- Do you know where you stand on ballot issues?
- Do you know how your vote on those issues will impact the community around you?
- Do you want to be an active and informed citizen?
- Do you believe that the right to vote is central to democracy?

The League of Women Voters not only offers members many opportunities to learn about the issues that affect all of us, and is seen as the authority on registering voters nationwide.

Get involved with one of the most respected and effective grassroots organizations in the country - right here in your own backyard!

For more information - including a full calendar of events - visit our website!

WWW.LWVOPRF.ORG



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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.

CHOOSING QUALITY CHILD CARE

Points to Consider During the Decision-Making Process

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
- Provides space and equipment for indoor and outdoor gross motor (large muscle) play
- Monitors a child's development in a valid, reliable way using research-based tools
- Appreciates the importance of social-emotional learning

Staff Background and Training:

- Licensed and/or accredited facility (see page 7 for more information)
- 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

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

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

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 serious issues

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

CHILD CARE CENTERS & PRESCHOOLS LISTINGS

Most child care programs have ongoing enrollment, and will accept children throughout the year. Many programs begin enrollment in January or February for the following fall, and they can fill up quickly. Typically, the age eligibility listed is the child's age as of September 1 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.

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.

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.

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.

If You Cannot Afford Child Care

If you cannot afford long-term child care, Action for Children can help (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.

Preschool for All/Head Start

Free, high-quality preschool is available to families who meet eligibility criteria in Oak Park and River Forest. Three agencies in Oak Park receive grants to provide state-funded Preschool for All Programs: ABC Toon Town, Oak Park Elementary School District 97, and The Day Nursery. Hephzibah Children's Association also offers a Head Start program. Eligibility includes income, developmental delays, and more.

Call the Collaboration for Early Childhood for details on enrolling a child in any of these programs: 708-613-6122

ExceleRate Illinois (*exceleerateillinois.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 November 2017. Visit *collab4kids.org* for the most up to date ratings.

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*. (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) is a national rating system that equates to an ExceleRate Silver Circle of Quality. For more information about NAEYC accreditation and quality standards, visit their website, *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*.

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.

ABC Toon Town, Inc.
411 South Blvd, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-848-0701 WEB: ABCTOONTOWN.COM
EMAIL: ABCTOON98@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Calendar year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program; Preschool For All site

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 9/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Silver Circle of Quality

Academy of Movement and Music Preschool
605 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-848-2329 WEB: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC.COM
EMAIL: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:45 am - 11:00 am; 12:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1; 6/1 (dependent on age)

License-exempt

Alcuin Montessori School
324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-366-1882 WEB: ALCUIN.ORG
EMAIL: AVALERA@ALCUIN.ORG

School year and calendar year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 8:30 am - 11:30 am (toddlers); 7:15 am - 6:00 pm (3 and up)

Scholarships and sliding scale fees available

Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1 (infant/toddler); 10/1 (3 and up)

License-exempt

Ascension Catholic School
601 Van Buren Street, Oak Park 60304



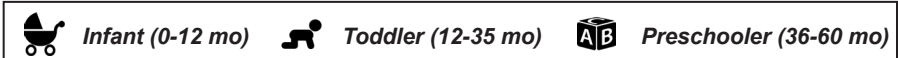
PHONE: 708-386-7282 WEB: ASCENSIONOAKPARK.COM
EMAIL: INFO@ASCENSIONOAKPARK.COM

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 9:00 am - 11:40 am; 12:20 pm - 3:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 15/2 (age 3); 20/2 (age 4); 25/2 (age 5)

Licensed



Blocks 24-Hour Child Care Center
815 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-445-1572 EMAIL: BLOCKSCENTERS@GMAIL.COM

Calendar year; full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed

Concordia University Early Childhood Education Center
7400 Augusta Boulevard, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-209-3099 WEB: CUCHICAGO.EDU/EARLYCHILDHOOD
EMAIL: CRFECEC@CUCHICAGO.EDU

Calendar year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 3/1 (infants); 4/1 (toddlers); 5/1 (age 2); 7/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality; NAEYC-Accredited

The Day Nursery
1139 Randolph Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-383-8211 WEB: THEDAYNURSERY.ORG
EMAIL: INFO@THEDAYNURSERY.ORG

Calendar year and school year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program; scholarships, sliding scale fees available;
Preschool For All site

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1


Licensed; ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality; NAEYC-Accredited

First Baptist Preschool and Kindergarten
820 Ontario Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-383-1190 WEB: OPFBCSCHOOL.COM
EMAIL: FBC820@YAHOO.COM

Calendar year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1 (toddlers); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Silver Circle of Quality

First United Church Nursery School

848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301



PHONE: 708-848-4910

WEB: FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM

EMAIL: JWHITE@FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions); Tuesday - Friday

Hours: 8:15 am - 11:15 am; 11:15 am to 1:45 pm; 12:10 pm - 2:40 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (age 2); 5/1 (age 3); 8/1 (ages 4-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality; NAEYC-Accredited

Forest Park District 91 Junior Kindergarten

At Garfield School, 543 Hannah Avenue, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-366-6945

WEB: FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:15 am - 11:00 am; 12:00 pm - 2:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

Licensed

Future Leaders Learning Center

6139 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-445-9522

EMAIL: FUTURELEADERSLEARN@GMAIL.COM

Calendar year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Silver Circle of Quality

The Giving Tree

7510 W. Randolph Avenue, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-209-1555

WEB: GIVINGTREESCHOOLS.COM

EMAIL: OWNER@GIVINGTREESCHOOLS.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infant); 5/1 (toddlers); 8/1 (preschool); 10/1 (pre-K)

Licensed

Glasser Preschool at Oak Park Temple

1235 N. Harlem Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-386-3937

WEB: GLASSERPRESCHOOL.COM

EMAIL: GLASSERPRESCHOOL@OAKPARKTEMPLE.ORG

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:30 am - 11:00 am; 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm; 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (age 2); 7/1 (age 3); 8/1 (ages 4-5)

*Licensed; NAEYC-Accredited***Goedert Center for Early Childhood Education**

7200 W. Division Street, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-714-9150

WEB: EDUCATE.DOM.EDU/GOEDERT

EMAIL: PRESCHOOL@DOM.EDU

Calendar year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

*Licensed; ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality; NAEYC-Accredited***Good Shepherd's Learning Center**

