

5TH EDITION — REVISED 2004

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE DIRECTORY



A GUIDE TO FINDING CHILD CARE, PRESCHOOLS,
SPECIAL SERVICES, AND MORE...
IN OAK PARK, RIVER FOREST, AND FOREST PARK

Compiled by the Children's Services Committee of
the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest,
and the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education

INTRODUCTION

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest and the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education are proud to have partnered to publish the fifth edition of this Early Childhood Resources Directory.

The Directory contains important information about health, parenting, special needs, educational, care, and recreational programs and resources for families with young children in our community. It also offers helpful guidelines to consider when selecting health and child care/education providers. We believe it will prove to be an invaluable tool for parents and caregivers. The contents of this directory are also available as a downloadable file at our websites listed below.

The Collaboration is an alliance of six local governing bodies, three institutions of higher learning, thirteen early childhood service providers, four early childhood policy experts, and seven community advocates. Its mission is to assure that all families and young children in our community have access to high quality, affordable early childhood care and education programs.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The Collaboration and the League wish to thank First Bank of Oak Park for its help in underwriting the cost of printing this edition and to GIA Publications for subsidizing print costs and making the fifth edition of the Directory possible. We also wish to thank all those who have provided guidance, fact gathering, proofreading, and other support. We're encouraged to see so many members of our community contributing to our children and making a difference.

If you are interested in learning more about our organizations, please contact us through our voicemail numbers and websites listed below.

The Collaboration for Early Childhood
Care and Education
www.collab4kids.org
708-802-5446
collabinfo@collab4kids.org

The League of Women Voters
of Oak Park and River Forest
www.lwvil.org/lwvopr
708-802-0697
lwvopr@sbcglobal.net

CONTENTS

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Resources and Support Groups	3
Useful Websites for More Information	7
Moving Toward Kindergarten	8
Helping Your Child Love to Read	9

HEALTH CARE AND SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

Questions to Ask When Choosing Healthcare for Your Child	10
Dental Care for Infants	11
Health and Safety Issues	12
Health and Safety Resources	14
Children with Special Needs	17

HOW TO CHOOSE A CHILD CARE PROVIDER

If You Cannot Afford Child Care	21
Center-based Care/Preschools	21
Home Child Care Providers	24
Care In Your Home	25
Part-time or Evening Sitters	25
Child Care Resources	26

DIRECTORY LISTINGS

Child Care Providers	27
Preschools	34

MUSIC, GYM, SWIM AND MORE

SANITY SAVERS: OUTINGS FOR CHILDREN

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Childhood Immunizations	45
Appendix B: Emergency Medical Consent Form	47

The information provided herein with regard to hours and programming of listed facilities is listed as it was provided to the League and the Collaboration. Any of the information listed herein may change at any time. The League and the Collaboration in no way intend to convey a rating or endorsement of any provider nor to indicate that these listings are comprehensive.

For additional copies call 708-802-0697 or 708-802-5446.

© The League of Women Voters and the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education, 2004. Reprint with permission only.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT GROUPS

ABOUT BREASTFEEDING:

The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that mothers breastfeed their infants for at least the first year and as long after that as mother and baby wish. Studies have shown that breastfeeding provides many health benefits to both mother and baby.

Many nursing mothers want or need additional support. The following organizations provide support to breastfeeding mothers:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN BREASTFEEDING ALLIANCE

PHONE: 1-877-532-8535 • www.aabaonline.com

Meetings in the metropolitan Chicago area.

LA LECHE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

Contact Maureen Schumar: 773-274-6136 • www.lalecheleague.org

Information and support for breastfeeding; meets at 7:30 pm the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park.

METROPOLITAN ILLINOIS LACTATION CONSULTANTS

www.milconline.org

Maintains a directory of lactation consultants working in the metropolitan Chicago area.

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS:

ADOPTED AFRICAN AMERICAN AND BIRACIAL CHILDREN (AAABC)

Contact Vicki Byard: 773-583-3080, v-byard@neiu.edu
or Linda Howe: 708-848-3129

Support for lesbian, gay, and transgender families with adoptive African-American and biracial children. Monthly potluck gatherings for parents and children Sundays 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

ASPERGER'S DISORDER SUPPORT GROUP

Contact Debbie: 708-383-1209

Near-west suburban chapter.

AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Contact Cynthia: 773-237-4003

Meets 2nd Monday every month at 7:00 pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park.

BEST PARENT SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

PHONE: 708-488-1976

Provides support for parents of children with special needs.

BILL ADAMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

711 Thomas Street, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-445-1137 • www.tbamf.org

Provides referrals to bereavement support groups for children and their families who have experienced the death of a family member.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP

at RUSH-Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park 60304

Children: 500 S. Maple Avenue, north conference room

Adults: 520 S. Maple Avenue, conference room A

Contact Pauline Koch: 708-660-2005 • www.oakparkhospital.org/db/events

Group meets 6:30 – 8:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month Sept. – May. Grandparents have the opportunity to network and get answers to many child-rearing questions; discussion groups and guest speakers. Children are provided a light supper and supervised activities. Advance registration necessary.

KIDDIE KAB

112 W. Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-9126 • FAX: 708-386-6344

7:30 am – 6:00 pm Ongoing registration

Transportation services for children ages 2-12 to/from home, school, recreation centers; will accept children with special needs; maximum of seven passengers at one time.

LOS NIÑOS DE NUESTROS CORAZONES (CHILDREN OF OUR HEARTS)

Contact Karen Schiller: 815-637-6532

Support and social events for families who have adopted Hispanic children.

MOTHERS AND MORE (FORMERLY FEMALE)

P.O. Box 31, Elmhurst 60126

PHONE: 630-941-3553

• www.mothersandmore.org • www.nearwestmoms.org

Support group for women who have left the paid work force to raise their children at home. Near-west suburban chapter meets at the La Grange Park Public Library 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday and the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information about the near-west suburban chapter, contact Veronica Graham-White (708-579-6849) or Laura Brisk (708-482-0850) or email at nearwestmoms@yahoo.com.

MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)

First Presbyterian Church, 7551 Quick Avenue, River Forest 60305

Contact Leslie Hesterman: 708-524-8095

Support for mothers of children birth-5 years; provides a supportive “morning off” with speakers on family issues, craft projects, and fellowship from a Christian perspective; meets 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. Children participate in supervised activities.

NEW MOTHERS GROUP

at West Suburban Temple, 1040 N. Harlem, River Forest 60305

Contact Debra Gilbert-Rosenberg: 708-386-0112

A six-week discussion series for new mothers and their babies; no religious content or affiliation. Groups of five to eight participants led by Debra Gilbert-Rosenberg, LCSW. \$75 fee includes a copy of *The New Mom's Companion*. Dates and times subject to the needs of participants.

OAK PARK FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM CHINA (OPFCC)

Contact Carrie Hageman: 708-386-7644

Playgroups, cultural activities, and social events for families with adoptive children from China.

PACES (PARENT AND CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION SOCIETY)

PHONE: 630-916-3190 • www.pacesmoms.org • paceslh@pacesmoms.org

Ongoing seminars: new motherhood, toddler, preschool age, and adoptive parents; parent-child field trips; will coordinate playgroups. Near-west suburban group meets 3rd Tuesday of every month 7:00 – 9:00 pm (moms only) at Christ Church in Oak Brook (York Road and 31st Street).

PARENTHESIS PARENT CHILD CENTER

405 S. Euclid Ave., Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-2227 • www.parenthesis-info.org

Morning drop-in hours: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm; Mon.-Thurs. (follows D97 calendar) Parent-child center offering support services and parenting education for families. Special evening programs for single parents (Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm) and teen parents (Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 pm); morning drop in program for families balancing work demands and family needs. Family Wrap offers in-home support and a post-partum depression support group.

RAINBOW FAMILIES OF ILLINOIS

PHONE: 773-472-6369 x464 • www.rainbowfamilies-il.org

Support and social events for lesbian, gay, transgender parents and their children.

SARAH'S INN

P.O. Box 1159, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-386-3305 • 24-HOUR HOTLINE: 708-386-4225

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

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

Riverside Village Hall, 27 Riverside Road

Contact Mrs. Preston: 708-383-1209

Support group for parents of children with special needs. Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, September through May at 7:30 pm.

TAPP (TEENAGE PARENT PROGRAM)

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

Contact Kim Woods: 708-434-3192 • kwoods@oprfrhs.org

Provides care for children (age 6 wks–5 yrs) of teenage parents while they attend classes at OPRFHS; sliding scale co-pay.

WEST SUBURBAN HOME DAY CARE ASSOCIATION

PHONE: 708-848-8931

An association of eighty home child care providers.

WEST SUBURBAN MOMS (MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES)

(Mothers of Twins and Triplets Support Group)

West Suburban Hospital Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-5750 • www.geocities.com/wsmoms01

Provides support and encouragement to parents of twins, triplets, and multiple children. Monthly activities include morning play group for parents and children, as well as social and special events. Parent meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7:15 – 8:45p.m. Contact Karen Brammer for more information.

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

COLLABORATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION

www.collab4kids.org

Local public/private partnership whose mission is to assure that all families have access to high quality affordable childhood care and education.

DISABILITY RESOURCE MONTHLY

www.disabilityresources.org/ILLINOIS.html

Lists a variety of disability resources in Illinois.

ILLINOIS DEPT. OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

www.state.il.us/dcfs

ILLINOIS DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES EARLY INTERVENTION

www.dhs.state.il.us/ei

Website for families with children (birth–age 3) with diagnosed disabilities and developmental delays.

