

EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 21, 2026

WELCOME TO EARLY CHILDHOOD!

GREETINGS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM FAMILIES,

Welcome to the Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Education Programs! We are so happy that you chose us for this important first step in your child's educational career. Each month we will send out a brief family newsletter highlighting some of the great things that our children did throughout month and provide you with some updates & information about things to come.

If you're new to the EC Program, here are some fast facts:

- We provides services to approximately 2,000 students from birth through age 5 across the city of Pittsburgh.
- Our program is comprised of 80 Early Childhood/Preschool classrooms, 4 Early Intervention classrooms, and 6 Early Head Start (infant-toddler) classrooms throughout the School District of Pittsburgh.
- Additionally, we partner with approximately 30 different childcare centers throughout the city.
- We also provide Early Intervention (preschool special education) services to 1,600 children.
- Our program is almost entirely grant-funded through Federal Head Start and state PreK Counts, HSSAP, and Early Intervention.

Our Early Childhood Education Program believes that a strong early learning program has countless benefits for children. In addition to setting a strong educational foundation for the students, our program also addresses the social-emotional and self-help skills that children need to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. One of the things that sets our program apart from others is that we put a large focus on purposeful play and creative exploration, as we believe young children are naturally curious and the best way for them to learn and test out the new skills they are acquiring daily is through active participation.

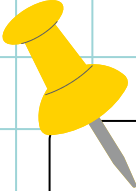
There are many opportunities for families to get involved in both the Early Childhood Education Programs (such as our Early Childhood/Head Start Policy Council) and in Pittsburgh Public Schools events throughout the year. Please keep your contact information up-to-date so we can be sure to keep you looped in on all of these wonderful happenings throughout the year. Thank you again for choosing us, and we look forward to working with you this year!

WISHING YOU WELL,
THE EC & EI MANAGEMENT TEAM

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday, August 24th** – EC Orientation Day (AM & PM groups)
 - Your Family Services Specialist (FSS) will let each family know what time to report for orientation
- **Tuesday, August 25th** – First full day for EC students
- **Monday, September 7th** – Closed for Labor Day
- **Friday, September 18th** – Early Release Day for all PPS schools
 - Your child's teacher will let you know what time to pick up
- **Monday, September 21st** – All PPS schools closed for Yom Kippur

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

OUR FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALISTS WILL BE STARTING CENTER MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER. IN ADDITION, THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO BE HOSTING A PARENT CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE COURSE, A LEARNING & LEADERSHIP COURSE, AND RECONVENING THE MALE-FATHERHOOD INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR EMAIL AND CHILD'S BACKPACK FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Many of our program staff were busy working throughout the summer. EHS had multiple socialization events, EI ran a summer program, staff presented at Frog Street's annual conference, our interns visited Harrisburg, FSSs attended community events, we hosted EC Open House events, and we had a visit from our Head Start Program Specialist!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOK IDEAS



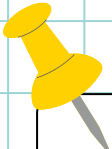
There are many great books about starting school to help young children with this transition. Here are a few books lists for classrooms and caregivers:

- [Mai Story Book Library](#) (Instagram)
- [8 Books to Get Kids Pumped](#)
- [Favorite First Day of School Books](#)

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION CONTACT INFO.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM IS ALWAYS HERE TO HELP. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, OR GOOD NEWS TO SHARE, JUST REACH OUT!

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - KIM RUSSO JOSEPH / KRUSO1@PGHSCHOOLS.ORG
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IMPORTANT LINKS

- [Early Childhood Education Programs Website](#)
- [Early Intervention Program Website](#)
- [Early Childhood Education Programs Facebook Page](#)
- [Early Intervention Program Facebook Page](#)
- [Early Childhood Back-to-School Orientation](#)



IMPORTANT

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HEAD START IN THE NEWS RECENTLY DUE TO A [NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING](#) WHICH INVOLVES A NUMBERS OF CHANGES TO THE HEAD START PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (THE RULES THAT GOVERN HEAD START PROGRAMS).

RIGHT NOW WE ARE IN THE PUBLIC COMMENT PHASE OF THE PROCESS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE, THERE IS A [FAMILY WEBINAR](#) FROM THE NATION HEAD START ASSOCIATION THAT YOU CAN WATCH ON YOUTUBE.

WE'RE HIRING!!!

The Early Childhood Education Program is hiring for Assistant Teachers (EAIIA and EAIIIB) at a number of locations as well as Food Service Aides for our Children's Museum and Kamin Science Center sites. If you or someone you know is interested, please [apply online](#) today - We'd love to have you join our team!

JOIN

OUR

TEAM