326 Lake Street, #8, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-386-2060

EMAIL: GSLC97@YAHOO.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: Meets DCFS requirements

*Licensed***Good Shepherd's Infant/Toddler Center**

402 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-386-2060

EMAIL: GSLC97@YAHOO.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: Meets DCFS requirements

Licensed**Infant (0-12 mo)****Toddler (12-35 mo)****Preschooler (36-60 mo)**

Grace Lutheran School

7300 W. Division Street, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-366-6900 WEB: GRACERIVERFOREST.ORG

School year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 8:15 am - 11:30 am; 8:15 am - 3:00 pm

License-exempt

Hephzibah Head Start

946 North Boulevard, Oak Park 60301



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

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:00 am - 11:30 am; 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Free to enrolled families who meet eligibility criteria

Child/Staff Ratio: 13/2

Licensed; ExceleRate Gold Circle of Quality

Intercultural Montessori Language School

301 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-848-6626 WEB: INTERCULTURALMONTESSORI.ORG
EMAIL: OAKPARKADMIN@INTERCULTURALMONTESSORI.ORG

School year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 11/1

License-exempt

Kangaroo Korner Early Learning Center

900 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-366-4452 EMAIL: SUZANNE.LOGAN@COMCAST.NET

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 6:30 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1 (toddlers); 8/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5)

Licensed



Infant (0-12 mo)



Toddler (12-35 mo)




Preschooler (36-60 mo)

Keystone Montessori School
7415 W. North Avenue, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-366-1080 WEB: KSMONTESSORI.ORG
EMAIL: VSHEA25@GMAIL.COM

School year; half-day

 Hours: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 (toddlers); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

License-exempt

Kings Kidz Academy Inc.
Visit collab4kids.org for facility address



PHONE: 708-434-5463 EMAIL: KINGSKIDZACADEMY@YAHOO.COM

Calendar year; full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - midnight

Child/Staff Ratio: Meets DCFS requirements

Licensed

La Casa Montessori
514 Adams Street, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-613-0514 WEB: LACASAMONTESSORI.ORG
EMAIL: INFO@LACASAMONTESSORI.ORG

Calendar year and school year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 (ages 2-3); 10/1 (ages 4-5)


Licensed

Montessori Language Academy
314 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-771-5030 WEB: MLA.SCHOOL
EMAIL: INFO@MLA.SCHOOL

School year and calendar year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Sliding scale fees available

Child/Staff Ratio: 7/1

License-exempt

Mosaic Montessori Academy
7970 Lake Street, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-834-3099 WEB: MOSAICMONTESSORI.ORG
EMAIL: INFO@MOSAICMONTESSORI.ORG

School year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

License-exempt

Oak Leaf Academy
200 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-434-5705 WEB: OAKLEAFACADEMY.COM
EMAIL: DIRECTOR@OAKLEAFACADEMY.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 8/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5)

Licensed

Oak Park Building Blocks
171 N. Cuyler Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-386-1033 WEB: OAKPARKBUILDINGBLOCKS.COM
EMAIL: ADMIN@OAKPARKBUILDINGBLOCKS.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 5:45 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Bronze Circle of Quality

Oak Park Elementary Schools District 97
Prekindergarten Partnership (PKP)
Longfellow School, 715 S. Highland Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-613-6122 EMAIL: PRESCHOOL@OP97.ORG

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:10 am - 10:50 am; 12:00 pm - 2:40 pm

Preschool for All site, free to enrolled families who meet eligibility criteria

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Silver Circle of Quality

Oak Park Friends

1192 S. Cuyler Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-247-5772

WEB: OPFS.ORG

EMAIL: INFO@OPFS.ORG

School year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: Meets DCFS requirements

Licensed

Oak Park Montessori School - Forest Park

16 Lathrop Avenue, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-435-4309

WEB: OAKPARKMONTESSORI.COM

EMAIL: OPMSMAIL@GMAIL.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed

Oak Park Montessori School – Oak Park

937 Garfield Street, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-358-6000

WEB: OAKPARKMONTESSORI.COM

EMAIL: OPMSINFO@GMAIL.COM

Calendar year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 10/1 (ages 3-5)

Licensed

Paper Lantern Language and Cultural Center

1034 1/2 Lake Street, Suite 204, Oak Park 60301



PHONE: 708-955-7155

WEB: PAPERLANTERNCENTER.COM

EMAIL: INFO@PAPERLANTERNCENTER.COM

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions)

Hours: 8:30 am - 11:00 am; 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

License-exempt

**Infant (0-12 mo)****Toddler (12-35 mo)****Preschooler (36-60 mo)**

Park District of Oak Park

Centers: Andersen, Austin Gardens, Barrie, Carroll, Field, Longfellow



PHONE: 708-725-2106

WEB: PDOP.ORG/PRESCHOOL

EMAIL: BARB.GROOMS@PDOP.ORG

School year; half-day

Hours: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1 (toddlers); 9/1 (ages 3-4); 10/1 (ages 4-5)

Licensed

Pilgrim Community Nursery School

460 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-848-5869

WEB: PILGRIMSCHOOL.NET

EMAIL: OFFICE@PILGRIMSCHOOL.NET

School year; half-day (morning and afternoon sessions); Monday - Thursday

Hours: 8:45 am - 11:15 am; 8:45 am - 12:45 pm; 12:45 pm - 2:45 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (toddler); 7/1 (age 3); 8/1 (ages 4-5)

Licensed; ExceleRate Bronze Circle of Quality; NAEYC-Accredited

River Forest Community Center

8020 Madison Street, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-771-5127

WEB: RFCC.INFO

EMAIL: LMADONIA@RFCC.INFO

Calendar year and school year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program; scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

Licensed

River Forest Community Center at Oak Park River Forest High School

201 N. Scoville Ave., Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-434-3592

WEB: OPRFHS.ORG/DAY-CARE-PROGRAM

EMAIL: IODOWD@OPRFHS.ORG

School year; full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1 (infants); 5/1 (toddlers); 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (ages 3-5)