ILLINOIS EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE

830 S. Spring Street, Springfield 62704

PHONE: 800-852-4302 • FAX: 217-522-4670

www.eiclearinghouse.org • clearinghouse@eosinc.com

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.

HEAD START PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION RESOURCES

www2.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb/publications

Information dealing with growth and development issues related to children from birth to age 5; single copies available at no cost.

NATIONAL ASSN. FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

1509 16th St. NW, Washington DC 20036-1426

1-800-424-2460 • www.naeyc.org

Organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of programs for children from birth to 3rd grade.

WRIGHTSLAW

www.wrightslaw.com

Information about special ed. law and advocacy for children with disabilities.

ZERO TO THREE

www.zerotothree.org

Clearinghouse for information on the first years of life.

MOVING TOWARD KINDERGARTEN

There is no one quality or skill that children need to do well in school; a combination of factors contributes to school success. These include physical well-being, social and emotional maturity, language skills, an ability to solve problems and think creatively, and general knowledge about the world. School success also depends upon the "match" between children's skills and knowledge and the school's expectations. More children succeed when these expectations reflect knowledge of child development and early learning. Parents should:

- **Promote good health and physical well-being.** Children obviously need nutritious food, enough sleep, safe places to play, and regular medical care. In addition to medical and dental checkups and immunizations, preschoolers need opportunities to exercise and develop physical coordination. Throwing balls, running, jumping, climbing, dancing to music—all of these activities will enhance coordination and help children learn important concepts such as up, down, inside, outside, over, and under.
- **Support your child's social and emotional development.** Children who are kind, helpful, patient, and loving generally do better in school, and feeling good about oneself is an important aspect of developing desirable social skills. Tell your child how glad you are to be his parent. Set a good example for your preschooler by showing what it means to get along with others and to be respectful. Give children chances to learn about sharing and caring, for example, letting them feed hungry birds, or helping them make cookies to welcome a new neighbor.
- **Take advantage of learning opportunities in everyday activities.** These will make a big difference in preparing young children for the classroom. Don't underestimate the value of play! Play allows children to explore, be creative, and develop social skills. It also paves the way for academic learning. For example, children learn key concepts important in geometry while stacking blocks, and playing with others helps with negotiation skills.

* The information in this section *Moving Toward Kindergarten*, is adapted with permission from one of the Early Years are Learning Years articles on the National Association for the Education of Young Children website, www.naeyc.org.

- **Talk to your children.** Everyday activities, such as eating lunch, cleaning up toys, or taking a bath, provide opportunities to talk. Listening and responding to a child is the best way to learn what's on her mind, to discover what she knows and doesn't know, and how she thinks and learns. Listening also shows children that their feelings and ideas are valuable.
- **Build your child's language and general knowledge.** There are many things you can do to help your child learn to communicate, and develop an understanding of the world. Encourage your children to write. This helps them to understand the connection between the spoken word and the printed word.
- **Not assume a child with a late birth date should be held out of school.** Research shows that children receive little, if any, advantage when held out of school because of late birth dates. The practice may have a negative impact on other children by encouraging school expectations better suited to older children.
- **Read together frequently.** Fostering your child's love of books is a gift that will last a lifetime!

HELP YOUR CHILDREN LOVE TO READ

- Read aloud to your children every day. Start when your children are young, and don't stop when they are old enough to read by themselves.
- Fill your house with books, new or used.
- Let your children see you reading. Show them by example that reading is important.
- Let your children read before bedtime. Make sure everyone has a good bedside light for reading.
- Use your public library. Look for storytimes, reading incentive programs, and special events that might interest children.
- Let your children browse for books at the bookstore, even if you have no plans to buy them.
- Let your children choose their own books. They will read with more interest when they have picked the books themselves.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN LOOKING FOR YOUR CHILD'S HEALTHCARE:

- What are the office hours? Are weekend or evening hours available?
- How are sick children separated in the office from children who are visiting for a checkup?
- Who will see your child if the doctor is on vacation or otherwise not available?
- With which hospitals is your doctor 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? Are there special call times for parents with non-emergency questions or is someone available during office hours? How quickly can you expect a call back during the day? After hours?
- 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?

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?

RESOURCES:

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
www.aap.org

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
www.cdc.us.gov

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PHONE: 1-800-KIDS DOC • www.childrensmemorial.org

DENTAL INFORMATION

PROTECTING BABY'S TEETH

You should start wiping your child's gums and teeth with a clean, damp washcloth or gauze pad as soon as teeth appear. Once your child is 18 months old, begin using a small soft-bristled toothbrush and water to brush your child's teeth. At age three, add a pea-sized amount of toothpaste when brushing. Baby teeth need fluoride. If your water supply is not fluoridated or if baby is being breast-fed, your pediatrician or dentist may prescribe a fluoride supplement. Consult with a dentist or health care professional by the age of one to discuss oral health. Start dental visits between the ages of two and three.

BABY BOTTLE TOOTH DECAY

Baby teeth are susceptible to decay very early on. Prolonged and frequent exposure to milk, breastmilk, formula, fruit juices or sweetened liquids can cause rapid and severe decay. Never allow your child to fall asleep with a bottle containing any of these liquids.

TEETHING

Teething can cause babies to become irritable and can last until about age three. Teething rings cooled in the refrigerator or even a damp washcloth can help with the discomfort of teething.

RESOURCES:

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION: 312-440-2500

CHICAGO DENTAL SOCIETY: 312-836-7300

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC: 708-848-0528

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS DENTAL SCHOOL: 312-996-7530

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PEDIATRIC CLINIC: 312-996-7532

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ORTHODONTICS CLINIC: 312-996-7505

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

VACCINATIONS:

- Parents should keep their own immunization records. Please ask your child's health care provider for a free shot booklet.
- If your child is beginning vaccinations late or has missed vaccinations, your health care provider will use a "catch up schedule" in order to get your child up-to-date as quickly as possible. Please contact your health care provider for details.
- The Oak Park Health Department provides free immunizations to all Oak Park residents 3:00 – 6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Call 708-358-5480 for more information.
- See Appendix A for a list of recommended childhood immunizations.

ACCIDENTS ARE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN.

CAR SAFETY:

- Many injuries can be prevented by proper use of safety seats.
- Children under age 12 should not ride in the front seat of a car.
- Illinois law states children 8 years old and under must be restrained in a child restraint system (car safety seat or booster seat, depending on age and weight); children over 8 years must be restrained by seatbelts.
- Children under 20 lbs. and less than one year old should use an infant seat or a convertible car seat in a rear-facing position.
- From 40-80 lbs, and about 4'9", children should be seated in a belt-positioning booster seat.
- Check label for the date seat was made. If the car seat is more than 10 years old, it should not be used. Some manufacturers recommend that seats only be used for 5-6 years. Check with the manufacturer.
- Check for car safety seat recalls by calling the US Department of Transportation hotline at 1-800-424-9393. You can also visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website, www.nhtsa.gov, or the American Academy of Pediatrics website, www.aap.org/family/famshop.htm.

CHOKING:

- Children under age 3 should not play with toys with small parts. Read packaging labels for age appropriateness—if a toy can slide through the inside of a toilet paper roll, it's too small.
- Do not allow small children to have small pieces of food that can block the airway. Children should be seated and supervised while eating.
- Be sure that you and your child care providers know rescue procedures and CPR.

FIRES/BURNS:

- Avoid drinking hot beverages around infants and children or keep hot beverages out of their reach.
- Keep pot handles turned toward rear of stove and keep child away from cooking area.
- Install smoke detectors on every floor of your home; check twice a year when you change your clocks.
- Turn the temperature of your hot water heater down to 120-130 degrees.
- In case of burns, put the burned area in cold water, bandage loosely and contact your health care provider.

POISONING:

- Keep activated charcoal at home in case of accidental poisoning. Do not use without advice from a health care professional. (The American Academy of Pediatrics no longer recommends the use of syrup of ipecac.)
- Keep poison hotline numbers posted in home and diaper bag. (you may use the form in appendix B of this directory).
- If you have a poisoning emergency, call Poison Control **immediately** (1-800-222-1222).

LEAD POISONING:

- Two main sources of lead are water from lead pipes and dust from lead paint.
- Ask your health care provider about sources of lead in your child's environment and what to do to minimize exposure.
- If you are rehabbing an older home, please be sure to have your child's blood levels tested for lead.

OTHER ACCIDENTS:

- Never leave a baby unattended in a high place such as a changing table, bed or sofa, even if they are in a bouncy seat or car seat.
- Do not keep a loaded gun in a home where children live or visit. If you choose to keep a gun, store ammunition separately from the gun. (This is American Association of Pediatrics policy. In Oak Park, it is illegal to keep a handgun in the home.)
- Use baby gates on all stairways when your child begins rolling or crawling.
- To prevent drowning, supervise children at all times when they are in the bathtub, swimming pools, or near buckets of water.

HEALTHCARE AND SAFETY RESOURCES

PAYING FOR CHILDREN’S HEALTHCARE

If your children lack health insurance, contact KidCare, the subsidized health insurance program for children under eighteen. They can tell you if you qualify for the program and how to apply.

KIDCARE

www.kidcareillinois.com

Oak Park residents can enroll by calling:

Oak Park Twp: 708-383-8005 or Oak Park Health Dept: 708-358-5480

West Suburban Cook County Residents can call: 708-531-0680

Hearing Impaired can call TTY: 1-877-204-1012

State health insurance program for Illinois children age 18 years or younger; Requirements include that the child live in-state, be a United States citizen or legal immigrant. This program will also cover women who are pregnant and live in Illinois; family must meet financial eligibility guidelines.

