

June 2024 | Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

Fun in the Sun: Toddler Activity

Summer is here and kids love to play outside. When your child is playing, they're also learning! Here is an easy outdoor activity that you can do with your toddler this summer. (Always remember to use sunscreen with SPF 30+.)

Car Wash – Find 2 plastic bins and fill one with dirt, adding water to make mud, and fill the other with water and tear free soap. Hide cars (or any toys you don't mind getting messy) in the mud. Get a scrub brush, sponge, or washcloth and let the fun begin! Clean up is easy as you just rinse everything off with water. As your child finds the cars (or toys), you can help them build cognitive and language skills by counting or identifying colors, objects, sounds, and textures they're experiencing. The decision to clean off the cars, or not, is a cognitive skill, and all while developing their fine motor skills too!

Looking for Child Care Partners

Are you a child care provider or center looking to enhance your services? SAL Community Services' Early Head Start Child Care Partnership is looking for child care homes and centers to partner with! Early Head Start provides comprehensive services including family support, developmental and health screenings, and family events. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Traci Owens, 309-781-6547 or towens@salcommunityservices.org

Family Fun Festival

We are happy to say the June 8th Family Fun Festival was a hit! As one of our most attended summer events, we would like to thank the families and our staff for making this event happen!



Contact Us

Interested in learning more about the Early Head Start Program?

SAL Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

3800 Avenue of the Cities, Suite #108 | Moline, IL 61265
(309) 787-9460 | www.salcommunityservices.org/ehs

We are hiring! Visit www.salcommunityservices.org/jobs for more info.



June 2024 | Home Child Care Network

Warmer Weather

Being active and playing outside are an important part of childhood. Being outside is great for learning and development but it also comes with risks associated to heat, water, and sun exposure.

According to the CDC, with parent permission to use SPF of 15 or higher on children 6 months or older, apply sunscreen 30 minutes prior to going outside and reapply every 2 hours.

If possible, use wide brimmed hats, sunglasses, or clothes that cover their arms and legs.

Remember, even on a cloudy day you can get sunburnt. Make sure children are hydrated and avoid really cold drinks.

On the really hot days, it is recommended to avoid having outdoor activities from late morning to midafternoon because that is when the sun is the strongest.

Please be aware of the warning signs of heat related illnesses.

Ice Blocks

Ice blocks are a fun outdoor activity that can keep you cool at the same time! Fill plastic container up with water and place some toys in the water. Put them in the freezer overnight to ensure it is frozen. Dump the block out in the yard and allow the children to use tools to try and free the toys. Ideas of toys to include dinosaurs, cars, animals, or any hard solid object.



Family Events

Did you know that SAL Community Services' Home Child Care Network now has family events?

In May, we hosted a Touch-a-Truck event in Moline and a Barnyard Discoveries event in Peoria.

Family event dates in June:
Please RSVP to your provider.

- June 6th- Peoria 5-7 PM
  Lower Bradley Park
- June 13th- Galesburg 5-7PM
  Lake Story Park
- June 20th- Silvis 5-7 PM
  Schadt Park

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

We are now accepting new providers!!

We are currently accepting new providers into the Home Child Care Network for the following counties: Rock Island, Knox, Henry, Bureau, Peoria, Tazewell, Stark, Woodford, Fulton, Putnam, and Marshall. For current providers, if you make a referral and they are signed into the network you will receive a $200 bonus!

SAL Community Services Home Child Care Network
3800 Avenue of the Cities, Suite #108 | Moline, IL 61265
(309) 764-8192 | www.salcommunityservices.org



June 2024 | Prevention Initiative

From The Director

Tummy Time

Tummy Time refers to putting your infant on their tummy when they are awake, alert and someone is watching them.

Benefits:

- Strengthens neck, shoulders, and arms of the infant.
- Improved muscle controls.
- Prevents flat areas on the back of the infant's head.

Tummy Time Tips:

- Start with short intervals like 3-5 minutes daily. Then as your infant gets older, you can try longer sessions.
- Spread out a blanket on the floor.
- Provide a few toys within the infant's reach. Use toys such as rattles, mirrors and teethers. Show the infant how to the rattle makes noise. Show the infant who is in the mirror. Allow the infant to explore.
- Make sure you are interacting with the infant.
- Tummy Time is a time for bonding and interaction. Never leave your child alone during tummy time.

Benefits of Tummy Time | Safe to Sleep® (nih.gov)

Events

Family Fun Festival

Thank you to all of the families who joined us at the Family Fun Festival on Saturday, June 8!

It was great to spend the day outside and share family activities, lunch, ice cream and popsicle treats, and resources from local community organizations.

Positive Parenting

In the first years, babies are learning to focus their vision, reach out, explore and learn about the world around them.
Here are some tips you can do with your parents.

- Talk to your baby. They like your calming voice.
- Answer your baby when they make a noise.
- Read to your baby. Provide them with board books. They are sturdy.
- Play with your baby when they are alert and awake.

