

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8

201 South Graham Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15206 | Phone: 412.665.2010 | Fax: 412.6652.2038
Parent Hotline: 412.622.7920 | www.pps.k12.pa.us

welcome!

Cynthia Wallace, Principal

Pittsburgh Montessori School is public magnet school serving children of 36 months in age through early adolescence. What began in 1980 as a school with about 140 students and a staff of six now serves nearly 350 students and employs over 30 teachers and administrators.

Throughout the years, our belief in and dedication to the philosophy developed by Dr. Maria Montessori has remained steadfast. We believe that through our work with children, there is much that we can do individually and collectively to bring humanity to a deeper understanding, a higher well-being, and a greater spirituality. Each year, we thoughtfully rededicate the school and ourselves to the service of the child, Montessori ideals, and the belief that education is the strongest armament of peace.

The faculty, staff, students, parents and community of Pittsburgh Montessori School are committed to embracing the Montessori method to educate our children. Our mission is to respect each child by providing a peaceful environment that fosters self-directed learning, encourages creative thinking, and cultivates a love for life long learning.

Welcome to our learning community!

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe, and are connected with each other to form one whole unity.”

-Maria Montessori

OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

All students will work to their fullest potential to meet the standards set forth in the Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 curriculum, by the district, and by the state.

Our Core Beliefs

We believe that the learning environment at Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 approach helps students to:

- Attain skills that allow them to become independently functioning adults and life-long learners
- Develop the innate desire to engage in activities for enjoyment and satisfaction
- Internalize the ground rules that set boundaries for their interactions within the school and in the community
- Make positive contributions to their community
- Become self-directed, composed and morally independent
- Become confident in expressing their own ideas and creativity
- Develop a sensitivity to the natural world and the human condition

Our Vision

Our vision is to perpetuate the Montessori philosophy in a peaceful educational environment. The uniqueness of each student will guide our teachers in nurturing the child's curiosity as well as implementing meaningful and creative instructional methods while educating the whole child.

AN OVERVIEW

Celia's House (Ages 3-6)

Dr. Montessori developed a school that differed from the traditional adult-centered classroom. She named her first school the “Casa Dei Bambini” or the Children's House.

Her choice of words emphasized that the class-room was not the domain of adults, but a carefully prepared environment that facilitated the development of the whole child, giving students a sense of independence, self-confidence and community.

Celia's House* is a place of discovery with four key elements:

- Practical life: mirrors activities of the culture- such as care of self and the environment, manners and social behavior
- Sensorial explorations: hands on with beautifully crafted materials that reflect the qualities and facts of the world
- Mathematical: concrete mathematical concepts are taught through the utilization of thoughtfully designed and sequenced materials
- Language: language is taught to children in three stages: introduction, kinesthetic (touch and show), and checking for understanding

*Celia's House exists for us today as a memory of the vision and dream of our late principal, Celia M. Flewellen.

Pittsburgh Montessori has 4 primary classrooms. The Lower Elementary Classroom: (First -Third Ages 6-9)

The Pittsburgh Montessori classroom differs from the traditional classroom in many ways: by the sensorial materials, by the processes in which the students become independent learners, and by multi-age groupings. The Pittsburgh Montessori classroom provides the children with opportunities to work from their own free choice and at their own pace. It is based on the child's need to learn by doing. Montessori materials supplement and support the Pittsburgh Public Schools core curricula.

Pittsburgh Montessori has 5 lower elementary classrooms. The Upper and Middle School: (Fourth-Eighth)

The Montessori philosophy encourages each child to become an independent thinker and self-reliant citizen. These two educational goals are combined in a comprehensive curriculum that is taught through small group and whole class instruction. Furthermore, a team-teaching approach allows each child's progress to be closely monitored by a specialist in each content area.

Pittsburgh Montessori has four 4th/5th grade upper school classrooms and one of each middle school grade.

A Poem for Peace

5th grade

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8

9/21/2006

Peace is...

A quiet baby

My little cousin quietly sleeping

Fresh fruit ripening

A cold wind that flows on a hot day

A dove silently flying through the air

A house full of nothing

A stallion galloping swiftly

A quiet library

Our class listening and working quietly

A cold winter day and me drinking hot chocolate

The smell of spring in the morning and waffles on the griddle

A new flower

A fresh growing peach

A place to be by yourself

Peace is...

