Starting this month, we’re proud to announce that Day Nursery will be serving up to 80 new children in Pre-K classes within two local schools. The schools, Phalen Leadership Academy (2323 North Illinois Street) and Vision Academy at Riverside (1751 East Riverside Drive), are new elementary-age charter schools that share our focus on high-quality education, student outcomes and great teachers. Enrollment efforts are already underway for classes that start on August 4th. Eligible children have to be 4-years-old by September 1st of this year.

Among the benefits for children at both schools is access to critical on-site supports, including their libraries, playgrounds, and gymnasiums. And, teachers from each institution will participate in joint trainings and share student information so the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten is seamless. Eligible children have to be 4-years-old by September 1st of this year.

The partnerships put into practice what we believe—learning happens long before Kindergarten, but too few families have access to the academic and social benefits of Pre-K. By piloting this new model of pairing Day Nursery with schools, we can ensure that more children have this option and get a running start on their educational pathway. We’re grateful to our community partners, including Indiana University Health, Junior League of Indianapolis, PNC Bank and United Way of Central Indiana for making this effort possible!

To enroll, families can go to www.daynursery.org and click on the Child care & Preschool Inquiries button or call 317-687-3541.

Ted Maple, Ph.D., Day Nursery President & CEO
Using Education Standards as the Foundation of Every Activity

The Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Young Children from Birth to Age Five (the Foundations) have been developed by the Indiana Department of Education. The foundations outline specific skills and concepts and give examples of instructional strategies to help ensure children succeed in kindergarten. At Day Nursery, we use these Foundations to develop appropriate lessons and experiences for all our students. Here are just a few activities (with reference to the Foundation number) we have done recently and how they exemplify the Foundations.

**IU Health:** This was a sponge that gradually grows after water is added. The children measured it at the beginning, after a few days, and when it stopped growing. Science 1.9: Communicate discoveries, 1.11: Observe and describe properties of objects, 1.20: Manipulate a variety of objects and tell about what is observed (e.g., more than, less than). 1.27: Identify non-living things. 1.28: Use vocabulary that indicates understanding of scientific principles. Math 5.16: Use any descriptive word or gesture to express amount or size. Math 5.18: Use common measuring tools in correct context.

**Federal:** Rowan and Maggie are taking turns choosing pieces and helping each other put shapes into the shape sorter. They were talking back and forth: “Does it go here?” “No, turn it over.” “Here, it goes here.” “That’s the circle, put it here.” Physical 1.10: Participate in a variety of fine motor activities. Social Emotional 1.17: Initiate turn taking in play.

**Fort Harrison:** This infant is practicing a common game in the infant room, filling and dumping (Science 1.46). In this picture one of our infants has found a toy in a basket that he is repeatedly pulling out of the basket then throwing it back in.

**Avon:** The teachers in Toddler 2 filled the sensory table with flowers and potting soil. With some encouragement from a teacher, Charlie is trying to smell a flower. Science 1.38: Use their five senses to learn about the environment. Science 1.43: Investigate the physical surroundings by digging in dirt, collecting and classifying rocks, recognizing changes in weather. Science 1.57: Compare characteristics of living things. Physical 5.5: Use objects as tools.

**Lilly:** The children in the Toddler 2 class use their “geometry” skills as they work together to stack and build with blocks to create a tower. The children intentionally select blocks that will fit together to complete their structure. Math 4.1: Notice objects and purposely move and manipulate different objects. Math 5.22: Sort objects into long and short.

**State:** The Day Nursery State Parent Group organized a “Garden Day” event. Children observed as parents built wooden garden boxes. The children then helped move the soil and plant the seeds and seedlings. While in school, the children tend to their gardens: weeding, watering and watching their gardens grow! Social Emotional 2.51: Work and play cooperatively with others. Science 1.43: Investigate the physical surroundings by digging in dirt.

**Infant & Toddler:** Braille used a feather to paint with. Fine Arts 1.5: Delight in touch and feel of materials rather than what is being produced. Fine Arts 1.69: Use a variety of materials to create original artwork.