Positive Parenting Tips: Infants (0–1 years) | Child Development | CDC

Contact us

SAL Community Services Prevention Initiative
3800 Avenue of the Cities, Ste. 108 | Moline, IL 61265
309-764-3724

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



June 2024 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Rock Island

Staff Spotlight



Hi! I'm Marlon McGee. I'm the Rainbow 1 school-age teacher and I also drive the van. I have been a part of Skip-a-long for 27 years. I have lived in this community my whole life so of course one of my responsibilities is to provide quality childcare to the families we serve.



We would like to give a BIG shout out this month to two of our employees-Jenisa Morales-Padilla and Jelseca Walls. They have received their CDA credential after months of hard work!

From The Director

The Importance of Dramatic Play
Dramatic play, also commonly referred to as imaginary play or pretend play, is an important component of early learning. When children dress up and pretend to be someone other than themselves, they get to be creative and to imagine and explore different roles and relationships.

Dramatic play in a group setting strengthens social-emotional skills, as children collaborate with their peers, learn about different cultures, take on a variety of perspectives, and think about the experiences of others.

How Dramatic Play Supports Social-Emotional Learning and Development - good2know (good2knownetwork.org)

Orange Room



Children are natural explorers. Set some basic boundaries, and let the child discover. The learning will come. Children use all of their senses to explore. They look and listen to observe what is happening around them, touch what they can reach, smell the fresh scents of nature, and occasionally taste when given permission. They run, jump, dig, and climb as they discover new places.

https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoor

Contact Us

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Rock Island
1609 4th Street | Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone: (309) 788-0426 | Fax: (309) 788-8727

Email: pata@skip-a-long.org

Follow Us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/skipalongchildhoodcenters



June 2024 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Davenport

Staff Spotlight

Please help us welcome Markeysha to our Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Davenport team. Markeysha started in our Front Bunnies classroom in April.



"I have been in child care for over 8 years. I am from Iowa and graduated from North High School in 2012. I have six children, 2 boys and 4 girls! I enjoy being a mother and a teacher. Outside of work life, I enjoy traveling and trying new things. I love sunflowers, quiet time, working, dancing, road trips, cooking for my children, being outside in the sun, and movie dates with my family!"

From The Director

June is here and that means a lot of summer fun outdoors for families and staff. Recent media reports have shared that ticks may be even more prevalent due to a milder winter.

Our center has had its contracted pest control company treat the outdoor area, as well as ensuring the landscaping company keeps lawns mowed frequently.

Staff are being sure to check children as well for ticks when returning inside.

For more information on tick safety, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html

Classroom Feature

Turtles



Our turtles' room is full of our littlest ones - 6 weeks to 9 months – here at our Davenport center. They recently had fun exploring their snappy pea plants they are growing in the classroom!

Contact Us

Skip-a-Long Childhood Centers - Davenport
3520 Crow Creek Road | Davenport, IA 52807
Phone: (563) 441-9998 | Fax: (563) 424-6650
Email: jllll@skip-a-long.org

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/skipalongchildhoodcenters



June 2024 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center - Milan

Staff Spotlight

Heather Mittman



Hello. My name is Heather Mittman.

I have been with Skip-a-Long Childhood Centers for 6 years. I have been an EHS teacher in the Teddy Bears infant room for the last 3.5 years.

I am currently working on my bachelor's degree in early childhood education. I will graduate in May of next year. In my free time I like to go camping with my family and spend time with my granddaughter.

From The Director

Fun things to do with kids this summer in the QCA:

- Check out the Rock Island Library calendar. There are multiple events.
- Fejervary Park has Youth Fest.
- The Village of East Davenport has Farm Days Fest.
- Cinemark and Regal have $1 movie days.
- Bettendorf Family Museum has a new Imagination art area.
- Don't forget about the Putnam Museum and the IMAX!

Have a great summer!

Classroom Feature

Grasshopper Classroom



Rain suits and boots have been purchased to enable the children to explore the world outdoors on days when the weather is not the best.

This enables the children to spend more time exploring their interest of the outside world.

Upcoming Events

All Skip-a-Long Childhood Center locations will be closed Thursday, July 4th.

Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/skipalongchildhoodcenters



June, 2024 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center - Moline

Staff spotlight

Missy



Hello, my name is Missy Walling. I am a teacher in the Little Llama classroom. I have been working at Skip-a-Long for nineteen and a half years.

My favorite part of engaging and working with preschool age children is watching them grow and accomplish milestones of learning.

I always tell the children "Keep practicing, you can do it"! Followed by "kiss your brain, you did it!"

I strive to provide the children with a safe and fun learning environment.

In my free time, I enjoy working outside in my yard, reading outdoors, and watching the birds.

From The Director

Summer Sun Safety

Warm summer days are wonderful! It's beneficial for children to spend time playing and exercising outdoors, but it is also important that they enjoy it safely.

Tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

1) Keep babies younger than 6 months out of direct sunlight.
2) Select clothes made with a tight weave. If you are not sure, hold the article of clothing up to the sun and see how much light passes through. The less light, the better.
3) Wear a hat with a 3-inch brim to shield the face, ears, and back of the neck.
4) Limit your sun exposure between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., when UV rays are the strongest.
5) Wear a "broad spectrum" sunscreen.