OTHER HEALTHCARE AND SAFETY RESOURCES

AMERICAN RED CROSS MID AMERICA CHAPTER

PHONE: 1-800-337-2338

Provides training in CPR and first aid and a babysitting course for teenagers.

CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

PHONE: 1-800-KIDS DOC • www.childrensmemorial.org

COOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Multiple clinic sites; call 708-450-5300 for clinic times and locations

Hours: 8:45 am – 4:15 pm, Monday – Friday

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

FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT

Oak Park residents call: 708-358-5428

West Suburban residents call: 708-445-2570

Chicago residents call: 312-879-1140

Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday

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

FOREST PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

1201 Kemper Road, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-1234

Certified safety technician will do free car seat check by appointment; bring child and car seat to fitting; if possible, bring car seat and car manuals.

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC

320 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302 • www.infantwelfareoakpark.org

PHONE: 708-848-0528 FAX: 708-848-5855

Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Provides medical, dental and social services to children living in the near western Chicago suburbs from infancy to age 18; must meet financial criteria; sliding fee scale and KidCare accepted.

NORTH TOWER IMMEDIATE CARE CENTER

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

PHONE: 708-453-3000

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

Provides immediate medical care for those without life-threatening injuries or illnesses. If unsure whether to go to the emergency room or to immediate care, call 1-877-WEST SUB (1-877-937-8782).

OAK PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

100 N. Euclid, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-445-3300

CPR classes monthly on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00 – 10:00 pm; free to residents, \$50 fee for non-residents (register in person 1-2 weeks before class); certified safety technician will do free car seat check by appointment; bring child and car seat to fitting; if possible, bring car seat and car manuals.

OAK PARK HEALTH DEPARTMENT

123 Madison or 320 Lake Street

PHONE: 708-358-5480 • FAX: 708-358-1518

HOURS: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (some clinic hours vary)

Preventive health services for Oak Park residents, including family case management, lead, hearing and vision screenings, WIC; must be Oak Park resident. **Free immunizations 3:00–6:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month; available to all Oak Park residents.**

OAK PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT - COMMUNITY POLICING

123 Madison Street, Oak Park 60302

Contact Anthony L. Ambrose: 708-358-5509 or 708-386-3800

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

PCC COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER

14 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-0113

Comprehensive health care for all ages; accepts Medicaid, KidCare, and has a sliding fee scale for people who are uninsured; call for appointment.

RIVER FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

PHONE: 708-366-7269

CPR classes held monthly for River Forest residents (\$25 fee includes textbook & materials). Free car seat checks by appointment; bring child and car seat to fitting; if possible, bring car seat and car manuals.

RUSH OAK PARK HOSPITAL

520 South Maple Avenue, Oak Park, 60304

PHONE: 708-383-9300 • www.oakparkhospital.org

One of Oak Park's two major hospitals.

SHRINERS' HOSPITAL

2211 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60707

PHONE: 773-622-5400 • www.shrinerschicago.org

Application for treatment available at hospital; physical/occupational therapy, speech therapy, burn care, orthopedic surgery, craniofacial surgery, spinal cord injury rehabilitation; sliding fee scale for those who are uninsured.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

7556 Jackson, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-497-5000

Chicago residents call: 312-744-1938

Free tuberculosis screening and treatment for suburban Cook County residents; no appointment needed.

WIC- SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN

OP/CEDA WIC Program

320 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

Oak Park residents call: 708-445-3314

Suburban Cook County residents call: 708-450-1602

Chicago residents call: 773-921-2121

Supplemental food, nutrition, education and counseling for pregnant women, new mothers, breastfeeding women, and children up to age 5 who meet income/eligibility requirements.

WEST SUBURBAN HOSPITAL

3 Erie Court, Oak Park, 60302

PHONE: 708-383-6200 • www.westsub.com

One of Oak Park's two major hospitals.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

To enroll a child under the age of three in the early intervention system, you must contact your local Child and Family Connections office. For west suburban Cook County, this number is 1-888-KONTACT. Tell them you want to find out if your child is eligible for early intervention services. Child and Family Connections will conduct an initial intake and provide you with a list of area service providers who will be able to conduct eligibility determinations and assessments for Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

CHILD AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS #7

10215 W. Roosevelt Rd., Westchester, IL 60154

PHONE: 708-338-2050 or 1-888-KONTACT

Part of a statewide system responsible for ensuring that all referrals of children under the age of three to the Early Intervention Services System receive a timely response, CFC helps families with children under the age of three obtain evaluations and assessments in order to determine eligibility for the early intervention system, and, if eligible, obtain recommended services.

Forest Park, Oak Park, and River Forest school districts all provide screening to children ages 3-13 years in the areas of communication, motor skills, hearing, vision, cognition, and social/emotional development on a regular basis, in compliance with federal law. Families with concerns should call as soon as possible for notification of screening. Further diagnostic evaluations are completed for eligible children. All three school districts house early childhood programs for eligible children in at least one of their elementary schools.

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (DISTRICT 91)

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE

925 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-5703 • www.forestparkschools.org

OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (DISTRICT 97)

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES

970 Madison, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-524-3030 • www.op97.k12.il.us/sped/index.html

RIVER FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (DISTRICT 90)

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

7776 Lake St., River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-771-8283 • www.district90.org/speced.htm

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

1400 S. Austin, Cicero 60804
PHONE: 708-222-1491 • 708-329-4024 (Direct line to intake)

Emergency assistance program; suburban shelter; family and aged services; counseling and psychotherapy; outreach to survivors of suicide; immigration; children and adolescent pregnancy program (CAPP); maternity adoption services and foster parent development.

CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDERS

PHONE: 800-233-4050 • www.chadd.org

Information about local chapters and the services they provide.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

9021 W. Ogden, Brookfield 60513
PHONE: 708-354-4547

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

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION (CASE) ITINERANT SERVICES

1104 N. Main Street, Lombard 60148
Contact Jim Nelson 630-629-2600

Provides low-incidence itinerant services for Districts 90, 91, and 97; the school district can request an evaluation when an educational disability in the areas of hearing, vision, or orthopedic handicaps is suspected. The referral process should follow district procedures in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

EQUIP FOR EQUALITY

20 N. Michigan, Suite 300, Chicago 60602
PHONE: 1-800-537-2632 • www.equipforequality.org

Private not-for-profit legal advocacy organization designated by the state to operate the federally mandated protection and advocacy system (P&A) to safeguard the rights of people with physical and mental disabilities, including developmental disabilities and mental illnesses.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES

20 East Jackson Blvd., Room 300, Chicago, Illinois 60604
PHONE: 312-939-3513 • www.frcd.org

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

FAMILY SERVICE & MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST

120 S. Marion St. Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-383-7500

Comprehensive mental health center offering a broad range of services and programs including alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention; family, marital and individual counseling and emergency psychiatric services.

FILLMORE CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

1010 Lake Street, Suite 500, Oak Park 60301
PHONE: 708-386-2100

Social services for children birth-5 yrs and families; individual and family counseling; parent group consultation; (STEP).

HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

946 North Boulevard, Oak Park 60301
PHONE :708-386-8417

Services for children 5-12 yrs; case management/social work; parent support/training; foster care; information and referral; advocacy.

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

PHONE: 708-430-7532

Dedicated to the advancement of the education and general welfare of children with learning disabilities.

LUTHERAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

7620 W. Madison, River Forest 60305
PHONE: 708-771-7180 or 1-800-363-5237

Case management/social work; foster care; parent support/training; adoption; family counseling.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

PHONE: 888-575-7373 • www.nclld.org

Effective, easy to use resource for people seeking authoritative information on learning disabilities. Publish an annual journal, "Their World".

OAK LEYDEN DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

411 W. Chicago, Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-524-1050 ext. 107

Individualized, family-centered services for young children (birth to age 3) with a qualifying medical diagnosis or developmental delay. Program services include: physical, occupational, speech, and developmental therapies, play groups, family training and support, and family events. Developmental screenings available upon request; contact program director.

PROJECT CHOICES/PROJECT EARLY CHOICES

6S331 Cornwall Road, Naperville, IL 60540

PHONE: 630-778-4508 • www.projectchoices.org

A least-restrictive environment initiative funded by the Illinois State Board of Education; increases the capacity of a school district to serve children in community-based settings.

SUPPORTED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SEA)

PHONE: 708-848-3820 • www.sea-oprf.org • sea_oakpark@comcast.net

Parent group that supports all families with children with special needs: physical, emotional, and learning development needs (ADD-ADHD); meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Longfellow Center at Jackson and Ridgeland in Oak Park. Contact Kimberly Werner for more information.

WEST SUBURBAN SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION (WSSRA) AND LEKOTEK

2915 Maple St., Franklin Park 60131

PHONE: 847-455-2100 • www.wssra.net

WSSRA is a tax-supported cooperative extension that provides recreational opportunities for adults and children with special needs, disabilities, or handicapping conditions. WSSRA also offers Lekotek, a lending library of toys for children with disabilities. Call for program information.



IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD CHILD CARE

If you feel you cannot afford to pay for child care, contact the Child Care Resource and Referral agency at 773-769-8000. This agency administers the state child care subsidy program that helps low income families pay for child care. They can tell you if you qualify for the program and send you the forms necessary to apply.