**Northwest:** The Toddler 1 class celebrated National Book Reading Week by inviting the parents to come and read a book throughout the week to the children. Ms. Tina, Dominique's mom, read to the children before lunch. English Language Arts 2.2: Visually engage with a book. English Language Arts 1.2: Actively attend to things that an adult is showing.
Impacting Child Care Throughout Indiana

Day Nursery Association's Outreach Department, Child Care Answers (CCA), goes beyond the walls of our early care and education centers to impact the quality of care for all families and children in central Indiana. CCA educates parents, child care providers and community leaders about the importance of their roles in the development of children. We provide training and mentoring opportunities to child care professionals to improve the quality of care that is being offered to our youngest citizens. In 2013, we provided 1,642.5 hours of training to a total of 3,991 providers impacting 40,173 children in their care. We also provided on-site coaching to 353 child care sites throughout central Indiana. We assist families by offering education and referrals to help them locate child care based on their diverse needs. In 2013, we assisted 8,825 families with their child care needs. CCA also works closely with members of the community to engage them in our mission of ensuring the children of today and tomorrow are cared for in a professional and nurturing manner.

Mindy Bennett, CCA Director of Programs

Food & Nutrition Improvements

Day Nursery is in the process of achieving the Gold level for our food and nutritional program with the Indiana Department of Education in hopes of not only providing children with more nutritious meals, but also to teach them the importance of a healthy lifestyle from the start.

The Indiana Department of Education has developed a volunteer rating system criteria that encourages all programs who participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program to improve the nutritional content of the meals served to the children and staff. There are three levels to this volunteer program: bronze, silver and gold. The Gold level is the highest and the most difficult to attain.

We are in the process of submitting our new and improved menus which offer fresh fruits and vegetables at least 3 times per week, all whole grain breads, more homemade entrees and less processed lunch meats, no more than 2 servings of juice per week and less sweets and crackers. We are in hopes that this approval process will be completed by October 2014.

We are also in the planning stages of developing parent education information on nutrition which will include cooking workshops, monthly newsletter tips and recipes along with the opportunity to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at the centers. We are very fortunate to partner with IU Health in their community program called “Garden on the Go.” This outreach program will bring fresh produce to the centers, which is locally grown and reasonable priced. The “Garden” staff will be there to educate parents about the different foods and will have tasty recipes to share. This service will be available to parents, staff and the community. Day Nursery is one of the few early education facilities bringing this valuable resource to the community.

Patty Fisher, Director of Center Administration

Day Nursery Explores Rebranding

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment last December, Day Nursery began working with Well Done Marketing (WDM) in April to evaluate our brand and look at ways to strengthen our reputation and raise awareness about our services. The first part of the initiative involved WDM completing a market research project that included focus groups with board and staff, as well as individual conversations with Day Nursery teachers, center directors, parents, Auxiliary members, donors, business partners, media and community members unaffiliated with the organization. Some of you reading this were part of their interviews: thank you for taking the time to share your honest feedback.

In May, WDM shared with us the results of what they learned. From their research, WDM identified four primary points:

1) the organization has a stellar reputation among people who know it (parents, teachers, prospective parents) but has little recognition to people outside the child care community (some funders, media).
2) The name, “Nursery,” doesn’t reflect the organization and is often misleading; even those familiar with Day Nursery don’t associate the organization with preschool and Pre-K, but with traditional “day care.”
3) The 115 year history is exceptional to insiders, but not as important as quality to people making decisions about child care.
4) With the current political climate and a better-educated public about the value of early childhood education, the time is right to raise Day Nursery’s profile in the community and emerge as its leading voice.

WDM recommended a very big next step: change the organization’s name to reflect our mission of ensuring that every child in central Indiana has access to the highest level of early childhood education.

Organizations and companies change their names for many different reasons: sometimes a name isn’t working or doesn’t have the desired impact, but more often a name change is necessary because an organization has evolved out of its original name, and that’s the case with Day Nursery.

The board and staff have taken WDM’s recommendation very seriously, and have endeavored to work on a renaming plan that aims to solve the issues WDM discovered; to honor the legacy of the organization and the remarkable work and vision that lead to the organization’s achievements; and to accurately capture, in an inspiring and effective way, what we truly are. On June 26, 2014, the board approved a new name.

In the next six weeks, we’ll be announcing our new name. Look for a fresh, new website and a fresh, new look to go with the new name. Yes, this is a gigantic step. We hope you’re as enthusiastic as we are about all of the exciting things we have coming up (many we’ve shared with you in this newsletter) and are eager and energized to see how our new look and identity will help support those efforts. Day Nursery has an impressive history with a million success stories. We’re excited to charge ahead and create another 115 years of success, inspiration, and the highest level of early childhood education for Indiana kids!

