

PROVIDER NEWS

August 2021



PROVIDER RESOURCES

Contact our office for assistance with any of the following resources:

- Virtual Training Opportunities
- Professional Development Funds
- Credential Assistance
- Quality Improvement Funds
- ExceleRate Illinois Consulting
- Technical Assistance
- Referral Database

Office hours are 8:00am – 4:30pm
815-484-9442



IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

There are many ways that we can look at play in the early childhood setting. When children are playing they are essentially “working”. They are representing the actions that have been modeled to them as well as developing many different skills that they will need in their future development.

In NAEYC’s book *Basics of Developmentally Appropriate Practice* by Carol Copple and Sue Bredekamp they discuss the importance of play. “In play children make choices, solve problems, converse, and negotiate. They create make-believe events and practice physical, social, and cognitive skills.” (Copple & Bredekamp, 2008)

When you are observing children at play you can see what their interests are so that you can create goals and base your curriculum through their interests. You can extend their thoughts and ideas while interacting and engaging with them. You can engage a child to count, identify colors or shapes, and even discuss certain textures while they explore and create. One example would be while a child is playing with the cars you can count their wheels, identify colors, and ask which vehicle is bigger or smaller? These all help the child to develop certain concepts in which they will use as they are growing and developing. Children also learn how to regulate their own behavior to certain “musts” – restrictions about what they can say and do because the play demands it (Bodrova & Leong 2003). So it’s not surprising that young children’s engagement in high-level play is one of the best predictors of later school success (Simlansky, 1990)

There are many ways to promote a child’s learning and development. Every day, teachers must draw on a wide range of teaching strategies.

- Using basic concepts are best when working with young children. They learn best through their senses; see, smell, hear, touch, and taste. Engage a child’s thinking process and then encourage them to investigate, question, and ponder.
- Allow them to relate new knowledge to what they already know and have encountered.

Copple, C., & Bredekamp, S. (2008). *Basics of developmentally appropriate practice an introduction for teachers of children 3 to 6*. National Assoc. for the Education of Young Children.

YWCA NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS ~4990 EAST STATE ST. ~ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61108

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

EARLY INTERVENTION

During the first three years of life, a child's brain and body are growing rapidly. They are learning many new things about the world around them. While all children need love and support to grow and learn, some children need a little extra help. With the right help, they can reach their full potential.

As an early care and education provider, you are a valuable resource to parents! They look to you for information on their child, and they trust you. CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." has FREE research-based, parent-friendly resources on child development to help you boost family engagement and your own professional development.

Knowing the difference in monitoring, screening, and evaluations can also help when you need to discuss any concerns with parents and getting to the next step in connecting families with specialists. **Developmental monitoring** observes how a child grows and changes over time and whether the child meets the typical developmental milestones in playing, learning, speaking, behaving, and moving. **Developmental screening** takes a closer look at how a child is developing. Developmental screening can be done by a doctor or nurse, but also by other professionals in healthcare, early childhood education, community, or school settings. **Developmental evaluations** are a more in-depth look at a child's development, usually done by a trained specialist, such as a developmental pediatrician, child psychologist, or other specialist. The results of a formal evaluation determines whether a child needs special treatments or early intervention services.

Many children with developmental delays or behavior concerns are not identified as early as possible. As a result, these children must wait to get the help they need to do well in social and educational settings (for example, in school, at home, and in the community).

The CDC's website has a specific website devoted to Autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. Some people with ASD have a known difference, such as a genetic condition. Other causes are not yet known. Scientists believe there are multiple causes of ASD that act together to change the most common ways people develop. We still have much to learn about these causes and how they impact people with ASD.

They also have information on specific conditions that could affect a child's development. Some of these are birth defects, disabilities, mental, emotional, and developmental disorders or blood disorders.

If you're concerned about a child's development, don't wait. Acting early on developmental concerns can make a real difference for a child and you. You or the parent may get a referral to Child and Family Connections so that you can be connected with a professional that will be able to determine if there is a need for Early Intervention. If they believe there is a need for further evaluation they will help with the process.

You can call the automated helpline at 1-800-843-6154 or you may also access the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>



CRAFT KIT GIVEAWAY

We have put together a Lakeshore Craft Box for our next Giveaway item. If you are the first to respond "**Craft Giveaway**" to our email YWCAchilcaresolutions@ywcawil.org you will be given this amazing box which includes: Wooden Lakeshore

Craft Box, 2- packages of construction paper, 3- 6 color paint strips, 8 bottles of assorted acrylic paints, 4 glue sticks, a box of sidewalk chalk, markers, crayons, and colored pencils. There is also a craft activity that you can do with your kiddos. The items needed to create an "All About Me Rainbow".