CENTER-BASED CARE/PRESCHOOLS

Research tells us that our children's healthy development depends on safe and positive experiences during the first years of life. Choosing a good child care facility or preschool is one of the most important decisions you will ever make for your child. Look for a place where your child is loved and cared for, where safety and health are priorities and where your child has a program that values play and learning.

Make appointments to visit each facility that you are considering and plan to stay for a while to get a sense of the place. For further information about best practices for child care providers, contact the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The summary of DCFS licensing standards for homes and centers is located at http://www.state.il.us/dcf/de_daycare.shtml or by calling 312-814-4150. These standards are also available at the Oak Park Library.

SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER DURING THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS:

Much of the content in the sections on choosing various types of child care is adapted with permission from material from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (1-800-424-2460, www.naeyc.org) and from the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care (1-800-598-KIDS, www.nrc.uchsc.edu).

ATMOSPHERE

- Do you and your child feel welcome? Do the children look happy and busy?
- Does the provider show respect for each child's uniqueness (cultural, ethnic or religious background)?
- Are adults talking with rather than at children?
- Do children have the same caregiver over the course of the day or years?
- Are parents welcome to drop in at any time?
- What is the center's discipline policy?
- Is communication between the center, teachers and families clear and ongoing through newsletters, conferences, and family events.

STAFF/CHILD/GROUP RATIOS

The ratio of adults to children and group size is important since it determines the amount of attention your child receives. Young children tend to do better in a smaller group where they can get to know the adults and children well.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed accreditation standards of quality. Voluntary accreditation with NAEYC or other accrediting organizations indicates that a facility has met additional standards of quality. NAEYC accreditation standards for optimal child and group ratios are as follows:

<u>Age of child</u>	<u>Child/Adult Ratio</u>	<u>Optimal group size</u>
Birth-12 months	3/1	6
12-24 months	3/1	6
24-30 months	4/1	8
30-36 months	5/1	10
3-5 years	7/1	14

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) sets minimum standards for health and safety. State law requires the following:

<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>Child/Adult Ratio</u>	<u>Maximum group size</u>
6 wks-14 mos	4/1	12
15 mos-23 mos	5/1	15
24-36 mon	8/1	16
3-5 years	10/1	20

STAFF /CENTER QUALIFICATIONS

- The program is licensed and/or accredited.
- The director has at least a Bachelor's degree in a child-related field.
- Staff is knowledgeable about how children develop and grow.
- Staff turnover is low and staff take part in professional development.
- All caregivers have background checks including the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS).
- Staff is trained to recognize child abuse and how to report suspected abuse.

PROGRAM

- Ask about the program goals. It is important that play and learning are valued.
- Children should have periods of time to become deeply engaged in play.
- Children should have many opportunities to make choices throughout the day. Books, blocks, puzzles, art, music and dramatic play activities are plentiful.
- Adults read to children daily, and extend their thinking by providing questions and comments in high quality programs.
- Sand and water play are available on a regular basis, and children spend little or no time watching TV or videos.
- Space and equipment for gross motor play is available indoors and outdoors.

SAFETY

- Children are under adult supervision at all times.
- The playground is surrounded by a fence and equipment is securely anchored. All play equipment is in good repair.
- Toxic substances like cleaning supplies are securely locked away from children.
- There are clear emergency procedures for accidents, missing child or custody situations.
- There is an emergency plan for fires, tornados, floods and earthquakes.

HEALTH

- Immunizations are current for staff and children.
- Hand washing is emphasized for staff and children.
- There are cleanliness standards for diapering and toilet training.
- The facility is clean. Equipment and play materials are regularly disinfected.
- Staff has training in First Aid and CPR.
- There are policies for administration of medication and caring for sick children.

NUTRITION

- Snacks and meals are nutritious.
- There are procedures to handle food allergies.
- Special diets and ethnic preferences are given consideration.
- Breakfast and lunch menus should be posted. Ask to see one.
- Children are allowed flexibility in eating patterns; food can be left on the plate or second helpings are available.

HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

A home-based child care provider offers child care in the caregiver's home, often with a single adult supervising the children. DCFS licensing requires compliance with minimum standards of health, safety, and developmentally appropriate practice for group care of children. The National Association for Family Child Care provides accreditation for home-based child care providers that meet additional standards of quality.

Many of the center and in home guidelines are applicable for home-based child care providers, but also examine the following:

- Is a current child care home license on display?
- Is the provider certified in CPR and First Aid?
- Do you agree with the caregiver's approach on such issues as discipline and toilet training?
- Are bathrooms, diapering areas, and food preparation areas kept clean, safe and separate? Is the house "baby-proofed"?
- Are there any guns in the home? Any guns must be locked and stored separately from ammunition. (In Oak Park, it is illegal to keep a handgun in the house.)
- Are there arrangements for substitutes if the caregiver is ill?
- Is a daily schedule posted for parents to see? Are daily routines in place that are predictable, yet flexible for all children?
- Is there enough space for play and for naps? Are there separate cribs and sheets for infants?
- Are meals healthy and appetizing, and eaten in a friendly atmosphere?
- Is there a variety of toys and mix of quiet and active play?
- Are there safe areas indoors and out?
- Does the caregiver listen to the children and respect their feelings?
- 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?

DCFS states that a single caregiver is permitted to care for a total of twelve children under the age of 12, including the children of the caregiver. However, the Village of Oak Park only allows a total of eight children to be cared for by a single caregiver, including the children of the caregiver. If there are four or more children cared for in a home, the home is required to be licensed by DCFS.

Extended family caring for children are exempt from licensing requirements, as are homes caring for less than four children. Therefore, it is important that you request two or three references and observe the home while children are present, in addition to considering the points listed above when looking at a license-exempt home child care provider.

CARE IN YOUR HOME

Some parents may prefer the one on one contact 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.

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 3 months; they do not do housework that does not pertain to the care of children. The au pair program in the United States is closely regulated by the U.S. Department of State; 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 in-home care but there are additional issues that should be addressed.

- Interview the prospective caregiver at least twice, have at least two or three references and conduct a criminal background check including a 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.
- Ask if the employee has any training in early childhood development.
- Offer "what if" scenarios on discipline, eating habits, etc. to elicit responses on how the caregiver would handle different situations.
- Draw up a specific contract outlining expected duties, hours, salary, paid vacation and sick leave. Include parental obligations and set up periodic review dates.
- Observe the caregiver's interaction with your child routinely and without advance notice.

PART-TIME OR EVENING SITTERS

Before you leave your child with anyone, make sure that person is familiar with your child/children and their likes/dislikes, your routines, food habits, where you keep extra clothing, diapers, fire extinguishers, first aid kit, etc. You should also provide a list of emergency numbers, including the number where you can be reached, your health care provider and hospital, and a signed consent form in the event of a medical emergency (see example provided in appendix B of this directory).

The Red Cross offers a babysitting course for teenage sitters. All sitters should be trained in CPR and be aware of your house safety rules.

CHILD CARE RESOURCES

REFERRALS:

COOK COUNTY CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY

PHONE: 773-769-8000

Will provide parents with a list of providers anywhere in Cook County for a fee; will also help parents determine if they qualify for assistance in paying for child care and to receive the appropriate forms to apply. This service is free.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

PHONE: 217-557-0700

Will provide a list of DCFS licensed centers and home child care providers.

OAK PARK HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PHONE: 708-358-5480

Will provide a list of licensed centers and home child care providers in Oak Park.

WEST SUBURBAN HOME DAY CARE ASSOCIATION

PHONE: 708-848-8931

An association of eighty home-based child care providers.

PROVIDER BACKGROUND CHECKS AND TRAINING:

AMERICAN RED CROSS MID AMERICA CHAPTER

PHONE: 1-800-337-2338

Provides training in CPR and First Aid and babysitter training for teenagers.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TRACKING SYSTEM (CANTS)

To determine if a prospective employee has ever been investigated for child abuse and neglect in the state of Illinois, call DCFS Office of Communications (217-785-1700), or access the DCFS website at www.state.il.us/dcfs/com_communications_forms.shtml to request form CFS-689, Authorization for Background Check for Programs NOT Licensed by DCFS.

HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER NURSE CONSULTANT

Oak Park residents call: 708-358-5480

Helps home child care providers with communicable disease prevention, policy development, risk assessments, education and support with home visits.

PART-TIME BABYSITTING:

CONCORDIA BABYSITTING JOB BOARD

at Koehneke Community Center, Concordia University

PHONE: 708-209-3090

DOMINICAN BABYSITTING JOB BOARD

at Dominican University Career Center, room 216

PHONE: 708-524-6786 • FAX: 708-488-5075

Parents needing services can post their openings on a job board in the student career centers at Concordia and Dominican.

DIRECTORY LISTINGS: CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

DCFS licensing requires compliance to minimum standards of health, safety, and developmentally appropriate practice for group care of children. Some organizations have chosen to pursue national accreditations that indicate that their programs meet additional standards of quality. For more information, see the websites for those accrediting bodies.

Preschools that offer an extended day option and therefore serve as the equivalent of full-time child care are also listed in this section. Preschools that are part of an existing school system (public, religiously-based, or Montessori) do not need to be licensed by DCFS. Some preschools have undergone national accreditation processes that examine child care procedures and facilities; some license-exempt preschools have chosen to become licensed by DCFS. When looking at a preschool with extended hours, you must consider both the preschool's program and its suitability as a child care facility. In this listing, preschools that are not required to be licensed by DCFS will be noted as "DCFS license-exempt".

If you have any questions about DCFS licensing standards or policy, call the DCFS Office of Child and Family Policy at 217-524-1983.

