

Mary Crane Center

A CHILDREN SERVICES DELEGATE AGENCY

MISSION:

The Mary Crane Center promotes the comprehensive early development of children through school-readiness programs, personal enrichment activities, and family support services.

Mary Crane Center (MCC) was founded 105 years ago in 1908 by Jane Addams as the Mary Crane Day Nursery at Hull House. Originally assisting children of poor immigrants on Chicago's near West Side, the Center moved north to the Julia C. Lathrop Homes in 1963. Now, MCC has four locations in various areas including infant, toddler and pre-school programs as well as two shelters. MCC is dedicated to the comprehensive early development of children and to supporting their families through a variety of services. Their goal is "to provide quality education in a safe and diverse environment and to strengthen the bonds between children and their families." Throughout its history, MCC has grown in order to meet the changing needs of the families they serve in diverse communities.



MCC has a successful partnership with the DePaul University Jumpstart Literacy Program. Lavetter Terry, Executive Director comments, "This program has been phenomenal for us and students from DePaul are involved with our centers. The program focuses on literacy and the students tap into the goals of the teaching team with the child. Children get on-on-one time at least once a week or more. The skills the classroom teachers are working on are reinforced by the students. They also give presentations at parent meetings. It's a collaborative effort."



At MCC they employ dynamic teaching methods to encourage each child to bring his or her individuality and experiences into the classroom and then teachers expand on that existing knowledge. They believe that by identifying a child's likes, dislikes, struggles, and strengths, teachers can enhance each child's personal education and help them to develop the life skills they need to achieve his or her goals. MCC utilizes a Creative Curriculum to serve the whole child emphasizing social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. The teachers have either masters or bachelor's degrees in the field of early child development and some have additional certifications.

In classes they make sure that children understand the environment and that they are exposed to different types of materials found in the environment. At the child care centers they try not to use plastic in the classrooms and the furniture is natural wood. Additionally, classrooms ensure that children are not over stimulated and there are spaces for children where they can snuggle and read or just find a cozy spot with cushions, sofas and pillows. Colors are subdued in the rooms and some of the colors come from children and their work. Families are encouraged to participate and they worked together on a collage project. Each family received a canvas to work with and they were encouraged to use a variety of textures, recyclables, and any found objects. The final compilation of canvasses are now proudly on display in the center.

Mark Your
Calendar...



MARCH

SUPPORT SERVICES

- ❑ **FCP:** Follow-up on documentation in COPA (goals, referrals/services and case notes) documentation must support families' priorities
- ❑ **FCP:** Review and update monthly COPA reports of family progress toward goals, referrals/services and case notes (review COPA reports 1008, 1009, 1010 and PIR)
- ❑ **FCP:** Complete documentation of parent volunteerism and submit to management
- ❑ **Disabilities:** Train staff on CPS/CSD referral process, submit referral packets
- ❑ **Disabilities:** Enter evaluation dates and completed IEP/IFSP into COPA
- ❑ **Disabilities:** Complete CPS and CFC referral status report and submit to CSD, governing bodies/management

At MCC they are extremely proud to have made it past the 100 year milestone and they plan to keep going and growing. They now serve second and third generations of children and parents that have been at MCC. The Mary Crane Center has launched the lives of over 17,000 children and families.