Classroom Feature

Tiger Cubs



Maverik, Lorelie, and Zeeland are all playing together at the water table. Not only are they having fun, but they are learning how to work together by taking turns and respecting one another's space. Parallel play encourages language development, motor development along with social and emotional growth.

Contact Us

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Moline

Monday through Friday
7:00am – 5:30pm
Phone: 309-764-8110/Fax: 309-764-8281

Please contact the center prior to 9:30am if your child will be absent.



S-A-L COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois

Newsletter

June 2024 | Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois

Projects

Projects based on the children's interests and ideas are a way of creating extended exploration of a topic. This is different than adult-directed themes based on calendar events and pre-determined topics.

Deeper Exploration. Projects allow children to fully explore ideas and to unpack concepts.

Children's Voices. Projects allow for children's ideas, voices, and interests to be built into the curriculum in a meaningful way.

Understand Children's Ideas. With ongoing discussions and repeated play opportunities, projects allow caregivers to understand children's ideas so they can support more meaningful learning opportunities.

Research. Projects allow children to develop an understanding of how to find answers to questions through research.

Meaningful Skills. Projects allow children to developing meaningful skills while exploring the project topic, such as by drawing, reading, roleplaying, or singing.

Workforce Grant

Our office has been working with our licensed providers during our monthly meetings to keep everyone updated regarding the Smart Start Workforce Grant. While information is still being collected from the state, providers can see what where the grant stands right now to see if it would be a good fit for their program.

Up-to-date information can be found at the official Gateways website: https://www.ilgateways.com/smart-start/smart-start-workforce-grants

Likewise, any grant questions can be submitted directly to our office here: SmartStartMoline@salcommunityservices.org

Pyramid Model

Check out our Training Calendar for June Pyramid Model (Infant/Toddler) trainings:

June 5th *– Module 3: Responsive Routines, Schedules & Environments*

June 6th *– Module 4: Understanding Behavior*

June 13th – Module 5: Teaching About Feelings

June 20th – Module 6: Promoting Positive Peer Interactions

June 26th – Module 7: Individualized Teaching

June 27th – Module 8: Challenging Behavior

Training: Navigating the CCAP Application

This training will familiarize child care providers and families with the State of Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), the program's application document, the program's required supporting documentation, and program-specific terminology. The training will also cover common errors in completing the application process, which can result in a Request for Additional Information (RAI) being issued and the application's processing being delayed.

Date: 06/18/2024 (registration deadline 06/17/2024, 8:00pm)
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Location: Zoom



June 2024 | Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

Capitol Connections



Amidst a sea of voices championing early childhood education in Springfield, three staff members from SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois attended the Early Childhood Advocacy Day. With smiles as bright as their determination, they joined educators, policymakers, and community leaders at the state capitol, representing our CCR&R with pride and purpose. Their enthusiastic participation not only showcased our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our youngest learners but also highlighted the crucial role communities play in shaping policies that promote high-quality education and care for all children.

Parent News

If you are looking for a summer program for your school aged child(ren), we can help! Our Referral Specialist, Jessi, can create a customized search for you based on your family's needs.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) also helps families! Families may qualify if they are currently not involved in any activity such as work or school but would like to begin searching for employment or enroll in school.

In addition, we support families who are employed, attending school, teen parents and caretakers **of military deployed parents**.

Community News

Pekin Community Fun Fair
Sponsored by Tazewell -Woodford Head Start and Pekin Public Schools
Thursday, May 2, 2024



Our Infant Toddler Specialist, Christy and our Quality Specialist, Heather shared resources about CCR&R services and interacted with many community children and families.

Contact Us

SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois
Resource and Referral Service
3425 N. Dries Lane, Peoria Il 61604 | 309-686-3750 | 1-800-421-4371
Email: Hello@salccc.org General Inquiries
CCAPHELP@salccc.org CCAP Documents Only
SmartStart@salccc.org Questions on Smart Start Workforce Grants

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm



June 2024 | Welcoming Center

Customer Testimony

Meet our customers Martha and Liceth. Martha is from El Salvador and Liceth is from Honduras. They met in the Quad Cities and have been inseparable since.

They are a good example of sister countries where they always get things done together and help each other when needed.

This is what they had to say about our program.

"The information provided and referrals to the food pantries were a great help. We went to St. Mary Catholic Church today, and the help they provided was very substantial, enough for our two families."



Martha (left) and Liceth (right)

Upcoming Events

SAL Community Services Welcoming Center hosts a monthly workshop for immigrants, refugees, and English language learners (ELL). Each month, the workshop covers a different topic.

In May, we had an accredited immigration representative come and provide free consultations to our customers. She was able to provide immigration advice to help customers move towards their legalization process.

The SAL Welcoming Center also hosts a monthly diaper give away for our immigrant and refugee families.

To learn more about SAL's Welcoming Center, our monthly workshops, or diaper give away for immigrants and refugee families, please call our office.

Super Saturday

We want to invite you to our Super Saturday event on June 22, 2024.

More details will come out soon.

Here is a snapshot of our Super Saturday from 2022.



Contact Us

SAL Community Services Welcoming Center
1609 4th Street | Building II
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-8201

Partner with IDHS