

Fall 2026 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Davenport

Celebrations

At SAL we offer an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Registered Apprenticeship Program to our teaching staff.

Our mentors walk alongside apprentices throughout their educational journey to offer coursework assistance, teaching support, teaching reflection, and more!

We currently have 8 staff at our Davenport Campus participating in the program.



We are proud to congratulate Marissa on recently completing the apprenticeship program and earning her Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential! This milestone is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and passion for providing exceptional care and education to the children and families we serve.

Staff Spotlight

Please help us welcome our new staff!



Welcome Ms. Lexi in our Back Ducklings classrooms (Older Infants)



Welcome Ms. Mackenzie to our Front Bunnies Classroom (Toddlers)

Classroom Feature

Bunnies (Toddlers)

Our toddlers are learning and growing through hands-on activities every day! From sorting and matching to sensory play, music, books, and creative exploration, our little learners are building language, fine-motor, problem-solving, and social skills while having fun!



Contact us

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

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Fall 2026 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center - Milan

Butterfly Classroom

We recently opened a new preschool classroom at Campus 1. Our Butterfly classroom still has a few spots available.



When child explore manipulative toys it enhances their eye-hand coordination as well as their fine muscles. This skills helps children develop the muscles needed to hold a pencil.

Staff Changes

Due to opening a new classroom, we have made staff changes. You will see familiar staff in new classrooms as well as some newly hired staff. Our new Butterfly staff include Jessica B., Nikki and Kayla.



Did you know?

SAL Community Services has many programs besides childcare services. We have a variety of parent programs and resources. If your family needs resources, please don't hesitate to ask.

If we are unable to help you here at the center there are other programs, we can refer you to. We also have a variety of free family events that take place throughout the year. These events will be posted in our classrooms as well as on Class Dojo.

Contact us

Skip-a-long Childhood Center-Milan

1800 West 1st Street | Milan, IL

Phone: (309)787-6303

SKIP-A-LONG CHILDHOOD CENTERS

PART OF S-A-L COMMUNITY SERVICES

Newsletter



Fall 2026 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center - Moline

Staff Spotlight

Megan, Caitlin,Clara



Tiger Cubs, toddler classroom, benefits from 29 years of working with children collectively. Miss Megan shares(on the left) that she loves to see the developmental milestones and transitions happening at this age. Caitlin (in the middle) hopes for the future are: the children we serve are healthy and happy. Clara(on the right) who has the longest tenor of all three staff, loves the curiousity of this stage and age.

News from Director

The importance of Outdoor Play for Child Development (Amherst Pediatrics)

Outdoor play is an important part of childhood and contributes to healthy, physical, emotional, and social development. In a world filled with screens, and structured activities, unstructured time outside provides children with valuable opportunities to learn, explore, and grow.
-Supporting physical health
-Encourages social/emotional growth, builds creativity and independence, builds curiosity
-Supports learning and development
-Promotes positive effects on emotional well-being

Classroom Feature

Tiger Cubs

Tiger cubs is a toddler classroom in our Prevention Initiative program, the ages served are 15-30 months. Tiger cubs have 9-11 children enrolled at any one time. Tiger cubs can be happy chaos, and are curious, exploring, learning, and growing developmentally all at one time.



Contact us

Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Moline

Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Phone: 309-764-8110 | Fax: 309-764-8281

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



Fall 2026 | Skip-a-Long Childhood Center – Rock Island

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Talayiah Horice I am 22 years old I have been working in childcare for 4 years now and I love working and being around kids.

My favorite things to do is shopping, hanging out with friends and family, Exercising, traveling trying and doing new things.

What I love about working with kids is learning and teaching kids about new things every day and helping kids to develop. I am extremely glad and blessed to be a part of the SAL Family

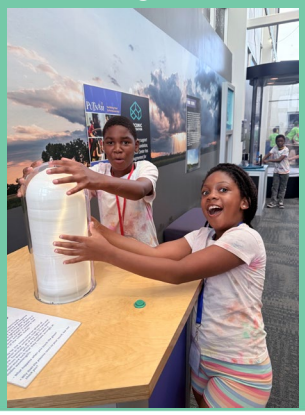
Staff Event

The Rock Island Campus staff supporting the MLK annual "Soul of the City" community event on Saturday, September 5, 2026.