Licensed; ExceleRate Bronze Circle of Quality

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



PHONE: 708-445-7500

Calendar; full-day

 Hours: 7:00 am - 5:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: Meets DCFS requirements

Licensed

St. Catherine - St. Lucy School
25 W. Washington Boulevard, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-386-5286

WEB: CATHERINELUCY.ORG

EMAIL: SLEAMY@CATHERINELUCY.ORG

School year; full-day

 Hours: 8:05 am - 2:30 pm (early drop off/late pick up available)

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program; scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

License-exempt

St. Giles School
1034 Linden Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-383-6279

WEB: STGILESSCHOOL.ORG

EMAIL: OFFICE@STGILESSCHOOL.ORG

School year; half-day (extended day program available for enrolled families)

 Hours: 8:10 am - 11:15 am

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5)

License-exempt


St. Luke Parish School
519 Ashland Avenue, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-366-8587

WEB: SCHOOL-STLUKEPARISH.ORG

School year; half-day and full-day

 Hours: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

License-exempt



Infant (0-12 mo)



Toddler (12-35 mo)



Preschooler (36-60 mo)

St. Vincent Ferrer School
1515 N. Lathrop Avenue, River Forest 60305



PHONE: 708-771-5905 WEB: SVFSCHOOL.ORG
EMAIL: JGLIMCO@SVFSCHOOL.ORG

School year; half-day and full day

Hours: 8:00 am - 11:15 am; 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
(early drop off/late pick up available)

Child/Staff Ratio: 10/1

License-exempt

West Suburban Montessori School
1039 S. East Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-848-2662 WEB: WSMS.ORG
EMAIL: PEGGERDING@WSMS.ORG

Calendar year and school year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Scholarships available

Child/Staff Ratio: 15/1 (classroom); 10/1 (child care)

License-exempt

West Suburban Temple Har-Zion Preschool
1040 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest 60305



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

Calendar year and school year; half-day and full-day

Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

Licensed; NAEYC-Accredited



Infant (0-12 mo)



Toddler (12-35 mo)



Preschooler (36-60 mo)

FAMILY CHILD CARE LISTINGS

A family child care provider opens up his or her home to children - often with one adult in charge. Family 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 family child care providers that meet additional quality standards, and family child care providers can participate in ExceleRate.

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 page 4 or go to *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/dcfs*. (Under the “Brighter Futures” tab, click on “Day Care Information.”) 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*, select “Accreditation.”

West Suburban Home Day Care Association
P.O. Box 1156, Oak Park IL 60304

PHONE: 708-848-8931 WEB: WSHDCA.COM

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:

Not all providers have given us permission to publish their addresses.
Please contact the provider directly for more information.

Antoinette's Home Day Care
Antoinette Kizak | Oak Park



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

Hours: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

Licensed

Banks Kiddy Korner Home Day Care
Linda Banks | Forest Park



PHONE: 708-689-0686

Hours: 7:00 am - 7:00 pm (weekend care available)

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed

Bertha Cervantes Home Day Care
Bertha Cervantes | 1103 S Humphrey. Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-574-6696

Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

Licensed

B.J.'s Kids Child Care Community
Bj Richards | 7708 Monroe Street, Forest Park 60130



PHONE: 708-220-2546 EMAIL: BJDANDARA@GMAIL.COM

Hours: 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed



Infant (0-12 mo)



Toddler (12-35 mo)



Preschool (36-60 mo)



Elementary (5+ yrs)

Bright Star Learning Center
Ronna Kowalski | Oak Park



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

Hours: 8:15 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

Licensed

The Busy Bee Learning Academy
Leticia Canchola | Oak Park



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

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

Licensed

Candie's Home Daycare
Candice M. Dever | Forest Park



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

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/2

Licensed

Candy Montanez Home Day Care
Candy Montenez | Oak Park



PHONE: 709-386-5393 EMAIL: CSRM0856@YAHOO.COM

Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

Licensed

Cathy's Day Care Home
Cathy Hoffman | 808 Wesley Avenue, Oak Park 60304

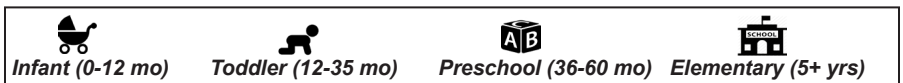


PHONE: 708-386-6134 EMAIL: HOFFMANS2@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

Licensed



Cristy's Home Daycare

Luz Cristina Solis-Black | Oak Park



PHONE: 708-848-3947

EMAIL: LUZCRISTINAS@YAHOO.COM

Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed

Daniela's Day Care & Preschool

Ana Perez | Oak Park



PHONE: 708-383-3859

Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 12/2

Licensed

The Early Learning Development Center

Jeanette Streeter | Oak Park



EMAIL: JEANETTE.STREETER@YAHOO.COM

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed

Mrs. Fischer's Day Care Home

Kathy Fischer | River Forest



PHONE: 708-771-7496

EMAIL: FISCHERKATHY@HOTMAIL.COM

Hours:

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality

Flavia Lamb Home Day Care

Flavia Lamb | 1016 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-445-7344

EMAIL: BEVINLAMB@GMAIL.COM

Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm


Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality

Gaby's Day Care
Gabriela Serratos | Oak Park




PHONE: 708-948-7112 EMAIL: GABYDAYCARE72@GMAIL.COM

 Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm
Accepts Child Care Assistance Program
Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2
Licensed

Honeybee Child Care
Erika & Rosetta Abel | Oak Park




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

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1
Licensed

The Itsy Bitsy Home Day Care
Vicki Hutsler | 1530 Park Avenue, River Forest 60305




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

 Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1
Licensed

Jessica's Daycare
Jessica Worthington | 928 N. Humphrey Avenue, Oak Park 60302




PHONE: 708-275-5491 EMAIL: JESSICAWORTHINGTON17@GMAIL.COM

 Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm
Child/Staff Ratio: 8/2
Licensed

Little Sprouts
Kizzie Harris | Oak Park



PHONE: 708-972-2909 EMAIL: KIZZIEHARRIS@ATT.NET

 Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 am
Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1
Licensed; ExceleRate Bronze Circle of Quality