A clock ticking time slowly

School Procedures

Bell Schedule

Our day at Pittsburgh Montessori begins at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:41 p.m.

Admissions

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 is a Magnet school. In order to apply, parents, in person, must register during district designated registration periods. Preference is given to siblings. There is a school lottery with registered families in December.

Withdrawals or Transfers

If a student is going to withdraw or transfer to another school, the parent or guardian must inform the school in writing of the date of the intended withdrawal and the new school the child will be attending. Prior to the student's last day of attendance, a check-out sheet should be obtained from the main office. This sheet should be signed by each of the student's teachers and the librarian to verify that all books and supplies have been returned. The student should return the check-out sheet to the main office for final clearance. All books, property, or money obligations must be met at the time of withdrawal before school records can be sent to the new school.

Arrival/Dismissal

Arrivals: All 3 and 4 year old students should be escorted to their classroom by an adult. All K-8 students must enter through the cafeteria entrance on South Graham Street. If students are eating breakfast, they must stay in the cafeteria and sit at the designated tables. Our school day begins at 8:55 a.m. Please do not drop your child off before 8:45 a.m. All arrivals after 9:05 a.m. must report to the main office to be signed in.

Dismissals: Students are dismissed from their homerooms beginning at 3:35 p.m. If you must change your child's regular dismissal routine, please send a note to school with your child. If an immediate change is necessary, you must notify the school by 2:30 p.m. Changes after 2:30 p.m. present confusion to our daily dismissal routine and are discouraged.

Special note to parents/guardians:

K-8 parents are encouraged not to escort their child to his/her classroom. If you would like to conference with your child's teacher, please call to schedule an appointment.

Attendance Procedures

Regular attendance to school and classes contribute to your child's academic and social success. However, it is understandable that a student will miss school due to illness, sickness, or other emergencies.

When students are absent from school for legal reasons, a written explanation of the absence must be provided within 10 days of the student's return to school. This letter should be submitted to the homeroom teacher. Attendance changes can not be made after 10 days.

A student must attend school 95 percent of each report period to receive a passing grade. If a student misses six unexcused days of school in any report period, the student will receive a failing grade. Homeroom teachers will contact parents/guardians regarding students that have missed three unexcused days of school. After contact has been made, a legal notice will be sent home; the three days do not have to be consecutive. A legal citation will be filed with district magistrate after six days of unexcused absences. A referral to children youth and family services will be made after excessive absences. If you have any concerns in regard to the attendance procedures, please refer to the PPS Code of Student Conduct or contact the attendance officer.

Make-up Work

The school is obligated to provide make-up work for excused absences. Students or their parents are responsible for requesting make-up work

immediately upon the student's return to school.

If dates of a student's absence are known in advance, the teacher should be notified and planned assignments may be given. At least 24 hours notice is necessary to gather work for the absent student.

Cancellation or Delay of School

Cancellation or school delays take place only during circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. School board administrators are aware of the hardship which can be caused by an abrupt cancellation; therefore, school will not be cancelled unless a significant safety risk has been created by unusual circumstances. Every practical means is used to notify parents of a cancellation, including radio, television, and newspapers. In the unusual circumstance where school must be cancelled during the school day, teachers will determine that all students have satisfactory transportation and supervision before releasing them. The emergency permission slip is found in the back of this handbook.

Early Dismissals

An early dismissal will be granted for the same reasons that are given for legal absences. Medical appointments for your child should be scheduled after school hours whenever possible. A written note with the name and telephone number of the parent or guardian making the early dismissal request is required and must be brought to the main office. A follow up telephone call may be made by the office staff to verify and confirm the early dismissal.

All early dismissals are verified before a child is issued the early dismissal pass. A parent/guardian must come into the school to pick-up the child for an early dismissal. No student will be called to the office until a parent arrives. Early dismissals will not be permitted after 3:00 p.m.

Doctor and Dentist Appointments

Parents/guardians are expected to make every effort to schedule doctor and dentist appointments outside of school hours. However, when this is not possible, students will be excused for these special appointments.

Bus Route and Operating Procedures

Parents/Guardians will receive notification by mail stating bus routes and operating policies.