By law, all agencies that care for children must be willing to consider children with special needs. However, some facilities may be more suitable than others for a child with special needs. Unless indicated otherwise, all of the child care providers listed have ongoing enrollment.

ABC TOON TOWN

146-148 Harrison Street, Oak Park, 60304

PHONE: 708-848-9714 • FAX: 708-848-9783

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Flexible hours
 Accepts state subsidies Provides toilet training services
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 6/1 (15 mos-2 yrs); 8/1 (2-4yrs); 10/1 (3-5 yrs)

ASCENSION SCHOOL

601 Van Buren, Oak Park 60304 • www.ascension-school.com

PHONE: 708-386-7282 • FAX: 708-524-4796

3-14 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Toilet training required May accept subsidies (call for more information)
Parochial Catholic school DCFS license-exempt
 Child/staff ratio: 11/1 Must be enrolled at Ascension School

BLOCKS 24-HOUR CHILD CARE

815 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-445-1572 • FAX: 708-445-1573

www.blocks24hourcare.qpg.com

6 weeks-5 years Open 24 hours/day
 Full time/part time Flexible hours available
 Provides toilet-training services
 German language and music & movement classes available
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 5/1 (15 mos-2 yrs); 10/1 (3-4 yrs)

BUILDING BLOCKS CHILD CARE

at Cornerstone Church, 171 N. Cuyler, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-386-1033 • FAX: 708-386-1532

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training not required for full-time care
 Accepts state subsidies
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 5/1 (16-23 mos); 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (3-6 yrs)
Non-denominational Christian center

CEDA OAK PARK HEAD START

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

44 W. Madison. Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-6476 • FAX: 708-848-1064 • mdoden@cedaorg.net

3-4 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training highly recommended
 Sliding scale co-payment with state subsidy
 Must meet income/residency requirements
 Child/staff ratios: 17/3

CHILDREN'S GARDEN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

165 N. Lombard, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-6570 • FAX: 708-386-5580

www.childrensgardenmontessori.com • rmawani@aol.com

2-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training not required
 Optional Spanish language immersion program
 (child must be 3 yrs. old and toilet trained for immersion program)
Montessori school Child/staff ratios: 6/1 (2-3 yrs); 8/1 (3-6 yrs)

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER

Christopher Bldg., 7400 Augusta Blvd., River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-209-3099 • FAX: 708-209-3176 • www.curf.edu

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training required for children over age 3
 Accepts state subsidies Ongoing registration (for child care only)
 Child/staff ratios: 3/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 4/1 (15 mos-2 yrs); 5/1 (2-3yrs);
 7/1 (3-4yrs); 10/1 (5-6yrs)
Religious Lutheran school Accreditation from Natl Lutheran School Assn

CREATIVE CHILDREN'S DAY CARE CENTER

6139 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-445-9522 • FAX: 708-445-1637

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time only Toilet training not required
 Accepts state subsidies
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 5/1 (15-24 mos); 8/1 (age 20); 10/1 (3-6 yrs)

EXCEPTIONAL TOTS & TODDLERS

206-208 Chicago Avenue, #208, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-660-0851

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time only Toilet training not required
 Accepts state subsidies
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-14 mos); 5/1 (14-36 mos); 10/1 (3-6 yrs)

FIRST BAPTIST PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

820 Ontario, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-1190 • FAX: 708-848-0586

2 1/2-6 years 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training required
 Accepts state subsidies Transportation from school to center
 After school program for 1st-3rd graders (child/staff ratio 19/1)
 Child/staff ratios: 16/3 (2 1/2-3 yrs); 8/1 (3-4 yrs); 15/1 (5-6 yrs)
Non-denominational Christian center

FOREST PARK MONTESSORI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

16 Lathrop Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-771-8337

6 weeks-6 years 8:30 am – 4:00 pm or 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Accepts state subsidies
 Toilet training required for children over age 3
 Accreditation from American Montessori Society
Montessori school DCFS license-exempt
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 5/1 (15-24 mos); 6/1 (age 2); 7/1 (age 3)

GOOD SHEPHERD LEARNING CENTER

326 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-386-2060 • FAX: 708-386-2059

2-6 years 6:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time only Toilet-training not required
 Accepts state subsidies
 Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (ages 3-4); 20/1 (ages 5-6)

HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

811 South Boulevard, Oak Park 60301 • www.hephzibahhome.org

PHONE: 708-445-5685 • FAX: 708-445-7815

K-5th grade Ongoing enrollment
 Sliding fee scale Limited transportation available
 7:00 – 9:00 am (before-school care), 3:00 – 6:00 pm (after school care)
 11:00 am – 6:00 pm (kindergarten)
 Care offered at 946 North Boulevard and seven after-school locations
 DCFS licensed; accreditation from the Council on Accreditation
 Child/staff ratio: 10/1

HOME AWAY FROM HOME DAY CARE CENTER

112 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-3331

2-6 years 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
 Full time/part time Toilet training not required
 Accepts state subsidies Child/staff ratio: 8/1

INTERCULTURA FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION MONTESSORI

301 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-848-6626 • FAX: 708-848-0407

drosanova@intercultura.org • www.intercultura.org

3-14 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Toilet training required Financial aid available
 Ongoing enrollment Japanese, Spanish immersion
 Accreditation from American Montessori Society
Montessori school DCFS license-exempt
 Child/staff ratio: 12/1

KANGAROO KORNER CHILD CARE

900 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-4452 • FAX: 708-366-8160

www.kangarookorner.org

2-8 years 6:30 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time only Toilet-training not required
 Accepts state subsidies Full-day kdg, after-school care available
 Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (age 3); 10/1 (ages 4-5)

KEYSTONE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

7415 W. North Avenue, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-366-1080 • FAX: 708-366-1083 • www.ksmontessori.com

2-14 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Toilet training not required Before school, after school care available
 Accreditation from American Montessori Soc., Assn. Montessori International
Montessori school DCFS license-exempt
 Child/staff ratios: 6/1 (age 2); 12/1 (3-6 years)

LITTLE BEGINNINGS DAY CARE AND PRESCHOOL

847 W. Madison, Oak Park 60302 • beginningsinc@aol.com

PHONE: 708-445-0909 • FAX: 708-445-7457

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time/part-time Toilet training not required
 Accepts state subsidies
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-18 mos); 5/1 (18 mos-3 yrs); 10/1 (3-6 yrs)

LITTLE PEOPLE LEARNING CENTER

6441 W. North Avenue, suite 103, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-2125 • FAX: 708-848-6930

6 weeks-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Full-time only Toilet-training not required
 Accepts state subsidies Transportation available
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-23 mos); 8/1 (2-5 yrs)

HOWARD MOHR COMMUNITY CENTER

7640 Jackson, Forest Park, 60130

PHONE: 708-771-7737 • FAX: 708-771-7736

K-5th grade	Register in late summer for school year
Accepts state subsidies	Transportation available
Must reside in Forest Park	Tutoring available
6:30-8:15 am (before school care), 2:30-6:00 pm (after school care)	
Child/staff ratio: 8/1	

OAK PARK RIVER FOREST DAY CARE CENTER AND PRESCHOOL

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

PHONE: 708-434-3192 • FAX: 708-434-3925

6 weeks-5 years	7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Full-time only	Follows OPRFHS calendar
Toilet training not required	
Enrollment priority given (in order) to children of 1: OPRFHS students,	
2: D200 staff and faculty, 3: D90 and D97 staff and faculty,	
4: members of the community	
Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks–35 mos); 10/1 (35 mos –5 yrs)	

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST DAY NURSERY

1139 Randolph Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-8211 • FAX: 708-383-0692

www.riverforest.org/OPRFDN • OPRFDayNursery@yahoo.com

2 1/2 years-6 years	7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Full time only	Toilet training required
Accepts state subsidies	Child/staff ratio: 7/1

PALS CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

1018 Madison, suite 20, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-1879 • FAX: 708-848-9850

6 weeks-6 years	6:00 am-6:00 pm
Full-time/part-time	Toilet training not required
Accepts state subsidies	
Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (6 wks-15 mos); 5/1 (15 mos-3 yrs); 10/1 (3-5 yrs)	

RICHTER/BROWN JUNIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER

at Dominican University, 7900 W. Division, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-524-6895 • FAX: 708-488-5063 • acardin@dom.edu

2-6 yrs.	7:00 am – 6:00 pm, 3 days or 5 days
Full-time/part-time	Accepts state subsidies
Toilet training required for children older than age 3	
Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (3-5 yrs)	

RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY CTR. EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CTR.