Marcela's Day Care
 Marcela Serratos | Oak Park



PHONE: 708-383-0741

Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 12/3

Licensed

Margie's Kids Home Daycare
 Margarita Guzman | Oak Park



PHONE: 773-727-2538

Hours: 7:45 am - 5:15 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/2

Licensed

Montessori Academy Spanish Immersion
 Maria Rueda | 1217 N. Harlem Avenue, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 630-670-7521

WEB: MYSpanishMontessori.com

EMAIL: Montessori-Academy@hotmail.com

Hours: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed

Montessori Español
 Rosario Sanchez | Oak Park



EMAIL: Charitol@SBCGlobal.net

Hours: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 12/2

Licensed

Nancy Carl Home Day Care
 Nancy Carl | River Forest



PHONE: 708-366-4695

Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality



Parent's Helper Home Daycare

Melody Robinson | 1212 N. Austin Boulevard, Oak Park 60302



PHONE: 708-383-7209

WEB: PARENTSHELPERDAYCARE.ORG

EMAIL: MSMELPHD@YAHOO.COM

 Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 3/1

Licensed

Peaceful Garden Children's House

Kathleen Garness | Forest Park



EMAIL: KMGFINEARTS@COMCAST.NET

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 5/1

Licensed

Prairie Home Kids

Alan Van Natter | Oak Park



EMAIL: PAMVANNATTER@GMAIL.COM

 Hours: 6:00 am - 5:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 3/1

Licensed

Quetzali Spanish Immersion Child Care

Alma Martinez | 1020 S. Humphrey Avenue, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-655-1082

WEB: QUETZALI.ORG

EMAIL: ALMA.QUETZALICHILDCARE@GMAIL.COM

 Hours: 6:00 am - 12:00 am

Accepts Child Care Assistance Program

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

Licensed


Small Wonders

Pamela Daniels | Forest Park



PHONE: 708-948-7820

EMAIL: PAMELARDANIELS@COMCAST.NET

 Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1; 12/2

Licensed

Step by Step Family Day Care

Jerri Thurman | Forest Park



EMAIL: JRRHURPHUR@YAHOO.COM

Hours: 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 8/1

Licensed

Sunshine House

Madge Laitala | 512 S. Cuyler, Oak Park 60304



PHONE: 708-848-6782 EMAIL: MADGEANDTERRY@GMAIL.COM

Hours: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm; Monday-Thursday

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality

Susan's Garden Child Care

Susan Bjornson | Oak Park



PHONE: 708-848-9515 WEB: SUSANSGARDENCHILDCARE.COM

EMAIL: SUSANBJORNSON@YAHOO.COM

Hours: 7:45 am - 5:45 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 6/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality

Young Learners of Oak Park

Maria Salazar | Oak Park



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

Hours: 7:00 am - 5:30 pm

Child/Staff Ratio: 4/1

Licensed; ExceleRate Green Circle of Quality

Infant (0-12 mo)	Toddler (12-35 mo)	Preschool (36-60 mo)	Elementary (5+ yrs)

After School Programs

Academia Institute of Language & Culture
308 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-401-0888 WEB: CHICAGOACADEMIA.COM
EMAIL: INFO@CHICAGOACADEMIA.COM

After school care available for elementary and middle school students in Oak Park and River Forest. Half-day care available for River Forest kindergarten students, with transportation to and from River Forest elementary schools. After school transportation available from District 97 elementary schools.

First Baptist Church of Oak Park
820 Ontario Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-1190 WEB: OPFBCSCHOOL.COM

Before and after school care for children in kindergarten through sixth grade; transportation available to and from Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park, and Chicago schools.

First United Church Nursery School
848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

PHONE: 708-848-4910 WEB: FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM
EMAIL: JWHITE@FIRSTUNITEDSCHOOL.COM

After school care for children attending half-day kindergarten programs; meets 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Tuesday - Friday.

Future Leaders Learning Center
6139 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-445-9522 EMAIL: FUTURELEADERSLEARN@GMAIL.COM

After school care for children ages 5 - 12.

Hephzibah Children's Association After-School Day Care
At District 97 elementary schools

PHONE: 708-649-7093 WEB: HEPHZIBAHHOME.ORG

After school care in District 97 elementary schools for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Offers sliding scale fees and sibling discounts.

Howard Mohr Community Center Clubhouse
7640 Jackson Blvd, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-848-6626 WEB: FORESTPARK.NET
EMAIL: KDYLEWSKI@FORESTPARK.NET

Before and after school care for Forest Park residents (grades kindergarten through sixth grade). Transportation available to Forest Park schools.

Kangaroo Korner Early Learning Center
900 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-4452 EMAIL: SUZANNE.LOGAN@COMCAST.NET

After school care for children ages 5 - 9 years.

Oak Park Friends School
1192 S. Cuyler Ave, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-247-5772

WEB: OPFS.ORG

EMAIL: INFO@OPFS.ORG

After school care for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Transportation is available from Irving, Longfellow, and Lincoln schools.

Park District of Oak Park Clubhouse
Multiple sites around Oak Park

PHONE: 708-725-2000

WEB: PDOP.ORG/PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS-OUT

EMAIL: MIKE.LOSZACH@PDOP.ORG

After school program for elementary age children; transportation provided for students at Beye, Hatch, Holmes, Irving, Lincoln, Longfellow, and Whittier Elementary Schools.

Prairie Home Kids

Located at United Lutheran Church, 409 Greenfield Street, Oak Park 60302

EMAIL: PAMVANNATTER@GMAIL.COM

After school care for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Transportation available from Hatch Elementary School.

Seed

500 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-613-5860

WEB: SEEDMONTESSORI.COM

EMAIL: SEEDMONTESSORI@GMAIL.COM

Montessori-based after school care for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Transportation available from all District 97 elementary schools.

West Cook YMCA - Y-Kids Before and After-School

Located at St. Johns Lutheran Church, 305 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-383-5200

WEB: WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG

EMAIL: ELOPEZ@WESTCOOKYMCA.ORG

Before and after school care available for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Transportation available to and from area elementary schools.

Child Care Resources

Action for Children

PHONE: 312-823-1100 EMAIL: REFERRALS@ACTFORCHILDREN.ORG
WEB: 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.

Child Care Aware

PHONE: 800-424-2246 WEB: 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.