Bus routes and stops are planned by the Transportation Department at the Board of Education. Parents who wish to make requests or have questions regarding bus transportation should contact the PPS Transportation Department at 412.622.3980.

The Board of Education policy states that “the privilege of being transported shall be withdrawn in respect to any pupil who is unmanageable, or who, by his/her conducts, endangers the property or safety of others.” If a violation occurs, a student may receive a suspension from transportation privileges. The ultimate penalty will be a complete loss of transportation privileges.

If your child is suspended from the bus, it is your responsibility to get your child to school. A bus suspension is not an excused absence.

Tardiness

Prompt arrival at school is expected of all students. Late arrival disrupts class and causes loss of instruction time. Any student who arrives at school after 8:55 a.m. is considered tardy. A note must accompany all late students. All late arrivals must report to the main office to be signed in.

Before and After-school Care

Our school offers a before- and after-school care program. The program operates Monday through Friday, 8:55 a.m., and immediately following school dismissal. The program ends at 6:00 p.m. Please call 412.665.3995 for more information.

School Dress Code:

- Shorts/skorts and skirts cannot be shorter than three inches above the knee.
- No bare stomach-short shirts that cannot be tucked in. No halters, tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, wide-armed or net t-shirts. No see-through clothing. Shoulders must be covered.
- No pants pulled down. Pants are to be worn at the waist.
- No clothing that advertises, suggests, or symbolizes illegal substances.
- No inappropriate slogans or offensive statements on any items.
- No clothing designed to be worn as undergarments or pajamas are to be worn.
- No hats, hoods, coats or jackets are to be worn in school. Hats are to be removed before entering the building.
- No bandanas or scarves.

Illness, Injury and Medications

In case of illness or injury, a student will be cared for temporarily by the school nurse or a member of the school staff. School personnel will render first aid

treatment only. An alternate name and emergency telephone number of the student’s family doctor must be on file at the school. Contagious illnesses will require a parent/guardian to pick the child up from school.

If a student must bring medication to school, the following requirements must be met.

Prescriptions, inhalers, and over-the-counter medications (such as aspirin or cough drops):

- Must be clearly identified as to the name and type of medication
- Must carry a prescription label with the child’s name, drug identity, dosage instructions, doctor’s name, and prescription date
- Must include a note dated and signed by the parent and doctor giving the child’s name, dosage amounts, specific dosage times, and other instructions if necessary
- Must be left in the main office and will be administered by the secretary

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 has a part-time nurse available to all students. A student must have a hall pass to see the nurse. The nurse is available on Mondays.

Cafeteria

Breakfasts and lunches are served daily in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is the heart of the school. A strong insistence on good conduct occurs in the cafeteria. The students have time to interact during recess. At the end of lunch, students are picked up from the cafeteria by their teacher and escorted back to their class.

Cafeteria rules

- When an adult raises his/her hand – be quiet and respectful.
- Stay in your seat.
- Talk with a soft voice
- Keep hands and voice feet to yourself
- When your table is called to line up, do so quietly and in alphabetical order.
- Use walking feet at all times.
- All students are responsible for practicing good table manners.

Food and Drink

Food and drinks are not to be carried throughout the school. They are restricted to the cafeteria and classroom. Food and drinks are permitted in the classroom during class snack time. Our school has a no gum policy. Students are expected to comply with this policy.

Playground Supervision

School staff will supervise the playground. Supervised playtime is during lunch recess. The playground is not supervised before and after school. Students are expected to leave for home immediately following dismissal.

Recess

Weather permitting, students are given recess during the lunch period. A decision to have outside recess during cold weather depends upon the temperature and the wind chill factor. Shorter outside recess times are scheduled on very cold days. Students should always dress for outside recess. Students will have supervised free time in the gym and classrooms on inclement days.

Field Trips

Dr. Montessori believed that “going out” is often beneficial for students. Field trips provide an opportunity for cultural and educational enrichment for students in a supervised off-campus setting.

While these trips are educational, they involve risks that are different from the normal school day. Teachers, with the approval of the principal, may exclude any student if that student’s behavior has been unacceptable on prior occasions. Students may also be excluded for poor academic progress and/or prior attendance.

Parents may occasionally be asked to send money for their child to participate in a field trip. Please contact the school office if you are unable to pay for an event. A permission form signed by the parent/guardian is required for each field trip.