8020 Madison, River Forest 60305 • www.rfcc.info

PHONE: 708-771-5127 • FAX: 708-771-8958

3-12 years	7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Full time/part time	Flexible hours available
Toilet training required	Before and afterschool programs available
Child/staff ratio: 10/1	

SMALL WORLD LEARNING CENTER

1009 Garfield Street, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-848-8888 • FAX: 708-848-8988

2-6 years.	6:30 am – 6:00 pm
Full time only	Accepts state subsidies
Toilet training required	Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (ages 3–6)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER WITH EXTENDED CARE

305 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-2774 • FAX: 708-488-2190

2-12 years.	6:30 am – 6:00 pm
Times vary by age	Toilet training not required
Financial aid available	Accreditation by Nat'l Lutheran Schools Assn.
Before and after school care available	
Religious Lutheran school	DCFS license-exempt
Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (age 2); 7/1 (3–5 yrs); 15/1 (5-12 yrs)	

WEST SUBURBAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

1039 S. East Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-848-2662 • FAX: 708-848-1977

www.wsms.org • info@wsms.org

3-6 years	7:00 am–6:00 pm
Ongoing enrollment	Toilet training required
Accreditation from Association Montessori International	
Montessori school	DCFS license-exempt
Child/staff ratio: 15/1	

YMCA PLAYSCHOOL/PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

255 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-5200 x521 • FAX: 708-383-0159 • www.opymca.org

6-12 years	7:00 am – 9:00 am, 2:45 – 7:00 pm
Ongoing enrollment	Transportation available
Child/staff ratio: 13/1 (6-12 yrs) Before and after school programs	

DIRECTORY LISTINGS: PRESCHOOLS

LISTINGS: PRESCHOOLS ⇄

This is a listing of institutions in the Oak Park/River Forest/Forest Park area that provide developmental/educational activities for several hours a day for children under five. Programs that have an extended or full day option are also listed in the day care section. There is some overlap between the listings.

DCFS licensing requires compliance to minimum standards of health, safety, and developmentally appropriate practice for group care of children. Some organizations have chosen to pursue national accreditations that indicate that their programs meet additional national standards of quality. For more information, see the websites for those accrediting bodies. By law, all agencies that care for children must be willing to consider children with special needs. However, some facilities may be more suitable than others for a child with special needs.

Spaces fill as early as January or February for popular programs. Typically, the age eligibility listed is the child's age as of September 1. Many programs housed in religious institutions, whether non-sectarian or religious, will give preference to congregants. Call for specific information.

In January, Parenthesis Parent-Child Drop-In Center usually hosts a Preschool Fair with information about area preschools. Call Parenthesis at 708-848-2227 for more information about the Preschool Fair.

ACADEMY OF MOVEMENT AND MUSIC PRESCHOOL

605 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-848-2329 • FAX: 708-848-2391
stephanieclemons@hotmail.com

2-6 years 8:45 – 11:00 am, 12:45 – 3:00 pm
Toilet training not required Days vary by age
Registration usually 1st Sunday in February
Child/staff ratios: 5/1 (2-3 yrs); 8/1 (4-6 yrs)

ALCUIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-366-1882 • FAX: 708-386-1892
www.alcuin.org • areiter@alcuin.org

2-12 years 8:30 – 11:30 am, 7:15 am – 6:00 pm
Ongoing enrollment Days and times vary by age
Financial aid available Toilet training required for children over age 3
Full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
Parent/caregiver-child classes available to children 10-22 months
Child/staff ratios: 5/1 (age 2); 8/1 (3-6 yrs)
Montessori school Accreditation by American Montessori Society

ASCENSION SCHOOL

601 Van Buren, Oak Park 60304 • www.ascension-school.com
PHONE: 708-386-7282 • FAX: 708-524-4796

3-5 yrs. 9:15 – 11:40 am, 12:35 – 3:00 pm
Toilet training required Days vary by age
Extended day program available 7:00 am – 6:00 pm (see Child Care Listings)
May accept subsidies (call for more information)
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratio: 11/1

CEDA OAK PARK HEAD START

44 W. Madison, Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-848-6476 • FAX: 708-848-1064 • mdoden@cedaorg.net

3-4 years 8:00 – 11:30 am, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm
Ongoing enrollment Toilet training highly recommended
Transportation available Free to income-eligible families
Must reside in Oak Park, River Forest, or Forest Park
Full-time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
Child/staff ratios: 17/3

CHILDREN'S GARDEN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

165 N. Lombard, Oak Park 60302
PHONE: 708-383-6570 • FAX: 708-386-5580
www.childrensgardenmontessori.com • rmawani@aol.com

2-6 years 7:00 am – 6:00 pm
Full-time/part-time Ongoing enrollment
Optional Spanish language immersion program
(child must be 3 yrs. old and toilet trained)
Full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
Montessori school Child/staff ratios: 6/1 (2-3 yrs); 8/1 (3-6 yrs)

CHRIST LUTHERAN LEARNING CENTER

607 Harvard Street, Oak Park 60304
PHONE AND FAX: 708-386-3306

3-4 years (by 12/1) 8:45 – 11:15 am
Toilet training required Days vary by age
Registration begins Feb. 1 Child/staff ratio: 10/1
Religious Lutheran preschool

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CTR.

Christopher Bldg., 7400 Augusta Blvd., River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-209-3099 • FAX: 708-209-3176 • www.curf.edu

3-5 years 9:00 – 11:30 am, 1:00 – 3:30 pm
 Full-time/part-time Accepts state subsidies
 Toilet training required for children over age 3
 Applications accepted on last Wednesday in February for preschool
 Full-time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
 Accreditation from National Lutheran School Association
Religious Lutheran school Child/staff ratios: 7/1 (3–4 yrs); 10/1 (5–6 yrs)

FIRST CIRCLE EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

55 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302
 PHONE: 708-848-9422 • FAX: 708-848-9424

3-6 years 8:45 – 11:45 am, 12:45 – 3:45 pm
 Open house in February Toilet training not required
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1

FIRST UNITED CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301
 PHONE: 708-848-4910 • FAX: 708-386-7480
 joanewhite@earthlink.net

3-5 years 8:45 – 11:15 am, 12:30 – 3:00 pm Tu-F
 Open house 3rd Tues. in Jan. Toilet training required
 NAEYC accreditation Financial aid available
 Child/staff ratios: 5/1 (age 3); 6/1 (4–5 years)

FOREST PARK DISTRICT 91 JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

at Field-Stevenson School, 925 Beloit Avenue, Forest Park 60130
 PHONE: 708-366-5700 • FAX: 708-366-5761 • www.forestparkschools.org

Age 4 8:30 – 10:50 am, 12:10 – 2:30 pm
 Registration begins in June Toilet training required
 Must reside in Forest Park Preference given to children with special needs
 Free to residents Child/staff ratio: 10/1

GLASSER PRESCHOOL

at Oak Park Temple, 1235 N. Harlem Avenue, Oak Park 60302
 PHONE: 708-386-3937 • FAX: 708-386-0955
 glasserps@ameritech.net

2 1/2 years–5 years 8:45 – 11:15 am
 Ongoing enrollment Extended day option available (8:45 am–1:30 pm)
 Financial aid available Toilet training not required
 Parent/caregiver-child classes available for children 9 months–2 1/2 years
 Child/staff ratios: 4/1 (age 2); 6/1 (age 3); 8:1 (age 4)
Religious Jewish preschool

INTERCULTURA FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION MONTESSORI

301 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park 60304
 PHONE: 708-848-6626 • FAX: 708-848-0407

drosanova@intercultura.org • www.intercultura.org
 3–14 years 8:15 am – 12:30 pm, 8:15 am – 2:30 pm
 Toilet training required Financial aid available
 Ongoing enrollment Japanese, Spanish immersion
 Extended day, full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
 Accreditation from American Montessori Society
Montessori school Child/staff ratio: 12/1

KEYSTONE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

7415 W. North Avenue, River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-366-1080 • FAX: 708-366-1083 • www.ksmontessori.com

2-14 years 8:30 – 11:30 am, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
 Toilet training not required Days, times vary by age
 Ongoing enrollment Full time/part time
 Full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
 Accreditation from American Montessori Soc., Assn. Montessori International
Montessori school Child/staff ratios: 6/1 (age 2); 12/1 (3–6 years)

THE LANGUAGE AND MUSIC SCHOOL

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60301 • www.lmschool.com
 PHONE: 708-524-3340 or 708-524-LALA • FAX: 708-524-0564

3–6 years 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12:00 – 3:00 pm
 Ongoing enrollment Toilet training not required
 Accepts state subsidies DCFS licence-exempt
 Spanish immersion available Extended day available
 Accreditation from Illinois Music Association
 Child/staff ratio: 8/1

OAK PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

931 Lake Street, Oak Park 60301
 PHONE: 708-445-3030 • FAX: 708-386-4182

www.opca.net • opca@juno.com
 4-5 years 12:30 – 3:15 pm, 8:30 am – 3:15 pm
 Ongoing enrollment Times vary by age
 Toilet training required Financial aid available (applications due 4/1)
 Child/staff ratio: 9/1 (4–5 years)
Non denominational Christian school

OAK PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SINGING WINDS KDG.