ExceleRate Illinois

WEB: 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.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

WEB: 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.dcf.illinois.gov.

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

WEB: 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).

National Association for the Education of Young Children

PHONE: 800-424-2460 WEB: FAMILIES.NAEYC.ORG

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

Oak Park Department of Public Health

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

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

Provides information for women and new mothers on Medicaid or with low incomes. The Public Health Nurse provides free services to expectant mothers.

Child Care Provider Background Checks

Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS)

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* and search for “CANTS form” to download Form CFS-689, Authorization for Background Check for Programs NOT Licensed by DCFS.

Illinois State Police

PHONE: 815-740-5160

Provides criminal background checks on prospective caregivers.

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 31).
- 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.

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. (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.)

Facebook

There are networking groups for Oak Park area parents, sitters, and nannies on Facebook.

“OPRF Area Parent-Sitter Network.” Childcare workers can share their credentials and parents can recommend reputable sitters, nannies, au pairs, mother’s helpers, etc. in order to provide a credible resource to help parents fulfill needs for short or long term services.

“Oak Park Working Moms.” Designed to be a networking group to make each other’s lives easier—carpooling, pick up help, deal finders, babysitting shares, selling items, promoting your own business, etc.

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

Phone: 708-209-3090

Email: campus.events@cuchicago.edu

Dominican Babysitting Job Board

Phone: 708-524-6822

Email: jpaulus@dom.edu

There are also consultants and online resources that allow you to search for child care providers and babysitters by zip code and 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. You can also support gross motor development in young children by giving them lots of safe opportunities to run, jump, and climb.

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 teaches children to care for themselves and their belongings. Giving children lots of chances to practice these skills encourages 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 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 on page 64.

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; if you live north of I290 (Garfield School), call 708-366-6945; if you live south of I290 (Betsy Ross School), call 708-366-7498.
- Oak Park District 97– in March; call 708-524-3000.
- River Forest District 90 – in early February; 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 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 include both the test and a meeting with the child's parents/guardians. Call the District 97 office (708-524-3000) for more information or to make an appointment.

- 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.
- Visit collab4kids.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more tips about starting preschool or kindergarten.

Early Childhood Vision and Hearing Screenings

Did you know? Vision and hearing are foundational for literacy and social skills. In Illinois, center-based preschool and child care programs are required by law to provide annual vision and hearing screenings for children ages 3-5 years old. If your child is not enrolled in a center-based program, contact the Collaboration for Early Childhood to learn about screening opportunities.

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*, 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

Centers for Disease Control-Parent Milestones Page

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/ourwork/developmental-screening*.

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 parents, in partnership with 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 celebrate your child's developmental milestones. 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 a 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 40 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

Before age 3

If your child is under the age of three, and you have any concerns about your child's development after completing developmental screenings, you may wish to be connected to your local Child and Family Connections office. 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

Web: subacc.org

Age 3 or older

School districts are required to provide services for children ages 3-5 who have developmental delays or challenges. 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, and motor skills 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 your local elementary school district.

Check out our website for dates and locations of screenings for Oak Park or River Forest residents. You will also find resources and information for families with children with special needs at collab4kids.org/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.

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.

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 three, where will I be?," Page 26, Illinois State Board of Education, 2007

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 Library.”

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 on government funding levels.

Local School Districts

Forest Park (District 91) Student Services Department
925 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-5742 WEB: FORESTPARKSCHOOLS.ORG/

Oak Park (District 97) Special Education
970 Madison, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-524-3032 WEB: OP97.ORG/SPECIAL-EDUCATION

River Forest (District 90) Special Education
7776 Lake Street, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-771-8282 WEB: DISTRICT90.ORG

Development and Behavior Services

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
836 W. Wellington Avenue, Chicago 60657

PHONE: 773-296-7450 WEB: 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.

Aspire Children’s Services

Eamon Shannon Center
1815 South Wolf Road, Hillside 60162

PHONE: 708-236-0979 WEB: ASPIRECHICAGO.COM

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

Center for Autism Related Disorders (CARD)

6930 Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-358-3000 WEB: CENTERFORAUTISM.COM

Offers center-based services, home-based services, school-based services, remote clinical services, group ABA therapy, diagnostic and assessment services, and social skills groups.

Community Support Services

9021 Ogden Avenue, Brookfield 60513

PHONE: 708-354-4547 WEB: CSSSERVICES.ORG

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

Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)

at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

PHONE: 800-322-3722 WEB: 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.

Dynamic Lynks

1100 Lake Street, Suite 100C, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-620-2373

WEB: DYNAMICLYNK.COM

EMAIL: INFO@DYNAMICLYNK.COM

Holistic therapeutic center, music and movement for children with Autism. Individual and group music therapy sessions, adaptive yoga, voice, piano, guitar and ukulele lessons. All ages.

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

WEB: ERIKSON.EDU/CENTER-CHILDREN-FAMILIES

EMAIL: CCF@ERIKSON.EDU

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

Family Resource Center on Disabilities

11 E. Adams Street, Suite 1002, Chicago 60603

PHONE: 312-939-3513

WEB: FRCD.ORG

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

Fussy Baby Network

PHONE: 888-431-BABY(2229)

WEB: FUSSYBABYNETWORK.ORG

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

Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center

9649 W. 55th Street, Countryside 60525

PHONE: 708-352-3580, EXT. 383

WEB: HHREHAB.ORG

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

Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

PHONE: 877-275-3227

WEB: EICLEARINGHOUSE.ORG

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.

Imagine Pediatric Therapy

606 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago 60607

PHONE: 312-588-5050 WEB: [FACEBOOK.COM/IMAGINEPEDS](https://www.facebook.com/IMAGINEPEDS)

Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

Kids Unlimited Therapeutic Services LLC

820 North Boulevard (side entrance), Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-524-2445 WEB: [KIDSUNLIMITEDTHERAPYSERVICES.COM](https://www.kidsunlimitedtherapyservices.com)

Occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

Lakeview Speech & Language Clinic

PHONE: 773-573-7709

WEB: [LAKEVIEWSPEECH.COM](https://www.lakeviewspeech.com)EMAIL: INFO@LAKEVIEWSPEECH.COM

In-home speech and occupational therapies for families in the Oak Park area.