Announcements

A weekly communication folder prepared by the principal, staff, students and community will be sent home on Wednesdays. School/community announcements should be placed in the PTO basket in the main office by Tuesday.

Telephone

The office telephones are for school business only and are not to be used by students. Students are not allowed to use the telephone to make personal arrangements. Please, do not ask us to get a

student out of class. We cannot call students to the office to receive personal phone calls. In urgent situations, a message will be relayed to the student before they are dismissed.

Fundraisers

Our school will be holding major fundraising campaigns. Selling will be voluntary and no minimum sales will be required. No personal checks will be accepted – cash or money order only. Classroom or club fundraising projects must be approved by the principal.

Lockers

A locker is issued at the beginning of the school year. The locker is property of the school. Students are not to bring in anything other than books, pencils, and notebooks to school. The school is not responsible for valuables left in the locker. If a lock is used, give the homeroom teacher a spare key or the combination. If valuables must be brought, please give them to the office at the beginning of the school day.

It will be each student’s responsibility to keep the locker in order. No stickers or markings are permitted in or on the lockers. If you choose to use a lock, do not give your locker combination or key to anyone other than your homeroom teacher. Do not attempt to open a locker other than the one you have been assigned or disciplinary action will be taken. Students are not permitted to change lockers unless the change is authorized by the principal. Notify your homeroom teacher of any problems. The school administration has the right to search your locker if there is probable cause for a search.

Lost and Found

All clothing found on campus, regardless of its value, is placed in the Lost and Found boxes. Money, jewelry, glasses, or any other articles of value are turned into the office. Students may claim them after proper identification. At the end of each grading period lost and found items are donated to a local charity.

Alert Now

Alert Now service is an automatic telephone system that Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 will be utilizing. This service notifies parents/guardians of a student’s absence and will activate a system-wide telephone calling service for emergency notifications, such as school delays.

Social Worker/Developmental Advisor

We have one full-time professional developmental advisor at our school. The social worker is available to assist students with questions, career choices, social problems, and crisis situations. Students are encouraged to make use of this professional by arranging for an appointment.

Substitute Teachers

Every student will periodically be taught by a substitute teacher. The most common reason for using substitute teachers occurs when the regular teacher is ill. However, substitutes are also used when regular teachers are on leave for personal business, professional training, or family emergencies. Students are expected to be courteous to substitute teachers. Any misconduct in the classroom will be addressed immediately.

ACADEMICS

Gifted Program

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) strives to accommodate students with differing needs by offering Individual Education Plans (IEPs). In addition, PPS offers a pull out program located at the Pittsburgh Gifted Center, the old Greenway Middle School. Students identified as Gifted attend the Gifted Center every Wednesday. To be eligible for the gifted program, parents/guardians must submit a letter of request to the classroom teacher. After a request has been submitted, a Permission to Evaluate form will be sent home with the student. Completed forms should be returned to the Developmental Advisor. The student is then screened by the school psychologist. The school psychologist and multiple-disciplinary team (MDT) review student's results and portfolio to determine eligibility. Parents and/or teachers can recommend a student for an evaluation at any time. Screenings are discouraged after May 1st. Students attending the Gifted Program are responsible for any work they miss from their home school.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the educational process. It is an extension of the learning that takes place in school. Homework can provide practice opportunities that reinforce classroom learning and can provide opportunities for independent study, research, and creative thinking. Students are expected to complete all assignments promptly and to the best of their ability. Parents are encouraged to supervise the completion of homework but work should be a reflection of the student's ability. The Board of Education policy states that if a student does not complete 80 percent of his/her homework in any subject, his/her grade may be lowered one grade.

Study Skills

The following are student guidelines for achieving good study habits:

- Come to class prepared with a positive attitude and any other needed materials.
- Be an active participant in class. Listen with your eyes and ears and heart and take part in classroom activities.
- Ask questions to clarify misunderstandings.
- Plan your day and schedule time for homework.
- Use what is learned and apply it to new situations.
- Strive to do the very best work possible. Just 'getting by' is not a worthwhile goal.
- Have a regular place to do homework.
- Turn off the TV and radio during homework time.
- Read, read, read—20 minutes per day.

Magnet Enrollment Status

Students enrolled in district magnet programs are required to maintain satisfactory attendance, citizenship, and academic progress or it will be recommended that their magnet status be rescinded for the following school year. The student will be returned to the assigned feeder school, based on the student's address of record.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

After-school Activities

Parents/guardians and students will be informed of after-school activities through the Wednesday communication folder. Permission slips are required for all after-school activities. There are no activities after school on bad weather days, when there are school delays or during testing days. Students may be removed from an activity for failure to comply with rules and guidelines set forth in the student handbook. Parents are responsible for transportation.

Instrumental Music (3rd grade and above)

Interested students may be screened for instruction on a variety of instruments. Group classes and practices are held once a week. Instruments are provided by the school district; however, students are responsible for their instrument and its care once it is assigned to them. Instrumental concerts are held throughout the school year.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is a very important component in the daily works of the children at Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8. We encourage and support parent involvement. Adult volunteers working with students must obtain both act 34 (Criminal History Background Check) and act 151 (Child Abuse History Background Check). The cost is usually paid by the school. Approved clearance forms are submitted by the school. A limited number of requests are processed at the beginning of each year with a volunteer application, to the PPS volunteer office. After the volunteer application is approved by the district, a copy of the approval is kept on file in the school office. Copies are also available at the Office of Communications and Marketing Department, PPS Board of Education. Applications are available online at www.epatch.state.pa.us.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Membership is open to all persons on the faculty or administration of the school and all parents/guardians of Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 school students. The organization's members elect officers annually. The objectives of the organization include:

- Establishing an effective method of communication between parents, faculty, administration and the school board
- Serving and enhancing the school in positive manners which benefits all students
- Augmenting existing programs by providing resources and programs deemed valuable in accordance with the organization's objectives

Parent School Community Council – PSCC

Our Parent School Community Council meets once a month to discuss school and community issues. It is an open forum to discuss and receive school reports, Title I reports, and PTO updates. All stakeholders for this school are welcome to attend as we endeavor to build positive relationships among all of the entities that service our school. Notification of all meetings is in the monthly newsletter. All parents are urged to become members of the PSCC and to actively participate.

Excellence for All Parent Steering Committee

The Superintendent's *Excellence for All* vision and mission provides an open door for the creation of an Excellence for All Parent Steering Committee (formally key communicators). This committee will be comprised of PreK-12 parents/guardians and grandparents from all schools. Representatives will be selected through their PSCCs and by their principals. Representatives will attend meetings to dialogue with central office administrators and others.

Conferences

Parent conferences are encouraged during parent conference day in October. Additional parent conferences may be arranged at any time during the school year.

An appointment is necessary for all parent conferences. Please call the office or email the teacher directly to schedule an appointment.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Discipline

A Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 classroom belongs to the whole. Together, the teacher and students will discuss school rules and consequences. Each classroom records compliments on a daily basis to build the classroom community and to practice peace education. The staff at Pittsburgh Montessori will make every effort to redirect unacceptable behaviors and assign consequences that are meaningful learning opportunities.

It is the teacher's responsibility to maintain discipline in the classroom. A school-wide discipline policy has been established and is consistently enforced. When a student is having a problem, the teacher may conference with the student, conference with the parent/guardian, use classroom disciplinary procedures, or refer the situation directly to the principal or developmental advisor. Discipline referral forms are used to record behaviors that are not corrected after the teacher has redirected the student. If a student receives three referrals within a one week period, the student will be assigned a Saturday detention. The Saturday detention procedures will be provided as needed. For more information, refer to the Code of Student Conduct included in the welcome packet.

Rules for Behavior

Each parent and student is required to sign the discipline policy for Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 found in the back of this handbook. The behavior expected from the students is the same behavior expected of the staff, a combination of courtesy and safety considerations.

Cheating

Cheating is a serious compromise of a student's integrity and will not be tolerated—this includes plagiarizing the work of another. If cheating is discovered, the student's work will be confiscated. A failing grade will automatically be recorded for work and the parent/guardian will be notified.

Fighting

Fighting is strictly forbidden in the school, on campus, and on the bus. If someone bothers your child, school administrators want to know. Pittsburgh Montessori staff will handle your child's problem. Fighting will result in a suspension.

Suspensions

Suspensions from school are given by the principal for the very worst infractions of school rules and policy. Suspensions are given only as a last resort. It signifies that the student's behavior has been so disruptive that the only reasonable way to deal with the situation is to remove the student from the school environment.

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 Discipline Policy

Pittsburgh Montessori School Rules

- The three R's Respect for myself, Respect for others, and Respect for the environment.
- I agree to follow the rules and procedures outlined in the Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 handbook.
- I agree to follow the rules and procedures set forth by the Pittsburgh Public Schools as outlined in the Code of Conduct Student.

Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 Consequences

- First offense: I will receive a verbal notice from the teacher.
- Second offense: I will again receive a verbal notice from the teacher and my citizenship grade for the class period will be lowered from an O* to an S.*
- Third offense: My citizenship grade for the class period will be lowered from an S to a NI.* I will receive a discipline referral notice, my parents will receive a telephone call and the referral notice will be placed with my school record. I may need to complete an additional task, such as a written assignment.

Citizenship grades

- O-outstanding
- S-satisfactory
- NI-needs improvement

For classroom use only

TEACHER/STUDENT CONTRACT

I, _____
agree to follow the Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-8 school rules. I understand that consequences are what I choose to accept by not following the school rules.

Student Signature

Teacher Signature

PITTSBURGH MONTESSORI PREK-8 INCLEMENT WEATHER DISMISSAL PLAN

Dear Parents:

During the winter, school may be let out early due to bad weather. This may occur around noon or near 1:30 p.m.

When early dismissal occurs, we need to know if it is appropriate to send your child home before the regular dismissal time. Please indicate what should happen on days of severe snow or adverse weather conditions.

My child may be sent home on the school bus

My child can walk home.

My child is to wait at school until someone can pick him/her up.

Student's name

homeroom

Parent's name

You may contact me by phone at:

work _____

home _____

cell phone _____

We have a computer at home ___ yes ___ no

We have access to a computer ___ yes ___ no

E-mail address

Parent signature

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district

**PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS HOME
LANGUAGE SURVEY** (Please print)

School

grade

Student's name

first name middle name last name

Parent or guardian's name

first name last name

Address

street city state zip

Phone number

home work

1. What was the student's first language?

2. Does the student speak a language other than English?

if yes, specify language

(do not include languages learned in school)

3. What language is most often spoken in your home?

Parent/guardian's signature

date

The school district/charter school has the responsibility under the federal law to serve students who are limited English proficient and need English instruction services. Given this responsibility, the school district/charter school has the right to ask for the information it needs to identify English language learners (ELLs). As a part of the responsibility to locate and identify ELLs, the school district/charter school may conduct screenings or ask for related information about students who are already enrolled in the district as well as students who enroll in the school district/charter school in the future.

community Resource Guide

Attending a Pittsburgh Public School has many advantages. In addition to the education and guidance that your child will receive while in school, there are also many resources available to you and your family. In coordination with 3 Rivers Connect, the Pittsburgh Public Schools created a general listing of services and activities city-wide that you may find helpful. The following pages highlight organizations in three categories, including Family Resources, Children's Services and Cultural Organizations.

We hope that this guide will help you become more familiar with all of the opportunities available in Pittsburgh, and that you find activities that you and your family can use and enjoy as part of the Pittsburgh Public Schools' community.



Family Resources

Alliance for Community Respite Care - 1(800) 876-7607

ACRCC is a collaborative network of families, providers, community members and advocates who work to ensure the availability of quality respite care.
www.acrcc.org

Allegheny Family Network (AFN) - 1(888) 273-2361

Supports and partners with families raising children with emotional and mental health needs to improve their quality of life.
www.alleghenyfamilynetwork.cfsites.org

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - (412) 622-3114

The Carnegie library has multiple branch locations offering special services such as job career and educational centers.
www.clpgh.org

Child Care Information Services - CCIS of Allegheny County – City - (412) 255-1281 or 1(800) 392-3131

CCIS serves as a primary resource to assist families with child care referrals, emergency childcare, subsidized care for qualifying families, and promotes quality child care by offering training in subjects such as early literacy.
www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/ChildCareEarlyEd/003670483.htm

Children’s Health Insurance Program - CHIP - 1(800) 986-KIDS

Pennsylvania’s program to provide health insurance to all uninsured children and teens, that are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.
www.chipcoverspakids.com

