



First Step Child Care Center

November 2021

News from the Office:

CALENDAR

Tuesday 11/9

Parent Committee Meeting (Zoom) 6-7 pm

Wednesday 11/17

Family Engagement Event (Zoom) 5-6 pm

Wednesday 11/24

Parents As Teachers videos posted to Youtube and Facebook

Wednesday 11/24

Closing at 3 pm

Thursday & Friday 11/25-26

CLOSED for Thanksgiving

Week of November 22

Parent Conferences start for Head Start program



Happy Fall! The children are watching the changes to our world this month as they learn all about trees, leaves, apples, pumpkins, and fall weather!



Thank you for your participation in our annual family survey! We enjoyed reading so many wonderful comments about our center and staff, and learned a lot from your suggestions on what we can do better. We are working on our response and Improvement Plan right now and look forward to sharing that with you this month.



Our annual food drive begins November 3rd! Once again, we will partner with the Rich Township Food Pantry to help them fill their food pantry for the community. Small bags will go home this week for the children to fill with items to donate, but we welcome your donations of non-perishable food items all through the month!

Our Parent Committee Meetings will now be held on the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7 pm. Please join us for our November 9th meeting, which includes a Parent Training from our Wellness Consultant!

The weather has changed. Please send an appropriate change of clothes for your child's cubby, and don't forget to send hats and gloves for outdoor play every day!



Finally, remember our holiday hours for Thanksgiving week! We are so thankful for each of you and your amazing children. Have a safe and wonderful month!

Ms. Laura, Ms. Kemena and Ms. Ellie

A theme that repeated across our family surveys was the desire to meet the teachers who work with your children. We are working on a Meet the Teachers newsletter which will go home later this month! We look forward to sharing this with you. In the meantime, please know that you can always call and we'll transfer your call directly to your child's classroom. The teachers would love to hear from you!

Parent Information Page: Domestic Violence

A child's home should be their safe place, a place where they feel loved and secure. But for too many children, home is a place of fear and violence. Each year, hundreds of millions of children are exposed to domestic violence at home. Children who live with and are aware of violence in their homes, even when they are not victims themselves, face many challenges and risks that can last throughout their lives.

The brains of young children are in a constant state of growth and development. The emotional stress experienced by children in a home filled with fighting, screaming, and abuse can harm the development of their brains and impair cognitive and sensory growth. It can cause learning and attention problems in school, as well as making it difficult for these children to experience appropriate social relationships as they grow. The problems these children face often continue into adulthood.



SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

First, if you are in danger, get away and call 9-1-1!

Second, if you are in an abusive relationship of any kind, please know that we are a safe place for you and your children and we are here to help. We will help you find a safe place to stay and whatever other resources you will need.

Finally, with national statistics showing that nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner, chances are great that you know someone who is in this situation. Knowing what resources are available could save someone's life.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline—trained advocates are available to take your calls through the toll free, 24/7 hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).**
- **South Suburban Family Shelter—www.ssf1.org—call the 24/7 hotline at 708-794-2140.**
- **The Crisis Center for South Suburbia—www.crisisctr.org—call the 24/7 hotline at 708-429-SAFE (7233)**