Early Childhood Special Education

Little things that we want you to know:

Family Gatherings will likely be different this year.

- Families are traveling less and spending more time within a circle of specific individuals. This means that celebrations and even dinners may be different. If you feel that your child is impacted by this change we would like to offer social stories to support you.
- Our staff can provide social stories. Our classroom staff and therapists work with our student support facilitators and social workers who have access to resources that they can share. Let us know if we can help.

Stay alert for updates:

- Please make sure that your school has your current contact information. This is a time of frequent communications and we want to ensure that you receive any updates.
- SSD works in partnership with our local school districts. This means that we are following their calendars and school building directions. Please remember to look for the updates specific to that school/district.
- Please know that we are preparing for school closures but hope that they will not be needed. We will send links for zoom sessions or materials that may be of use for any closure reason.

ECSE Shares:

- We have a department plan and this seemed like a good place to share the details with you, our stakeholders.
  - Conscious Discipline is a classroom management/social emotional program that we use to help students with adjustment at school. They have a program that we are reviewing on building resiliency (recovering from difficult situations) on returning to school. We hope this will help students with the transitions.
  - Increasing our family engagement practices is also a goal. You are part of the team!
Strategy of the month:
Keep children active as we move into colder weather
As we move into what most call the holiday season many families will be doing things differently this year.

- Let’s give children, and ourselves a break from technology. Go out on a nature walk and look at the leaves that are falling. Note the change in temperature and just spend a little time moving outdoors. Once the temperatures drop—bundle up and shorten the walks but still try to get outside. Play in the snow...remember all of the things that you enjoyed!

- Involve your little one in decorating the house. Have them color pictures that you can use for decorations. If you won’t be traveling to see family like you normally would, have your child sign their name in a card? They can draw a picture to include. That memory will mean a lot to those who we can’t get to see physically.

- Have your child help prepare family meals, stirring any food that they can help prepare, setting the table. Get them involved! Here is a table setting printable: https://childhood101.com/kids-chores-printable-setting-the-table-placemats/

Celebrations and other news

- We have a committee working to develop a curriculum that will address our young learners and break things down to keep focus on developmental milestones. This is what we teach not how we teach it!

- We are officially in the fall season despite the unusually warm days that we have had this November. Please be aware of cold and flu season and stay in communication with family and staff. We wish you well!

Links you might like

- Check out Dr. Keenan’s blog corner on various topics https://www.ssdmo.org/updates
- Special School District https://www.ssdmo.org/
- SSD’s Parent Education Diversity & Awareness (PEDA) Department https://www.ssdmo.org/Page/488

Special School District ECSE Department provides services in 14 of the county school districts. On the next page you will find links to their websites for district specific information.
Director Office Hours:

I would like to hear from you; staff and families! Are there things that you would like to see posted in our newsletter? Are there questions that I might answer? Please join me during Director Office Hours.

- Wednesday November 18th 3:30-4:00

and again

- December 16th 3:30-4:00

Here is the zoom link or a phone number to call in.

https://zoom.us/j/948696912?pwd=UE9XbDQ1OFZuWmo3c1JNdXBWN2hwQT09

Or by phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)