

Open Arms in Your Community

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Health & Safety Tips

- Create a safe environment
- Pay close attention to your child
- Store & lock up any hazards
- Prepare nourishing food
- Allow time for outdoor play
- Listen to your child
- Take notice of age appropriate labels
- Brush their teeth regularly
- Keep small objects off the floor
- Child proof your home
- Regular doctor visits
- Find the right programs for your child
- Form teacher – parent bonds
- Be engaged in your child’s life
- Make good meal choices
- Choose shelters with reservations only or approved locations
- Get updated information from your local center
- Enroll your child or children in local programs ASAP
- Know your neighborhood safe areas

Parents please read the information below it discusses why community involvement is important to you and your child, NAEYC (2009) explains:

- “The role of the community is to provide a physical, emotional, and cognitive environment conducive to that development and learning. The foundation for the community is consistent, positive, caring relationships between the adults and children, among children, among teachers, and between teachers and families.”(1)

We have to come together as a community to raise our children to do and be above and beyond their humble beginnings.

As noted by NAEYC (2009)

- “Each member of the community is valued by the others. By observing and participating in the community, children learn about themselves and their world and also how to develop positive, constructive relationships with other people... Children learn to respect and acknowledge differences of all kinds and to value each person.”(1)

Our goal as a community should be to lift each other up and make our differences our strengths; there is an old African proverb that says “it takes a whole village to raise a child.”(2) Our community is that village and our responsibility is to educate our children despite learning disabilities, dysfunctional homes, and low income; we are here to provide the community programs, shelters and other support services needed.

References:

1. NAEYC. (2009). *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8*. Retrieved from <http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/position%20statement%20Web.pdf>
2. Times of Zambia. (2010). *Zambia: ‘It takes a whole village to raise a child’*. Retrieved from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201008170466.html>

Hello Families of the Chatham community, I am Mr. Josh and I have taken the time to create this helpful brochure to help you as a parent provide the best education possible for your child no matter what your situation. As a pillar of this community it is my obligation to ensure you have access to all the right information, services, and resources available in your neighborhood. Our Open Arms program features developmentally appropriate services for children from birth to age 8. It is vital that your child have the opportunity to be in a healthy quality learning environment; take advantage of Early Head Start and other programs that give lower income families and their children a fighting chance. We also offer offsite sheltering facilities for those in need, because we know how hard it can be for families in that environment, so you and your family can feel safe and secure as you get back on your feet. The Chatham Community Childcare Center is here to support you, please do not be afraid to ask for help.

Thank you for your time, and we hope to see you and your little one(s) soon.

For any additional information please; Call us at **(773) 123-CCCC (2222)** or E-mail **ChicagoC4U@gmail.com**