

CDC Partner Pages

Matthews Memorial Child Development Center

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Goal: "High Quality" Practices

The Revised Infant/Toddler Environment Rating (ITERS-R) Scale and the Creative Curriculum are the foundational tools used in our Child Development Center to provide high quality learning experiences to our children, from infancy to age three. Our Child Development Center has been gearing up to be evaluated on its ability to consistently engage in high quality early education practices. The *Annual ITERS-R Review* examines how our center utilizes *Space & Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Listening and Talking, Activities, Interaction, Program Structure and Parents and Staff* to maximize learning opportunities for children.

"...Only perfect practice makes perfect"
Vince Lombardi

Former CDC Director, Angela Trice, has been instrumental in helping our staff implement **perfect practice**. Ms. Trice has been serving in the role of **Curriculum Coach** in the CDC since July 2019. Her efforts have supported the perfect practice needed to create professional routines and practices that will lead to perfect implementation of ITERS-R and Early Education standards. Our 2019 ITERS-R Review is underway and we are all looking forward to a report that reflects our hard work and exemplary early education program.



CDC Teacher Ms. Tierra



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Discovery in & outside of the Classroom

During this past summer the CDC enjoyed watching the development of a tomato plant. There is so much to learn from nature, including observation and communication skills. Our children enjoyed watching, touching and eating fresh tomatoes this summer.



Sight, Touch, Smell, Taste and Vocabulary Development were all a part of our plant study this summer.

More summer fun took place when our 2-Year-Old class made their own binoculars!



This creative activity provided the toddlers a reason to explore and

connect with the world around them. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Explains Play is to a child what a Science Lab is to a Scientist.

A child at play is a child at work, learning about the world around them.

See page 3 for more on the importance of play in Early Childhood Education.

Morning Circles: Present Precious Moments



Block Play



CDC Teachers Ms. Kia, Ms. Lanette and Ms. Bowers

Our Two-Year-Old Class meets for a **morning talk** on Mondays to share what they did over the weekend. This sweet time of sharing helps set the tone for the day. During *circle time*, Verbal and social skills are practiced. It is in circle time, that we learn to take turns talking and listening to each other. It is in circle time that we learn that we are important and worthy of being listened to, and our world view is expanded by the shared experiences of others.



Dramatic Play



Puzzle Play



It is in circle time that we show we care for others by listening to them when they speak. It is in circle time that our world is expanded by the shared experiences of our class family. ***It is in circle time that we get to know each other and bond as a class.***

Our One-Year-Old Class meets for **morning welcome introductions and a time for singing**. The same welcome song is sang with each child's name inserted until every child is introduced to the class. For this age group, the idea of personhood is being reinforced. Each child stands and claps or dances as their name is inserted in the song. Having this moment in the spotlight also fosters



CDC Teachers Ms. Scott, Ms. Jones, Ms. Brock and Ms. Trice

positive self-esteem for the participants and provides the opportunity to teach early social skills like taking turns, encouraging and celebrating others and singing along with a group.

Partner, and former MMBC CDC Director, Angela Trice is currently working with our center to bring hands-on support to our teachers as they design the daily interactions that produce the precious learning moments described and shown above.

Children at Play: Please Do Not Disturb

Most of Early Childhood Education happens while children are *playing*. According to Montessorirocks.org, Play is the most valuable way that children learn. Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity, as well as physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. The source goes on to explain that play is essential to healthy brain development. It is through play that children at a very

early age engage and interact in the world around them. Studies have shown **play** helps to develop children's social skills and attitudes that will stay with them throughout their lives. **Play is children's work**, and children should be allowed to engage tremendous amounts of time, energy and effort in it daily. Although it looks simple, play provides and produces complex benefits to children that

impact motor skills, hand-eye coordination, self-awareness, self-control, coping skills, and personal values of empathy and concern for others. Play also fosters the critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will be needed to make connections to concepts, classifications and associations needed for future learning.

<https://montessorirocks.org/value-of-play-for-young-children>

Partnership Opportunities: Please Volunteer To...

