

MARCH 2021

THE TWIG

The Official Newsletter of Infant Toddler Family Day Care

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Upcoming Training

Apr 7, 2021 7:00 PM
(Webinar)
Advocacy Training

Upcoming Holidays

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31, 2021

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ONE YEAR LATER

It has been a year since the COVID-19 Pandemic upended all of our lives. Looking back to last March, we were in the midst of planning our International Dinner. We remain hopeful that we will be able to hold this fun event again.

In the past year, ITFDC has taken the precautionary steps to safeguard the children's well-being, health, and safety. Our child care homes provide parents with a peace of mind and the knowledge their children are cared for in a safe and healthy environment. We remain committed to the promise that our providers stand ready to support families' changing work schedules and to provide quality early care and education for their children.

We have received many thoughtful messages from parents. We THANK YOU for your kind words and outpouring of support for the providers and ITFDC in the past year.

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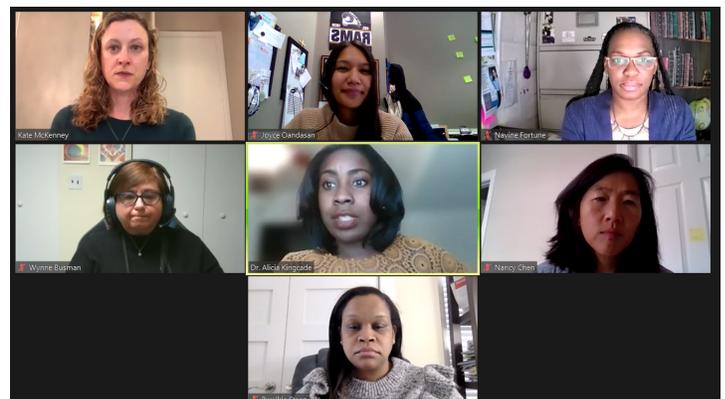


CHILD CARE ADVOCATE

We have been busy with our child care advocacy work (virtually) in the past weeks!

- Our Child Care Provider, Tanya M. was a panelist, along with Executive Director, Wynne Busman, at a Family Child Care Roundtable, sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center. The video can be viewed [here](#).
- Wynne, Tanya and Clarissa, our Child Care Specialist, met with staff from the offices of Senator Mark Warner, Senator Tim Kaine, Congressman Don Beyer, Congressman Gerald Connolly, and Congressman Rob Wittman. They presented the struggles of our providers and our families since the pandemic and what the COVID-19 relief packages meant for them.

Thank You for your hard work!



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GOOD BYE BETTY!

This month we bid *Farewell* to Betty Paleczka! Betty has been an ITFDC-approved provider since 2000. That's over 20 years!

Betty has decided to retire with her husband and will be splitting their time between Poland and US.

Thank You for your dedication to early childcare education! We will miss you! Best Wishes and Enjoy your retirement!



According to Betty's Child Care Specialist, she has been a delight to work with; she is very energetic, engaging and eager to learn. Betty loves doing art work and science experiments with the children.

She loves to go on walks and spends time outside exploring the nature. The children absolutely adore her. She is caring and yet firm and she is an excellent teacher! It is no wonder that in 2015, Betty was the recipient of the Child Care Aware of Virginia Award.



"Please know that we LOVE Saba and the care that she has shown to our family from the time that [our daughter] was 7 weeks old. While she might not be caring for her anymore, she will continue to be part of our family and involved with [our daughter]. She is such an amazing individual and she cares for each child as if they were her own. I have such respect for her and while we are excited for Fiona to start school we certainly will miss the daily interactions with her." ~ ITFDC Family for over 3 years..



WELCOME RUDIE

Welcome to our intern, **Rudie!**

Rudie is currently a student at George Mason University; majoring in Human Development/Family Science and Early Childhood Education.

Since joining ITFDC, Rudie has been shadowing one of our Child Care Specialists. She even helped out in delivering PPEs to our child care homes!



CDC Updates COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Programs

On March 12, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its recommendations for safe child care operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new guidance recommends all child care workers – who qualify for priority access as frontline workers – get vaccinated. ITFDC wholeheartedly supports this recommendation and urges all providers get vaccinated.

The new guidance also stresses the recommendation that all providers and children over the age of 2 wear masks except when eating or sleeping. Many of our child care homes already follow this practice.



*Questions concerning the COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to Fairfax County hotline at 703-267-3511

*Please continue to follow all COVID-19 health protocols even after fully vaccination - Masks, Hand Washing, Social Distancing