Field trips

The Rainbow 2 children exploring at the Putnam Museum. Field trips for children offer numerous benefits, enhancing their learning, social and emotional development. They provide firsthand experiences, expand their knowledge, and foster a love for learning.



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

S-A-L COMMUNITY SERVICES

Early Head Start
Child Care Partnership

Newsletter



Fall 2026 | Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

Head Start Needs Your Help!

Did you know that Federal leaders have proposed new rules for the Head Start program? This NPRM (Notice of Proposed Rule Making) would fundamentally shift the services EHS programs could provide.

"When I was worried about my child's speech, Early Head Start connected us with a speech therapist and helped us find resources like diapers, food, and formula. Today, my child is talking so much more, and our family is thriving because of the support we received."
-Audrey D., EHS Parent

Help make sure parents like Audrey continue to receive support from EHS by making a comment about why EHS is important to you! Scan the QR code below and hit the green "Submit a Public Comment" button to make your voice heard!

2025-2026 EHS Program Impacts

Curious about the impact of the Early Head Start Program?

- EHS **served a total of 198 children** during the 2025-2026 Program Year, including 82 children under 1 year old!
- **53 families received emergency crisis support from EHS family support service staff**, including 17 families at risk of losing stable housing.
- EHS provided **nutrition education to 145 families**, strengthening their ability to access, prepare, and choose healthy foods that contribute to lifelong well-being.
- EHS hosted **two 5-week parenting workshops** attended by 15 EHS Families, including "The Basics" in collaboration with the United Way of the QCs.

Thank you to all the children and families who participated!

Let's Get Social!

EHS offers a variety of events and workshops throughout the year for families. Participating families can talk to their Family Advocates or Family Educator for details about the next event!



Socialization at the Riverside park in August 2026!

Contact Us

Interested in learning more about the Early Head Start Program?

SAL's 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.



Fall 2026 | Home Child Care Network

Build-A-Tree

As Fall arrives and the leaves change colors, take a moment to appreciate the beauty of it all. Discuss the different leaf colors, shapes, and sizes. This activity is a fun, easy way to learn about and connect with nature.

Needed: Paper, leaves, and glue.
Directions: Cut out a tree trunk and glue onto a piece of paper. Collect leaves or other plants from outside and glue them onto the paper. If you don't want to glue the leaves down, you can poke holes in the paper and push the stems through the holes as you collect them.



Apple Pancake Rings

Delicious and easy fall snack or breakfast idea!
Ingredients: Apples, pancake mix, syrup, and cinnamon sugar (optional)
Directions: Cut the apple into round slices. Cut out the middle (core) of each slice. Dip the apple slices into the pancake mix, place on a skillet/griddle, and cook until golden brown. Optional: sprinkle with cinnamon sugar and/or dip in syrup.



Little Bodies, Big Chill

Moving into the colder months, take precautions to avoid getting sick. Children are more at risk from the cold than adults. Since children's bodies are smaller, they lose heat more quickly. When the weather is going to be cold, help protect your child by checking the wind chill, wearing several layers with insulated boots, mittens, and a hat, and making sure to take breaks! When kids are having fun, they do not realize how cold and wet they are. These tips can help keep your child safe while playing outdoors this winter!

We Are Accepting New Providers!!

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

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



Fall 2026 | Prevention Initiative

Meet the New PI Director and Family



Debbie Elliott is the new Director for SAL's Prevention Initiative program. She will provide leadership, oversight, and management of the Prevention Initiative program. She will support the team staff, center directors, classroom teachers as well as participating home providers.
Debbie received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University.



Rachel Simenec is the new Family Advocate for SAL's Preventive Initiative Program. She provides support to families in our program through home visits, goal planning, parental education and family events.
Rachel received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from St. Ambrose University.

Ready By 5 Parent Workshop

SAL Community Services will be offering a workshop to parents and caregivers. Parents and caregivers will learn how to be your child's first and best teacher during a five-week workshop.

When: Wednesdays 5-6:00pm Starting October 7- November 4
Where: SAL Community Services
3800 Ave. of the Cities, Moline

Each family will receive books, literacy kit, gift cards and other items. Free childcare and meal provided.

Please contact Rosie Zbaracki at rzbaracki@salcommunityservices.org

Made Possible by United Way of the Quad Cities

Fall Family Festival

Please join us for SAL's Annual Fall Family Festival.
When: Saturday, October 24th
Time: 10:00a-12:00p
Where: Butterworth Education Center
701 12th Ave. Moline
Free fall snacks and take home a pumpkin. RSVP to your Family Advocate. You must RSVP to reserve your family's pumpkin!
We look forward to seeing you!



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.



Fall 2026 | Home Visiting

Home Visiting

Home Visiting Programs Have Openings!

SAL Community Services currently has openings in both of our Home Visiting Programs!

IDHS Home Visiting Program
Our IDHS Home Visiting Program serves pregnant people and families with children ages 0–5 who live in Rock Island County. Family Educators partner with caregivers through regular home visits, providing support, resources, and activities that promote healthy child development and school readiness.

Early Head Start (EHS) Home Visiting Program
Our EHS Home Visiting Program serves pregnant people and families with children ages 0–3 who live in Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer Counties. Through personalized home visits, Family Educators work alongside caregivers to support children's learning, development, and family well-being.

In both programs, Family Educators visit families in their homes and help caregivers plan engaging parent-child interactions while learning about child development and positive parenting practices.

We are currently accepting referrals and have openings available in both programs

News from Home Visiting

Why Sign Up for Home Visiting?
Home Visiting is a free, voluntary program that supports families from pregnancy through early childhood. Through personalized home visits, parents receive guidance on child development, school readiness, positive parenting, developmental screenings, and connections to community resources. We partner with families to build confidence, strengthen parent-child relationships, and help children get the best possible start in life.
You are your child's first and most important teacher, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

Workshops for Families

The SAL Community Services Early Head Start, Home Visiting, and Prevention Initiative programs are collaborating to offer Ready by 5 Workshop through the United Way of the Quad Cities.

- Early learning & relationships
- Language skills
- Nutrition & health
- Starting routines
- Tips from other parents and educators
- FREE tablet filled with learning resources after attending five lessons

Free childcare and dinner will be provided with RSVP. If want to RSVP or learn more, please contact your Family Educator.

Contact Us

Shannon Griesenbeck
Home Visiting Manager
Cell: (309)781-6179
Sgriesenbeck@salcommunityservices.org



Fall 2026 | Welcoming Center

Learning Together

Meeting people where they are
Outreach has taken our team to Imperial Laundromat, IDHS< WIC, local ethnic stores, and other community gathering places. These visits help us reach neighbors in the places where everyday life happens. A local laundromat owner welcomed the Welcoming Center to share information onsite, helping create new connections with community members.

Stronger Together
Every workshop, outreach visit, resume, referral, and conversation reflects a shared promise: to help neighbors move forward with dignity, information, and hope. Workers rebuilding their path with courage and we are grateful to every partner and family who continues to trust the Welcoming Center.

Outreach

Our multi-lingual seminars have included:

- Hands-on CPR with the American Heart Association
- Stress Management
- Updates to SNAP and Medical Benefits
- Tips for a Successful Job Interview

Upcoming Seminar:
How to Handle Stress
September 22, 2026
1:00 – 2:00 PM
1609 4th St, Bldg 2
Rock Island, IL 61201

RSVP: 309-793-8201

Community in Action

After the Tyson plant in Joslin closed on August 13, many families faced uncertainty and SAL, as part of the Quad Cities community, mobilized with resource information, employment support, and workforce connections, aiding the affected workers and families.