1100 Ontario St., Oak Park 60302
 PHONE: 708-386-1600 • FAX: 708-386-6810
 www.oakparkwaldorf.org • opwaldorf@juno.com

age 3-elementary grades 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
 Full-time/part-time Optional aftercare available (12:30 – 3:00 pm)
 Ongoing enrollment Financial aid available for grade school
 Parent/child (birth–age 3) intro to Waldorf early childhood program
 Accreditation by Association of Waldorf Schools of North America
 Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (3–4 yrs); 10/1 (age 5)
Parent/teacher led Waldorf school

**OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (DISTRICT 97)
 PREKINDERGARTEN PARTNERSHIP (PKP)**

at Longfellow School, 715 S. Highland Avenue, Oak Park 60304
 PHONE: 708-848-2112 • FAX: 708-524-3037 • www.op97.k12.il.us

3-5 years 8:45 – 11:15 am, 12:30 – 3:00 pm, M-Th
 Ongoing enrollment Toilet training required
 Free to qualifying families Must reside in Oak Park
 Screening required for children with stress factors or developmental delays
 Child/staff ratio: 15/2

OAK PARK DISTRICT

218 Madison, Oak Park 60302 • www.oakparkparks.com
 PHONE: 708-725-2250 • FAX: 708-383-5702
 Contact Charity Luter for information about Early Childhood programs

2–5 years Days, times vary by age
 Quarterly enrollment Toilet training required for children older than 3
 Child/staff ratio: 19/2 Several locations throughout Oak Park

PILGRIM COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

460 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302 • www.pilgrimschool.net
 PHONE: 708-848-5869 • FAX: 708-848-6880

3 years (by 10/15)-5 years 8:45 – 11:15 am; 12:45 – 3:15 pm, M-Th
 Mid-January registration Toilet training not required
 NAEYC accreditation Financial aid available
 Child/staff ratios: 7/1 (age 3); 8/1 (age 4)

RICHTER/BROWN JUNIOR CITIZEN’S CENTER

at Dominican University, 7900 W. Division, River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-524-6895 • FAX: 708-488-5063 • acardin@dom.edu

2-6 years 7:00 am – 12:30 pm, 3 days or 5 days
 Full-time/part-time Ongoing enrollment
 Accepts state subsidies Full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
 Toilet training required for children older than age 3
 Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 2); 10/1 (3–5 yrs)

RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER PRESCHOOL

8020 Madison, River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-771-6159 • FAX: 708-771-8958 • www.rfcc.org

3–12 years 9:15 – 11:30 am, 12:30 – 3:00 pm
 Toilet training required Days, times vary by age
 Parent/child classes available for children 15-23 months
 Before and afterschool programs available
 Full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
 Child/staff ratio: 10/1

ST. BERNADINE SCHOOL

815 Elgin Avenue, Forest Park 60130
 PHONE: 708-366-6890 • www.stbern.com • stbern@stbern.com

3-5 years 8:30 – 11:30 am, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
 Toilet training required Days, times vary by age
 Ongoing enrollment Financial aid available for parishioners
 Half-day and full-day options available for 4-year-olds
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratio: 20/1

ST. CATHERINE/ST. LUCY SCHOOL

27 Washington Blvd., Oak Park 60302 • cypscr.2001@yahoo.com
 PHONE: 708-386-5286 • FAX: 708-386-7328

3-4 years 8:05 am – 2:15 pm
 Toilet training required Registration begins last wk. in January
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratios: 8/1 (age 3); 25/2 (age 4)

ST. EDMUND SCHOOL

200 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60302 • stedmundschool.org
 PHONE: 708-386-5131 • FAX: 708-386-5616

3-5 years 1:00 – 3:00 pm, 8:15 am – 3:00 pm
 Toilet training required Times vary by age
 Register by September 1 Financial aid available for parishioners
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratios: 5/1 (age 3); 10/1 (age 4)

ST. GILES SCHOOL

1030 N. Linden Avenue, Oak Park 60302
 PHONE: 708-383-6279

3-4 years 8:30 – 11:00 am, 12:30 – 3:00 pm
 Toilet training required Days vary by age
 Registration begins end of Jan. Financial aid available for parishioners
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratios: 15/2

⇨ LISTINGS: PRESCHOOLS

ST. LUKE SCHOOL

519 Ashland Avenue, River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-366-8587 • FAX: 708-366-3831 • slsmado@hotmail.com

4 years 8:25 – 11:20 am, 12:20 – 3:00 pm
Toilet training required Registration begins last week in January
Parochial Catholic school Child/staff ratio: 10/1

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
w/ EXTENDED CARE**

305 Circle Avenue, Forest Park 60130

PHONE: 708-366-2774 • FAX: 708-488-2190

3-5 years 8:30 – 11:45 am
Toilet training not required Financial aid available
Ongoing enrollment Accreditation by Nat'l Lutheran Schools Assn.
Full-day kdg., and full-time child care options available (see Child Care Listings)
Religious Lutheran school Child/staff ratio: 7/1 (ages 3-5)

WEST SUBURBAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

1039 S. East Avenue, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-848-2662 • FAX: 708-848-1977

www.wsms.org • info@wsms.org

3-6 years 8:30 – 11:30 am, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm,
Ongoing enrollment Toilet training required
Extended day, flexible hrs, full time child care available (see Child Care Listings)
DCFS license-exempt; accreditation from Association Montessori International
Montessori school Child/staff ratio: 10/1 (childcare); 15/1 (classroom)

WEST SUBURBAN TEMPLE HAR-ZION NURSERY SCHOOL

1040 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest 60305 • hgross_wsthz@sbcglobal.net

PHONE: 708-366-9000 • FAX: 708-366-9006 • www.wsthz.org

2-5 years 9:00 – 11:00 am, 8:30 – 11:00 am, 12:00 – 2:30 pm
Toilet training not required Days, times vary by age
Ongoing registration Some scholarships available to congregants
NAEYC accreditation Preschool w/ some Jewish observance
Parent/caregiver-child classes for children 18-24 months
Child/staff ratios: 5/2 (age 2); 4/1 (age 3); 13/3 (age 4)

YMCA PLAYSCHOOL/PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

255 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-5200 x521 • FAX: 708-383-0159 • www.opymca.org

27 months-5 years 9:15 – 11:45 am, 12:15 – 2:45 pm (age 4)
Ongoing enrollment Days, times vary by age
Toilet training required Transportation available
Before and after school programs available for age 6-12 (see Child Care Listing)
Child/staff ratios: 7/1 (27 mos-3 yrs); 9/1 (4-5 yrs); 13/1 (6-12 yrs)

MUSIC, GYM, SWIM AND MORE

ACADEMY OF MOVEMENT AND MUSIC

605 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-2329 • FAX: 708-848-2391

Classes in creative movement (ages 2 1/2-5), ballet (ages 3 and up) and boys' production workshop (ages 5 and up).

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SWIM LESSONS

7400 Augusta Avenue, River Forest 60305 • www.curf.edu

PHONE: 708-209-3118 • FAX: 708-209-3154

IPAP—Infant Preschool Aquatic Program w/ Parents (6 mos-4 yrs), independent swim classes (3-15 yrs); year-round; call or visit website for brochure.

FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL SWIM CLASSES

505 W. Washington Blvd., Oak Park 60302

Contact Dave Perry 708-386-0127 x195

Age 5 and up
Three 2-week summer sessions (eight lessons per session).

FOREST PARK PARK DISTRICT

7501 W. Harrison Street, Forest Park, 60130

PHONE: 708-366-7500 • FAX: 708-366-1142

www.lincolnnet.net/forestpark

Parent/child swim classes, recreational programs for children of all ages. Call or visit website for more program details.

FOREST PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

7555 Jackson Boulevard, Forest Park 60130

Six-week-long storytimes for age 2 and ages 3-5; craft activities on the first Saturday of each month. No registration necessary.

HUSKIE SWIM CAMP AT OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

East Pool, 201 N. Scoville, Oak Park 60302

Contact Michael Averbach 708-3379 or Pete Quinn 708-434-3529

4-10 years
Three 2-week summer sessions (eight lessons per session) at seven different start times; mail-in registration at beginning of April; walk-in registration at beginning of June.

KINDERMUSIK OF OAK PARK

927 N. Grove Avenue, Oak Park 60302

Contact Sally Sloan 708-383-2327 • musikhse@comcast.net

Birth-7 years
Parent/caregiver-child music classes (birth-age 3); independent music classes (3-7 years); taught by professional musicians.

THE LANGUAGE AND MUSIC SCHOOL

150 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60301 • www.lmschool.com
 PHONE: 708-524-3340 or 708-524-LALA • FAX: 708-524-0564

4 months-9 years
 Parent/caregiver-child music classes (4 mos-4 years); theater & Spanish classes (4 1/2 years-9 years); language immersion classes (2-8 years).

MUSIKGARTEN OF OAK PARK

at First United Church, 848 Lake Street, Oak Park 60302
 Contact Amy Abbott Pappageorge 708-445-1633

1 month-6 years
 Family-centered parent/caregiver-child classes (1 month-4 years); independent music classes (4-6 years).

MY GYM CHILDREN'S FITNESS CENTER

7625 W. Lake Street, River Forest 60305 • www.my-gym.com
 PHONE: 708-209-1600 • FAX: 708-209-1100 • mygymopr@aol.com

3 months-9 years
 Classes that incorporate movement and gymnastics; parent/caregiver-child classes (3 mos-3 1/2 yrs) and independent classes (for children older than 3 1/2 years); also available for scheduled group playdates.

PARTNERS IN PLAY

at United Lutheran Church, 409 Greenfield, Oak Park
 PHONE: 708-386-2788 • www.partners-in-play.org

6 weeks-6 years
 Parent/caregiver-child exercise/activities, post-natal exercise; 6 weeks + mother/baby exercise program, gym classes, crafts, music and acting; child care for younger siblings during classes.

OAK PARK PARK DISTRICT

218 Madison, Oak Park 60302
 PHONE: 708-383-0002 • FAX: 383-5702 • www.oakparkparks.com

Parent/caregiver-child music classes (3 months-5 years), children's dance, preschool arts and crafts, swimming, ice skating, hockey, sports at several locations (age 3 and up); call for schedule and registration information.

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Main Library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park 60301 • www.oppl.org
 PHONE: 708-383-8200 or 708-452-3420 (children's department)
 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

Offers year-round activities for children of all ages. Call for more information.

OAK PARK YMCA

225 S. Marion Street, Oak Park 60302
 (708) 383-5200 • www.opymca.org

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

RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER

8020 Madison Street, River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-771-6159 • FAX: 708-771-8958 • www.rfcc.info

Parent/child programs; ballet, gymnastics, karate.