Lurie Children's Outpatient Center at Westchester

2301 Enterprise Drive, Westchester 60154

PHONE: 708-836-4800

WEB: [LURIECHILDRENS.ORG](https://www.luriechildrens.org), SEE "CARE AND SERVICES"

Audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy.

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services

411 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-524-1050 EXT. 107

WEB: [OAK-LEYDEN.ORG](https://www.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.

Pillars

6918 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn 60402

PHONE: 708-745-5277

WEB: [PILLARSCOMMUNITY.ORG](https://www.pillarscommunity.org)

Social-emotional/mental health therapy.

Alan I. Rosenblatt, MD

4711 Golf Road, Suite 800, Skokie 60076

PHONE: 847-677-1818

WEB: [DOCTORROSENBLATT.COM](https://www.doctorrosenblatt.com)

Provides neurodevelopmental pediatric services, parent and patient services, and child advocacy.

Smart Love Family Services

610 S. Maple Avenue, Suite 5601, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 773-665-8052

WEB: SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG

EMAIL: CONTACT@SMARTLOVEFAMILY.ORG

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

STAR NET Region II

2626 S Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights 60005

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.

Thrive Counseling Center

120 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-7500

WEB: THRIVECC.ORG

FAX: 708-383-7880

Social-emotional/mental health therapy.

Vital Rehabilitation

5820 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago 60634

PHONE: 773-685-8482

WEB: VITALREHABILITATION.COM

FAX: 773-685-8479

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

West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA)

2915 Maple Street, Franklin Park 60131

PHONE: 847-455-2100

WEB: WSSRA.NET

WSSRA works in partnership with the Park District of Oak Park, as well as 11 other communities, to offer a wide variety of recreational programs for persons of all ages with disabilities.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLNESS

Questions to Ask When Choosing Your Child's Health Care

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?
- Are sick children separated in the office from children who are visiting for a checkup?
- Who will see your child if the doctor is 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? Do they follow up with recommendations?
- 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 Health Care and Eye Care

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

All Kids and FamilyCare

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. FamilyCare 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 illinois.gov/hfs/medicalprograms/AllKids

Moms & Babies

The Moms & Babies program 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 West Suburban Medical Center (call 866-893-8446). Information is also available at Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (call 708-240-4435 or email affordablecare@ptmhc.org). Visit healthcare.gov or getcoveredillinois.gov for more information and to enroll in a health care plan.

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. Click on “Find a Doctor” 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.

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.

PCC South Family Health Center

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

PHONE: 708-386-0845

WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG

Services available for patients of PCC Wellness Centers.

Diagnostic, preventative, and restorative procedures; endodontics, periodontics and oral surgery; accepts All Kids, Medicaid & commercial insurance; sliding fee scale available to uninsured patients.

Other Dental Resources

American Dental Association	312-440-2500
Chicago Dental Society	312-836-7300
University of Illinois Dental School	312-996-7555
University of Illinois Pediatric Clinic	312-996-7532
University of Illinois Orthodontics Clinic	312-996-7505

Health and Safety Issues

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). Visit *transportation.gov* and search “Car Seats.”
- 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.”)
- Email the Village of Oak Park Fire Department to schedule a free car seat check: carseats@oak-park.us

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 health care provider or from on the CDC's website (*cdc.gov/vaccines*, select "Immunization Schedules").

Lead Poisoning

- Lead comes from two main sources in the home: water from lead pipes and dust from lead paint. If you are rehabbing a home built before 1978, 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 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.

Local Health and Safety Resources

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

Main Hospital: 225 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago 60611

PHONE: 312-227-4000

WEB: 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).

Children's Urgent Care - River Forest

7343 Lake St. Suite 7343, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-231-8908

Hours: 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm (weekdays); 9:00 am - 9:00 pm (weekends)

Provides after hours walk-in pediatric urgent care for patients between the ages of 0 and 21 years old.

Cook County Health Department

WEB: 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.

Edward-Elmhurst Health Center and Immediate Care

932 Lake Street, Suite 300, Oak Park 60301

PHONE: 331-221-1700

Hours: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm (weekdays); 8:00 am - 6:00 pm (weekends)

Provides immediate care, imaging services (digital X-ray, mammography and ultrasound), laboratory services, occupational health, plus primary care and specialty physician offices

Forest Park Fire Department

7625 Wilcox, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-1234

Car seat check for residents.

Gottlieb Center for Immediate Care at River Forest
7617 W. North Avenue, Elmwood Park 60707

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.

Immediate Care of Oak Park
1000 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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.

Oak Park Fire Department
100 N. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-358-5600 EMAIL: FIRE@OAK-PARK.US
WEB: OAK-PARK.US/VILLAGE-SERVICES/FIRE-DEPARTMENT

Regularly scheduled CPR classes. Certified safety technician will do free car seat check by appointment: email carseat@oak-park.us to schedule. Bring child and car seat to fitting; if possible, bring manuals for car and car seat.

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.

Oak Park Department of Public Health
123 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

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

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

Services available to patients of PCC Wellness Centers

Affordable primary care, behavioral health, and dental care. All locations offer support for patients that are expecting or are new mothers.

River Forest Fire Department

PHONE: 708-366-7629

WEB: VRF.US/GOVERNMENT/DEPARTMENTS#FIRE

CPR classes offered to River Forest residents.

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.

Rush University Medical Center: Rush Children's Hospital

1750 W. Harrison Street, Chicago 60612

PHONE: 888-352-7874

WEB: RUSH.EDU (*clinical services/pediatrics*)

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

Shriners Hospital

2211 N. Oak Park Avenue, Chicago 60707

PHONE: 773-622-5400

WEB: SHRINERSHOSPITALSFORCHILDREN.ORG

Treats orthopedic and neurological conditions, craniofacial surgery, and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. Services provided regardless of ability to pay.

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.

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.

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

For Expectant and New Mothers

Prenatal Classes

PCC Community Wellness Centers

WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG

Services available to patients of PCC Wellness Centers

All locations offer support for patients that are expecting or are new mothers. For more information about maternal child health programs, 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

West Suburban Medical Center Family Birthplace

WEB: WESTSUBURBANMC.COM

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

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

Fussy Baby Network

WEB: FUSSYBABYNETWORK.ORG

FREE PARENT SUPPORT PHONE LINE - 888-431-BABY (2229)

Services include parent/infant in-home support, Fussy Baby Clinic, Caring Parent Groups and Community Connections. Services also available in Spanish.

