



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
BIRTH TO THREE
WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 33

Birth to 3 News

September 2026

Traduce esta carta con el boton arriba.

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! My name is Katey Baldassano and I oversee the Birth to 3 Home Visiting Program here in School District 33. This is my 13th year working with the Program and it is a joy to work with such a dedicated staff and invested families. Our Program is here to come alongside you in your parenting journey. We see you as the expert on your child and our role is to help you support their growth and development so they will be ready to go to Preschool one day! I hope you will join us at one of our upcoming events and I look forward to meeting you!



Groups

Groups start this month!

We are proud to offer a variety of different groups to our families. Our groups are designed to support literacy skills, support parent-child interaction, and connect you to other local families.

We have several other groups to offer you:

-Fathers' group: A monthly ongoing group for fathers and children. Enjoy dinner and playtime and learn about why fathers matter to help your child learn and grow.



- Infant Massage:** Learn ways to help calm your baby and improve their sleep, feeding and early learning. This is a 5-week group for children under 1 year.
- Mothers and Babies:** A very important stress management for all mothers. Build your toolkit to manage your stress and support your baby to grow and thrive. This is a 6-week group open to any mother.
- Journey Together:** A monthly group to support parents raising children with diverse needs. Learn about local resources, get support and connect to other parents on their journey of parenting.
- Parent Child Group:** Monthly groups to meet other families centered around fun themes like yoga, nutrition and outdoor play.
- Library Group:** A weekly group held at the West Chicago Library. Everyone who attends goes home with a copy of the book of the week!
- Walking Club:** Join Birth to 3 Staff and other parents with young children at Pioneer Park to walk and play on the playground.
- Story Walk:** Meet up with our staff and other families to walk the path behind the Library. A book is displayed along the path. Everyone who attends will receive a copy of the book.
- Field Trips:** We have a trip coming up to Kline Creek Farm in September. Ride the bus or meet us there! Our second trip will be in the Winter to the DuPage Children's Museum.

Check out our Program Calendar for coming events and never miss an opportunity to meet other families in your community: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=wegobirthto3%40wego33.org&ctz=America%2FChicago>



Parent Child Interaction

Label everything!

Want to hear an easy way to help your child be ready to go to school one day?

Did you know you don't need any fancy toys?

Did you know you can do this with babies, toddlers, preschoolers and big kids?

Did you know it is FREE??!!?

Talk about what your child is doing or playing and label everything. That's it!

Getting dressed?

"This is your diaper. Here is your shirt. That is your socks."

Eating dinner?

"This is bread. I have applesauce. Mmm, you like that-it is your milk."



Cooking while your child crawls around on the floor-tell them about it!

"This is the pot. Here is my spoon. I am putting in the chicken."

This year in Birth to 3, we are focusing on helping every parent add labeling to their routine. Try it out and tell your home visitor what you notice!



Literacy

1000 Book Challenge!

One of the most important things you can do with your baby or toddler is read and look at books with them. Reading to your child begins even before babies are born. The time to start looking at books with your child is now! The more you read, the greater impact you will have on their growing brain.

The Birth to 3 Program has a goal to help all families increase how often they enjoy books with their child. This year, we are supporting the 1000 Book Challenge. Complete your book tracker every week and make progress towards reading 1000 books this school year. You can find more information and resources here: <https://wcpld.info/youth/reading-at-home/>

How does the Birth to 3 Program support book sharing?

- Bring books to you and make book sharing a part of every visit
- Give families 2 books every month that you know your child will love
- Partner with you to write family goals related to book sharing
- Work with you to create a reading routine
- Meet you at the Library for a home visit or to explore the Library
- Make books part of every group and event at Birth to 3
- Weekly Library Group where everyone goes home with a book
- Monthly Story Walk to enjoy a book display outdoors and receive a copy of the book to keep!
- Winter Reading Celebration event

- Prizes for families who track their books and meet the 1000 Book Challenge
- Share resources like the "Imagination Library" below

Track your books here: <https://forms.gle/FKnV7Q8HeoWkcWvaA>



Partner Spotlight!

Imagination Library

Would you like to receive free books at your home? Sign up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library today!





**Dolly Parton's
IMAGINATION
LIBRARY**

FREE BOOKS
Libros Gratuitos

Inspire a LOVE of Reading!

West Chicago families can now enroll their child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to get a **FREE BOOK every month** until they turn 5 years old.

¡Inspira el AMOR por la lectura!

Las familias de West Chicago ahora pueden inscribir a su hijo en Dolly Parton's Imagination Library para recibir un **libro gratuito cada mes** hasta que cumpla los 5 años.



WeGo
Together
For Kids



**West Chicago Public
Library District
Foundation**



**WEST CHICAGO
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT**



*Receive your books in the mail.
Reciba sus libros por correo.*

**SCAN BELOW TO
Enroll Today!**



**ESCANEA ARRIBA PARA
¡Inscríbete
hoy!**

ImaginationLibrary.com

Now Enrolling!

We are enrolling families to start this summer! Please help us get the word out about our Program so we can reach more families.



West Chicago School District 33 Birth to 3

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West Chicago District 33 Mission

We equip all students to become lifelong learners who lead meaningful change, embrace diversity, and inspire innovation.



Katey Baldassano

Katey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters