

WATCH: Presentation to Plainfield Board of Ed Given by Office of Early Childhood Programs and Services

By JENNIFER POPPER February 7, 2019 at 2:36 AM

https://www.tapinto.net/towns/plainfield/sections/education/articles/watch-presentation-to-plainfield-board-of-ed-given-by-office-of-early-childhood-programs-and-services



Director Evelyn Motley of Plainfield's Early Childhood Programs and Services Credits: Jennifer Pop

PLAINFIELD, NJ - A presentation at Plainfield's Board of Education work and study session on Tuesday was given by Evelyn Motley, Director of Early Childhood Programs and Services, just in time for preschool registrations for the 2019-2010 school year.

Upcoming registration dates include Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Tuesday, Feb. 12 and Thursday, Feb. 14 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Three and four-year old children residing in Plainfield with a birthday on or before Oct. 1 of the enrolling school year are entitled to free preschool. Students are offered six hours of instruction for 180 days.

Motley said that the department is made up of 24 staff members.

A key element of high quality, she said, is the community partnerships with childcare centers. "We're known as having one of the best advisory councils in the state of New Jersey because of its diversity, and we partner a lot with the city of Plainfield." In 2015, representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation visited and met with representatives of the Early Childhood Education Program.

Motley added, "Plainfield, right now, probably is unique in our model. We have all of our preschool children in the childcare community; none are in our elementary schools. Most districts, there's a mix."

She said collaboration between human resources, special services, the business office, and more, contributes to the quality of the program.

Every 45-to-1 children have a family worker, one family worker per 45 children to support families."

Motley said consistency in leadership has contributed to the quality of the program. "We do bilingual programs where we give our preschoolers instruction two days in Spanish and three days in English, and that aligns to what will happen in our kindergarten program."

She added, "The state comes in and assesses early childhood programs for quality. When we got our review from the state we fully met and exceeded New Jersey standards for high quality programs. Four of our childcare centers that we contract with have been rated by the state." Motley said one is a five-star, one is a four, and two are a three-star. "I think that deserves a round of applause."

Watch Motley talk about additional accomplishments and goals in our video:

You must provide all of the following documents in order to register your child for preschool:

- Child's original birth certificate must be 3 or 4 years old by Oct., 1, 2019.
- You must live in the city of Plainfield proof of residence is required, and you can bring a current utility bill (electric, water, cable or home telephone). If utility bills are included in your rent and / or they are not in a parent's name, bring a notarized Affidavit of Resident form signed by the person to whom the bill come, or from whom you rent AND one of their current utility bills; also bring a current piece of official mail in a parent's name, i.e. pay stub, bank or credit card statement, medical or cell phone bill.
- Immunization records MUST have all <u>required shots</u> as per the state of New Jersey; shots from another country must be translated by a doctor's office before registration.
- Most recent physical exam results cannot be over a year old, and must be documented on the Universal Child Health Record Form.

<u>Download preschool registration information</u> here.

The Office of Early Childhood Programs and Services is located at 209 Berckman Street in Plainfield. For more information, call 908-731-4200, ext. 5354.