La Leche League of Oak Park/River Forest

WEB: LLOFIL.ORG

Information and support for breastfeeding mothers. Meets on the first Friday of the month at the Buzz Cafe (905 S. Lombard Avenue, Oak Park) and on the third Tuesday of the month at Belmont Village Senior Living of Oak Park (1035 Madison Street, Oak Park).

New Moms

405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 773-252-3253 X221

WEB: NEWMOMS.ORG

EMAIL: OAKPARKPROGRAMS@NEWMOMS.ORG

New Moms Oak Park location offers a wide range of FREE programs and services for parents of children ages 0-6 in Oak Park, River Forest, and the surrounding suburbs. Services and programs include parenting workshops, home visiting, support groups, and parent coaching. Morning Parent Meet Up (drop off program) has a fee for each visit but scholarship are available. Doula services and prenatal support groups are free and available for expectant mothers under 24.

PCC Community Wellness Centers

WEB: PCCWELLNESS.ORG

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-0113

5425 W. Lake Street, Chicago 60644

PHONE: 773-378-3347

6201 W. Roosevelt Road, Berwyn 60402

PHONE: 708-386-0845

Affordable primary care, behavioral health, and dental care. All locations offer support for patients that are expecting or are new mothers.

West Suburban Medical Center

3 Erie Court, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 866-938-7256

WEB: WESTSUBURBANMC.COM

At the West Suburban Medical Center Family Birthplace, there are free orientation classes for parents interested in water births and other non-interventive births. West Suburban also offers a free breastfeeding support group led by a facilitated lactation consultant on the first Saturday of each month as well as a breastfeeding class for expectant mothers on the third Saturday of each month. Advance registration for the support group is recommended and required for the breastfeeding class.

Maternal Depression

Maternal depression is clinical depression that occurs during pregnancy or within a year of giving birth. It 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

Healthcare Alternative Systems Inc. (HAS)

WEB: HASCARES.ORG PHONE: 773-292-4242 (CHICAGO)

PHONE: 708-498-0200 (BROADVIEW)

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

Postpartum Depression Alliance of Illinois

PHONE: 847-205-4455

WEB: PPDIL.ORG/CONTACT-US

Postpartum Progress

PHONE: 800-944-4773

WEB: POSTPARTUMPROGRESS.COM

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

Home Visiting: Supporting Parents and Children

Parenting doesn't come with instructions, but fortunately Oak Park and River Forest are committed to your success as a parent. There are free home visiting programs offered year round to families with children birth to 6 years by three local agencies: Easterseals, New Moms, and Hephzibah. All services are FREE and offered by highly qualified staff.

When you participate in home visiting, you will:

- Learn important information about how to support your child's development and growth
- Attend social activities with other families in the program
- Help your child enter school ready to learn
- Receive information on resources and networks available in the community, including health and nutrition information

To learn more about home visiting:

Call: 708-358-5485

Email: mwax@oak-park.us

Visit: collab4kids.org

Other Local Resources and Support Groups

Food, Housing, and Support Services

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.

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.

Housing Forward

Main office: 1851 S. Ninth Avenue, Maywood 60153

Oak Park office: 6632 W. Roosevelt Road, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-338-1724 (MAYWOOD) PHONE: 708-386-1946 (OAK PARK)

WEB: HOUSINGFORWARD.ORG

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

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.

Kids Kloset

At First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

EMAIL: SUSANZARUBA@GMAIL.COM

The Kids' Kloset assists families with limited resources by providing clean, gently used clothing for children during cold weather months. Donations of sturdy, gently used, clean, cold weather children's clothes with no holes or stains are accepted Monday – Friday (9AM-5PM). Volunteers are frequently needed.

Parent-Organized Resources and Supports

Mom Mail

WEB: MOMAIL.WORDPRESS.COM
GMAIL.COM

EMAIL: OPRFMOMMAIL@GMAIL.COM

Daily community email listserv on different topics including child care, events, etc.

Oak Park Area Moms Meet Up Group

WEB: MEETUP.COM; SEARCH FOR "OAK PARK MOMS"

Group for parents of babies and toddlers from Oak Park and the surrounding areas. Maintains a message board and calendar of meetup events.

Oak Park MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

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

WEB: OAKPARKMOPS.COM

EMAIL: INFO@OAKPARKMOPS.COM

Support for mothers of children birth to 5 years. Provides fellowship from a Christian perspective, meets on the first and third Fridays of the month.

Parents of Extra Special Kids

WEB: FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/EXTRASPECIALKIDS

Supportive and inclusive groups of parents of kids with special needs or other challenges. Parents share experiences and resources, and have regular parent/caregiver meetups, learning opportunities, and social events.

West Suburban MOMS (Mothers of Multiples)

WEB: WSMOMS.ORG

EMAIL: WSMOMS@GMAIL.COM

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

Music, Gym, Swim and More

Hours may change. Call or check online for the most up to date information.



Public Libraries

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 Palooza. 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.

Oak Park Public Library

Main Library, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

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

WEB: OPPL.ORG/KIDS

Dole Branch, 255 Augusta Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-386-9032

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

PHONE: 708-386-4751

Year-round activities, including story times and summer reading incentive programs.

River Forest Public Library

735 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-366-5205, EXT. 312

WEB: RIVERFORESTLIBRARY.ORG

EMAIL: CHILDRENS@RIVERFORESTLIBRARY.ORG

Provides early childhood programs, services, and books. Weekly story times and monthly special events for children birth-age 6, including a summer reading program. All programs and events are free; registration may be required.



Park Districts

Park District of Forest Park

7501 W. Harrison Street, Forest Park 60130

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.

Park District of Oak Park

218 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-725-2000

WEB: PDOP.ORG

EMAIL: INFO@PDOP.ORG

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.

River Forest Park District

401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest 60305

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.

*Parks and Nature***Brookfield Zoo**

8400 W. 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.

Harold "Hal" Tyrrell Trailside Museum

738 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest 60305

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.

Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory

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

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) for ages 18 months - 5 years.

Online pre-registration required for TET. Interactive Exploration Station for families open weekends, Sept. - May.



Community Based Organizations

River Forest Community Center

8020 Madison Street, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-771-6159

WEB: RFCC.INFO

EMAIL: JCONRAD@RFCC.INFO

Parent/Child programs (ages 15 – 23 mos); art, dance, music, gymnastics, karate (age 3 and up); birthday parties; summer camps.

West Cook YMCA

225 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-5200

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.



Children's Museums

Wonder Works Children's Museum

6445 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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.



Art

Magical Minds Studio

110 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-948-7934

WEB: MAGICALMINDSSTUDIO.COM

EMAIL: CONTACT@MAGICALMINDSSTUDIO.COM

Creative development for children (ages 18 mos – 12yrs); parent – child & sibling classes that incorporate art media, movement, and storytelling; birthday parties.

Oak Park Art League

720 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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.

SD Studios

224 N. Elmwood Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-908-0057

WEB: SDSTUDIOS.ORG

EMAIL: SANDRADAWSON@COMCAST.NET

Art classes for children ages 3 and up.



Dance

Academy of Movement and Music

605 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-2329

WEB: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC.COM

EMAIL: ACADEMYOFMOVEMENTANDMUSIC@GMAIL.COM

Ballet (ages 3+)

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 and up).

INTUITdance

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

PHONE: 312-505-0186

WEB: INTUITDANCE.ORG

Dance and after school programs - Ballet (2 yrs - 6 yrs +), Dance for children (2 - 5 yrs), Contemporary Dance (5 - 6 yrs), Hip Hop (5 - 6 yrs)

Legere Dance Centre

7377 W. North Avenue, River Forest 60305

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.

Musikgarten of Oak Park & HeartGarden

907 South Lombard Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 407-271-6651

WEB: MAKINGMUSIK.COM/MSAMY/

EMAIL: MUSIKGARTENOAKPARK@GMAIL.COM

Yoga classes for children (ages 2 ½ - 9 yrs)

TranscendDance Studios Inside BodyWorx Fitness Multiplex

711 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 773-944-5352

WEB: TRANSCENDANCESTUDIOS.COM

EMAIL: INFO@TRANSCENDANCESTUDIOS.COM

PreLevel 1 Combo - Ballet/Tap or Jazz/HipHop/Tumbling (2 - 3 years). PreLevel 2 Combo - Ballet/Tap or Jazz/HipHop/Tumbling (3-4 years). Beginning 1 Combo - Ballet/Tap or Jazz/HipHop/Tumbling (5-6 and up). Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Contemporary Jazz, Pointe, Tumbling, and competitive dance teams (ages 6 and up).



Gym and Play

My Gym Children's Fitness Center

7625 W. Lake Street, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-209-1600

WEB: MYGYM.COM/RIVERFOREST

EMAIL: RIVERFOREST@MYGYM.COM

Classes for children (ages 6 mo - 10 yrs) that incorporate music, dance, relays, games, sports, gymnastics, and more. Ongoing classes, monthly fees. Birthday parties and camps available.

Oak Park Gymnastics and Recreation Center (GRC)

21 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

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, 10:00 - 11:30 am; Fridays, 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Peekaboo Playroom

7007 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-4815

WEB: PEEKABOOPLAYROOM.COM

EMAIL: INFO@PEEKABOOPLAYROOM.COM

Drop-in playtime; workshops; classes; parties (ages birth – 6).

Tri-Star Gymnastics

1404 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130

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+).



Language

Academia Institute of Language & Culture

308 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 70708-401-0888

WEB: CHICAGOACADEMIA.COM

EMAIL: INFO@CHICAGOACADEMIA.COM

Language classes for children (ages 3+); parent/child language classes (ages 0 - 5)

The Language and Music School

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60301

PHONE: 708-524-5252

WEB: LMSCHOOL.COM

Language immersion classes (ages 2 – 8).

Paper Lantern Language and Cultural Center

1034 1/2 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301

PHONE: 708-955-7155

WEB: PAPERLANTERNCENTER.COM

EMAIL: INFO@PAPERLANTERNCENTER.COM

Chinese language classes (3+) and private lessons



Music

The Gasse School of Music

7641 Polk Street, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-488-8117

WEB: GASSESCHOOLOFMUSIC.ORG

EMAIL: GASSESCHOOLOFMUSIC@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.

Kindermusik with Pat in Oak Park

137 N. Oak Park Avenue, Room 107, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-763-9823

WEB: KINDERMUSIKWITHPAT.KINDERMUSIK.COM

EMAIL: PPLARSON@COMCAST.NET

Music and movement classes for newborns through age 7. Teachers have college degrees in music and encourage children to sing, dance, sway and play.

The Language and Music School

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60301

PHONE: 708-524-5252

WEB: LMSCHOOL.COM

Family music classes (4 mos – 4 years)

Ms. Clara's Mini Musicians

At DeMaira Dance Studios, 1146 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-704-1716

WEB: JOYFULLEARNINGCENTER.COM

EMAIL: MUSIKGARTENOAKPARK@GMAIL.COM

Family music classes for children 4 mos – 3 1/2 years. Child-only music classes for older 3s and 4s.

Music Together at Oak-Leyden

411 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

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.

Musikgarten of Oak Park & HeartGarden

907 South Lombard Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 407-271-6651

WEB: MAKINGMUSIK.COM/MSAMY/

EMAIL: CLARA@MSCLARASMUSIC.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.

Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts

126 N Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, 60301

PHONE: 708-222-7564

WEB: OVATIONACADEMY.ORG

EMAIL: OVATIONACADEMYARTS@GMAIL.COM

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

Steckman Studio of Music

829 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60304

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.

*Swim*

Huskie Swim Camp at Oak Park River Forest High School
201 N. Scoville Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-434-3431

EMAIL: PQUINN@OPRFHS.ORG

Three 2-wk summer sessions (8 lessons per session). Online registration opens the beginning of April; walk-in registration at beginning of June (ages 4-10).

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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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 children with greater needs.

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.

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

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 _____



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Early Childhood**
Strong Start, Bright Future

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lwwopr.org



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cbopr.com



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