RIVER FOREST PARK DISTRICT

401 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest 60305
 PHONE: 708-366-6660 • www.rfpd.com

4-5 years
 Soccer, holiday gym, after school sports program, t-ball, summer camp for tots.

RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY

735 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest 60305 • www.riverforestlib.org
 PHONE: 708-366-5205 • sarahhampson2001@yahoo.com

Birth-5 years
 Weekly storytimes and crafts; year-round on days, evenings, weekends.

STECKMAN STUDIO OF MUSIC

829 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60304
 PHONE: 708-524-1954 • FAX: 708-524-5412 • www.steckman-studio.org

12 months-10 years
 Parent/caregiver-child music classes (12-35 mos), independent music classes (3-5 years), individual and group instrument lessons. A not-for-profit organization.

TUNEFUL TOTS AND TUNEFUL STRINGS

at First United Methodist Church
 324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park 60302
 Contact Karen Ault 708-445-8703 • karenault@covad.net

4 months-5 years
 Parent/caregiver-child music education morning classes; individual and group violin instruction (ages 5 and up)

SANITY SAVERS - OUTINGS WITH CHILDREN

BROOKFIELD ZOO

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

PHONE: 708-485-0263 • www.brookfieldzoo.com

Open 365 days/year. Free general admission on Tuesdays and Thursdays

October – March. Many exhibits suitable for visits during inclement weather.

GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY

300 N. Central Park Avenue, Chicago 60624

PHONE: 312-746-5100

Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, 365 days/year

Six greenhouses (including a children's garden) and two exhibition halls.

OAK PARK CONSERVATORY

615 Garfield Street, Oak Park 60304

PHONE: 708-386-4700

Hours: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tu – Sun.; 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Mon

Tours available for groups of 10 by appt. Small animals (fish, birds, turtles) on display. Ask about the plant “scavenger hunt”. Adult supervision required.

RIDGELAND COMMON

415 W. Lake Street, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-848-9661

Indoor playground, September 29-mid-April. Call for times and fees.

HAROLD “HAL” TYRRELL TRAILSIDE MUSEUM

738 Thatcher Ave., River Forest 60305

PHONE: 708-366-6530

Hours: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Friday – Wednesday

Nature tours; sanctuary for injured and orphaned animals unable to survive in wilderness; wildlife museum; Cook County Forest Preserve.

OAK PARK GYMNASTICS CENTER

218 Madison, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-0218

Indoor playtimes for children 1-6 yrs. Nov – April. Call for times and fees.

WONDER WORKS

6445 W. North Avenue, Oak Park 60302

PHONE: 708-383-4815 • www.wonder-works.org

Hours: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Wednesday – Saturday; noon – 5 pm, Sunday

A children's museum in Oak Park. Regular and special exhibits.

Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule -- United States, 2003

Vaccine	Age	range of recommended ages				catch-up vaccination				preadolescent assessment			
		Birth	1 mo	2 mos	4 mos	6 mos	12 mos	15 mos	18 mos	24 mos	4-6 yrs	11-12 yrs	13-18 yrs
Hepatitis B ¹		HepB #1	only if mother HBsAg (-)										
			HepB #2		HepB #3				HepB series				
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis ²			DTaP	DTaP	DTaP		DTaP			DTaP		Td	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type b ³			Hib	Hib	Hib	Hib							
Inactivated Polio			IPV	IPV	IPV				IPV				
Measles, Mumps, Rubella ⁴						MMR #1			MMR #2		MMR #2		
Varicella ⁵						Varicella			Varicella				
Pneumococcal ⁶			PCV	PCV	PCV	PCV			PCV		PPV		
Vaccines below this line are for selected populations													
Hepatitis A ⁷									Hepatitis A series				
Influenza ⁸					Influenza (yearly)								

This schedule indicates the recommended ages for routine administration of currently licensed childhood vaccines, as of December 1, 2002, for children through age 18 years. Any dose not given at the recommended age should be given at any subsequent visit when indicated and feasible. Indicates age groups that warrant special effort to administer those vaccines not previously given. Additional vaccines may be licensed and recommended during the year. Licensed combination vaccines may be used whenever any components of the combination are indicated and the vaccine's other components are not contraindicated. Providers should consult the manufacturers' package inserts for detailed recommendations.

1. Hepatitis B vaccine (HepB). All infants should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine soon after birth and before hospital discharge; the first dose may also be given by age 2 months if the infant's mother is HBsAg-negative. Only monovalent HepB can be used for the birth dose. Monovalent or combination vaccine containing HepB may be used to complete the series. Four doses of vaccine may be administered when a birth dose is given. The second dose should be given at least 4 weeks after the first dose, except for combination vaccines which cannot be administered before age 6 weeks. The third dose should be given at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The last dose in the vaccination series (third or fourth dose) should not be administered before age 6 months.

Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers should receive HepB and 0.5 mL Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth at separate sites. The second dose is recommended at age 1-2 months. The last dose in the vaccination series should not be administered before age 6 months. These infants should be tested for HBsAg and anti-HBs at 9-15 months of age.

Infants born to mothers whose HBsAg status is unknown should receive the first dose of the HepB series within 12 hours of birth. Maternal blood should be drawn as soon as possible to determine the mother's HBsAg status; if the HBsAg test is positive, the infant should receive HBIG as soon as possible (no later than age 1 week). The second dose is recommended at age 1-2 months. The last dose in the vaccination series should not be administered before age 6 months.

2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP). The fourth dose of DTaP may be administered as early as age 12 months, provided 6 months have elapsed since the third dose and the child is unlikely to return at age 15-18 months. **Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td)** is recommended at age 11-12 years if at least 5 years have elapsed since the last dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine. Subsequent routine Td boosters are recommended every 10 years.

3. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine. Three Hib conjugate vaccines are licensed for infant use. If PRP-OMP (PedvaxHIB® or ComVax® [Merck]) is administered at ages 2 and 4 months, a dose at age 6 months is not required. DTaP/Hib combination products should not be used for primary immunization in infants at ages 2, 4 or 6 months, but can be used as boosters following any Hib vaccine.

4. Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR). The second dose of MMR is recommended routinely at age 4-6 years but may be administered during any visit, provided at least 4 weeks have elapsed since the first dose and that both doses are administered beginning at or after age 12 months. Those who have not previously received the second dose should complete the schedule by the 11-12 year old visit.

5. Varicella vaccine. Varicella vaccine is recommended at any visit at or after age 12 months for susceptible children, i.e. those who lack a reliable history of chickenpox. Susceptible persons aged ≥13 years should receive two doses, given at least 4 weeks apart.

6. Pneumococcal vaccine. The heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is recommended for all children age 2-23 months. It is also recommended for certain children age 24-59 months. **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV)** is recommended in addition to PCV for certain high-risk groups. See *MMWR* 2000;49(RR-9);1-38.

7. Hepatitis A vaccine. Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for children and adolescents in selected states and regions, and for certain high-risk groups; consult your local public health authority. Children and adolescents in these states, regions, and high risk groups who have not been immunized against hepatitis A can begin the hepatitis A vaccination series during any visit. The two doses in the series should be administered at least 6 months apart. See *MMWR* 1999;48(RR-12);1-37.

8. Influenza vaccine. Influenza vaccine is recommended annually for children age ≥6 months with certain risk factors (including but not limited to asthma, cardiac disease, sickle cell disease, HIV, diabetes, and household members of persons in groups at high risk; see *MMWR* 2002;51(RR-3);1-31), and can be administered to all others wishing to obtain immunity. In addition, healthy children age 6-23 months are encouraged to receive influenza vaccine if feasible because children in this age group are at substantially increased risk for influenza-related hospitalizations. Children aged ≤12 years should receive vaccine in a dosage appropriate for their age (0.25 mL if age 6-35 months or 0.5 mL if aged ≥3 years). Children aged ≤8 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time should receive two doses separated by at least 4 weeks.

For additional information about vaccines, including precautions and contraindications for immunization and vaccine shortages, please visit the National Immunization Program Website at www.cdc.gov/nip or call the National Immunization Information Hotline at 800-232-2522 (English) or 800-232-0233 (Spanish).

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 _____
Health care provider _____
Phone Number _____
Insurance company _____
Agent/phone number _____
Policy number _____

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 MEDICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name _____

Birth date _____

Allergies _____

Medication _____

Known conditions _____

Age _____ Weight _____ Height _____



Name _____

Birth date _____

Allergies _____

Medication _____

Known conditions _____

Age _____ Weight _____ Height _____



Name _____

Birth date _____

Allergies _____

Medication _____

Known conditions _____

Age _____ Weight _____ Height _____

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

For more copies of this edition of the Early Childhood Resource Directory, please contact the Collaboration or the League at the telephone numbers listed below. A downloadable version of this directory is also available on our websites.

If you would like more information about the Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education and its programs, contact:

The Collaboration for Early Childhood Care and Education
www.collab4kids.org
collabinfo@collab4kids.org
708-802-5446

If you would like more information about the League of Women Voters and its programs, contact:

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest
www.lwvil.org/lwvopr
lwvopr@sbcglobal.net
708-802-0697

The League and the Collaboration gratefully acknowledge the support of First Bank of Oak Park and GIA Publications, Inc.

FIRST BANK OF OAK PARK

We are proud to support the people and organizations
that make this community great!

Main: 11 W. Madison, 708-386-5000
North Avenue: 6011 W. North Avenue, 708-386-4308
Austin: 4909 W. Division, 773-921-8380



GIA Publications, Inc.

www.giamusic.com