After helping create countless resumes, in the future we will conduct a "Resume Café," not because jobs magically appear with a cup of coffee but because everyone deserves a welcoming space to share their story, highlight their strengths, and prepare for new opportunities. Every resume is a reminder that behind every application is a person, a family, and a dream.

Contact us

SAL Community Services Welcoming Center
1609 4th Street | Building 2 | Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone: (309) 793-8201

We're Moving in October! Visit us starting mid-October at our new home located at 2101 11th Street.

In association with IDHS



Fall 2026 | Child Care Connection of Central Illinois

Provider News

The SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois Provider Services Team is excited to welcome Mariah Green as a Higher Education and Workforce Navigator for SDA 8!

Mariah has diverse experience in early childhood education. From working as teaching staff to an administrator, she is passionate about creating nurturing environments where all children can thrive. She obtained her master's degree in child development and discovered a passion for supporting the adults who care for our community's children.



CCAP News

The CCAP Department welcomed two new Specialists this Fall!

Elliot started back in August. She enjoys dog training, Rugby, and the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA)! She also has an extensive video game collection.

Lacey started in September. She enjoys the outdoors with her four children and reading.

We're grateful to have them!

Community News

Throughout the summer, our office had the pleasure of attending several different Back-to-School events across our counties. Some of these include Backpack Peoria, Henry's Back to School Night, and Earlville's Community Back to School Night. At each event, we had the opportunity to speak to families about their child care options as kids go back to school and further educate them on the resources available. We love having the opportunity to engage with families across all our counties.

Contact Us

SAL Child Care Connection of Central Illinois Resource and Referral Service

3425 N. Dries Lane, Peoria, IL 61604

Monday-Friday 8 am – 4 pm

309-686-3750 or 1-800-421-4371

Email: Hello@salccc.org for General Inquiries

CCAPHELP@salccc.org for CCAP Documents

SmartStart@salccc.org for Questions on Smart Start Workforce Grants



S-A-L COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois

Newsletter

Fall 2026 | Child Care Resource & Referral of Midwestern Illinois

Meet Our New Specialists

- **Ann Young, our Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator.** Ann schedules professional development trainings based on provider needs and state requirements. She is here to help with training topic requests, professional development/credential pathways, technology for trainings, grants, and more!

- **Ravyn Kennedy, our Parent Referral and Data Specialist.** Ravyn helps families find childcare providers that meet their needs. She also works with providers to keep vacancies and service information current and accurate.

- **Jesse Schenck, is the Quality Specialist** for our team. She will be leading the quality improvement efforts for providers, focusing specifically on navigating ExceleRate IL standards. Jesse guides our educators, coordinates specialized training, and manages Quality Improvement Plans.

- **Ashlyn Lee, Higher Education & Workforce Development Navigator** joined the SAL team in May. She supports early childcare educators as they navigate complicated credentialing systems, seek out higher education opportunities, and secure funding. Her goal is to help expand the skillset of the workforce in our 7-county service delivery area to ensure the children of Illinois receive high-quality care from educated professionals.

Quarterly Provider Meeting

Wednesday September 30th, 10am.

This quarter's provider meeting for licensed providers will take place via video call and will cover the topic Life Skills; Valuable Lessons for Children in Care.

This meeting is offered to providers for educational and informational purposes surrounding care for children, as well as to inform them about changes or updates within CCR&R and SAL Community Services.

Please email Shannon if you are interested in attending the meeting. slindle@salcommunityservices.org

Events & Updates

- Wednesday, October 28th 5-6:30 PM Trunk or Treat at The Center for Youth and Family Services
- Our staff recently visited the in-progress Skip-A-Long campus in Rock Island and enjoyed checking out the wonderful outdoor play area!



Contact CCRRMI

Phone: 309-205-3070

CCAP: Option 2

Ann, Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator: Ext. 4010
Ashlyn, Higher Education & Workforce Development Navigator: Ext. 4016
Jesse, Quality Specialist: Ext. 4009
Ravyn, Parent Referral Specialist: Ext. 4019
Shannon, Recruitment & Retention Specialist: Ext. 4012