- Help our After Care Students with their homework
- Help recognize and/or reward our staff with gift cards, movie tickets, appreciation gifts under \$25.
- Help our center engage with parents during Literacy Nights or other special events
- Read and discuss a book for 30 minutes to an hour during **Welcome Wednesdays**, between 10:30 and 11:30 am
- Donate to the CDC to pay for special events such as petting zoos, outings and/or special guest appearances
- Lend your talents as a musician, artist, good reader to engage in a special event showcase for our children, parents and/or community
- Donate your old, but still functioning, desktop, laptop or tablets to our education center to help our children increase access to and use of technology

Your support can help us make a difference in the educational experience offered at Matthews Memorial Child Development Center.

Please consider PARTNERING with us.

Team Goal: Healthy Social Skills Development



Ms. Tammy Brock

Early Childhood Education has a great impact on the socio-emotional development of children. Every experience, including meal time and personal care routines, provide an opportunity for care givers to interact with the child in

meaningful ways. Experts suggest these interactions can greatly influence the child's learning and development. Our CDC works as a team to utilize the daily routines and practices of our center to meet the varied needs of our children. We engage in positive behavior support practices to encourage productive individual and interpersonal skills that build self-awareness, self-esteem and various other social skills.

We have a partner in **Ms. April Preston**, District of Columbia Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, that works with our center regularly to support our ability to foster healthy social emotional behavior. Learning



Livestrong.com

to communicate feelings, and resolve conflict in productive ways, begins at birth and is perfected with time and practice often experienced in educational settings.

MMCDC CEO Corner



Have you ever had an afterthought? Have you ever been absent of thought and simply forgot something? We all have! However, consider the concept of forethought! Thinking ahead. Planning ahead, as God through the book of Jeremiah, assures us He has done concerning us.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We have great plans for Matthews Memorial Child Development Center as we move to the future and consider the needs of our community. Future plans include: extending the hours of operation to serve the needs of families who need childcare beyond the traditional hours of 6:30 am to 6:00 pm; hiring a diverse staff, with the ability to speak other languages,

to expose our children to other languages and to serve our increasingly diverse community; increase the number of families we serve to reach our capacity of 109 children; and to eventually become a full-fledged charter school to support the preparation of children in SE Washington to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Matthews Memorial Child Development Center, with the help of its staff and partners, is determined to become one of SE Washington's premier Early Childhood Learning Centers.

Matthews Memorial Child Development Center has served the community of SE Washington, DC for more than 50 years. Our mission is to provide high quality early childhood education to the diverse students we serve in a caring and creative learning environment. Through partnership and collaboration with our parents and community we will expand the opportunities our students have to become prepared and engaged citizens in a competitive, complex and changing World.

We Welcome Your Tax-Deductible Donations

Our Child Development Center can always use **your generosity**. Our Infants and toddlers would appreciate your donations of any of the following items to enrich their daily experience in our center.

- Non-fragrant, Hypoallergenic Wipes
- Toys for our Toddler's Treasure Chest that are used as rewards
- Clear Backpacks for our Home Learning Literacy Kits (\$6 ea. www.Discountmugs.com)
- Board Books for our Toddlers
- Soft Books for our Infants
- Crayons, paint, paper, smocks for our Art Areas
- Books for our After-Care Library (ages 6-12)

- LeapFrog Epic Academy Edition Educational Tablet for children 3-6 (\$120.00 from Target)
- \$25 gift cards from Walmart, Target, Visa or Master Card for teacher special requests for their classrooms or parent events

Your generous donations are tax-deductible and will greatly enhance the learning experiences of our children. Thank you so much for your consideration to invest in education through our CDC.

To make a donation, please call Valerie Morris at 202-727-0040 or Ms. Tammy Lucas at 202-889-3707. Or you may elect to make your donation online by going to the

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church website (www.mmbcdc.org) and click on the word "MORE" in the top banner. Then go to "ONLINE GIVING" and select category "OTHER" and enter "CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER" OR "CDC" in the MEMO section to make your tax-deductible donation to our Child Development Center.

Thank you for your consideration of support of our work to enrich the educational experience of the children we serve.

Our Partners Make Being an Exceptional Early Childhood Development Center a Reality

Matthews Memorial Child Development Center

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Serving the Children and Families of SE Washington, DC for 55 years