Megan McKinney Cooper, Director of Development & Marketing
Your gift helps us make central Indiana a better place to live and work by making sure every child has access to excellent early childhood education. Thank you for your donation.
Day Nursery Administration

Phone: (317) 636-9197
Ted Maple, Ph.D., President & CEO
Marsha Hearne-Lindsey, Vice President & Chief Operations Officer
Wanda Kaiser, Chief Financial Officer
Patty Fisher, Director of Center Administration
Cathy Johnson, Human Resources Director
Megan McKinney Cooper, Director of Development & Marketing
Kent Mitchell, Director of Strategic Partnerships
Child Care Answers, a program of Day Nursery
(317) 636-5727 or (317) 631-4643
Mindy Bennett, Director of Programs

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Day Nursery Locations

Enrollment Hotline (317) 687-3541
Day Nursery IU Health
2140 Boulevard Place, Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 283-3838
Day Nursery Federal Center
575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 226-5487
Day Nursery Ft. Harrison Start Smart 4 Children
5545 Herbert Lord Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216
(317) 377-7015
Day Nursery Northwest
5735 W. 73rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 291-8048
Day Nursery Hendricks Co. Early Care & Education Center
1351 N. Ronald Reagan Pkwy, Avon, IN 46123
(317) 271-2603
Day Nursery Lilly Center
3522 N. Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205
(317) 926-1203
Day Nursery State Center
100 N. Senate Avenue N150, Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-1776
Day Nursery Center for Infants & Toddlers
1030 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 550-3967
Day Nursery Pre-Kindergarten at Phalen Leadership Academy
2323 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN 46208
(317) 333-6980, ext. 1100
Day Nursery Pre-Kindergarten at Vision Academy @Riverside
1751 E. Riverside Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 632-2006
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Thank you to all of those listed and to those who have made their givinganonymous.

In addition to the names listed, the Campaign is also grateful to the many who gave electronically online, who mailed their gifts in the mail, who called in their gifts over the phone, and all those whose support and contributions are known to us but whose names have been omitted from this list. Thank you to all of those who have made their giving anonymous.
Day Nursery Values

Excellence:
We strive for excellence, maintaining the highest standards for the education, development, protection and care of young children.

Commitment:
We commit to supportive relationships, the foundation for all of our work with children, families and each other.

Collaboration:
We work together, recognizing that providing the highest level of service to young children requires collaboration and partnership.

Respect:
We treat everyone with respect, strengthening the bonds that bring us together, define our culture and allow us to lead in the wider community.

Day Nursery Center for Infants and Toddlers
Opened in December

Our Infant and Toddler Center opened December 16, 2013, thanks to many of you who supported this endeavor. We have officially opened all six classrooms and expect to have 50 children enrolled by the end of August. We have designed the center with the intent to practice Continuity of Care through “Looping.” In this design, both classroom teachers and the entire class move together from room to room as they turn a year older. In our traditional settings at other centers, children move to the next room either alone, or with a small number of classmates. If you have ever been through a “transition” as we call it, then you know that is the most dreaded two week time frame for a family. Parents as well as children require significant time in getting comfortable with a new room, different procedures, and especially new teachers. Looping eliminates these painful transitions and allows staff to remain with the same group of children for the entire time they are enrolled at the center. When the children turn three, we will help transition the families to one of our other sites.

We wanted to implement Continuity of Care at our center because of the unique opportunity it presents to build strong and lasting relationships with families and teachers. Long term teacher-student relationships have been proven to result in an emotional and intellectual climate that encourages children’s thinking, risk-taking, confidence, and involvement. In addition, imagine the increased knowledge the teachers have about each child’s intellectual strengths and weaknesses that would be impossible to achieve in a single year.

Heather Mitchell, Lead Infant/Toddler Teacher and AM Supervisor at the Infant Toddler Center says, “I’m looking forward to looping with my class. I’m able to make meaningful relationships with the children in my care, as well as their families. Looping really allows an individual class to become like a family. It gives me enough time to really learn and understand each individual child. This helps in lesson planning and getting to know the children’s needs and wants, their likes and dislikes, and how each of them learn. I am looking forward to watching each child grow and being there to help them accomplish goals.”

Sarah Parks, Center Director of the Infant & Toddler Center