Humanservices.net

HS.net is a community resource directory of social services programs.
www.humanservices.net

The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania - (412) 281-2535

Helps mentoring programs by providing training, recruiting, quality assistance and support to increase the number of mentors in the community.
www.mentoringpittsburgh.org

Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center - (412) 281-4404

The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals
www.pealcenter.org

Pittsburgh Public Schools - (412) 622-7920 (Parent Hotline)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools believes in regular, two-way, meaningful communication connecting student academic learning and other school activities; to this end the Parent Hotline is one of a number of resources to assist parents and families in engagement.
www.pps.k12.pa.us

Southwestern PA Afterschool Resource Collaborative (SPARC) - (412) 392-1006

SPARC provides information about out of school time programs throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.
www.SwpaAfterschool.org

United Way of Allegheny County - (412) 255-1155 (HelpLine)

United Way of Allegheny County provides information to families through their online resource Help Connections; agency funding, planning, and community problem solving for health and human services agencies operating within Allegheny County.
www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org

Children’s Services

Achieva - (412) 995-5000 or 888-272-7229

A world-renowned leader in the field of disabilities, known for its innovative programs, and dedication to children with disabilities and their families.
www.achieva.info

Alliance for Infants and Toddlers - (412) 885-6000

This program provides service coordination, screenings, assessments, family support services, and early intervention service coordination to families with children between the ages of birth to three years of age.
www.aftit.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh - (412) 363-6100 or 1-877-937-2447

Big Brothers Big Sisters increases the self-confidence of children and the probability that they will become fully integrated members of society, leading productive and rewarding lives through mentoring and enrichment programs.
www.bbbspittsburgh.org

Beverly Jewel Wall Lovelace (BJWL) - Family Resource Centers - (412) 363-1702

Family Resources offers many services to help parents and children improve their relationship along with youth enrichment activities at its centers.
www.familyresourcesofpa.org

Boys and Girls Clubs - (412) 782-5710

The BGC is a unique organization consisting of 8 Club facilities, a Charter H.S., Outlet Connection retail venture, Campfire USA, and extension programs. Our goal is to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful & bright future.
www.bgcwpa.org

Catholic Charities, Child Care Support Services - (412) 456-6999

Catholic Charities provides counseling, refugee resettlement, respite care, utility assistance, emergency relief, tangible assistance services and makes referrals for clients. In 2007 it expanded services by opening a Free Health Care Center.
www.ccpgh.org

Children’s Institute - (412) 420-2400

The Children’s Institute is a nonprofit pediatric rehabilitation facility which provides education services for children ages two to 21 with cognitive or physical disabilities with in-home services for children and families with special needs.
www.amazingkids.org

Girl Scouts - Trillium Council - (412) 566-2570 or 1(800) 248-3355

The Girl Scouts inspires girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.
www.gswpa.org

Greater Pittsburgh Council Boy Scouts of America - (412) 325-7940

The Boy Scouts trains young people in citizenship, service, and physical fitness through the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing programs, & more.
www.gpc-bsa.org

Junior Achievement of Southwest PA Inc. - 1(800) 522-6957

JA's purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise and understand business & economics to improve the quality of their lives.
www.pittsburgh.ja.org

Parental Stress Center - (412) 361-4800

The Parental Stress Center provides comprehensive services for abused and neglected children and their families.
www.pscfamily.net

Parks and Recreation - (412) 255-2539

Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreational programs and facilities for use by Pittsburgh citizens.
www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/parks/html/citiparks_events.html

Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library - (412) 682-4430

The Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library, a cooperative run by volunteers, is an indoor play-space for children, birth through kindergarten, and their caregivers.
www.pghtoys.com

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh - (412) 227-4802

The Urban League is the largest social and educational service provider and advocacy agency devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream community in Pittsburgh through its diverse programs.
www.ulpgh.org

YMCA - (412) 227-6457

YMCAs serve America's children, families and communities by "building healthy spirit, mind and body for all."
www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org

YouthPlaces - (412) 434-0851

YouthPlaces promotes the positive cognitive, social, physical, emotional and moral development of youth by providing a safe place for them to engage in a range of activities.
www.youthplaces.org

YouthWorks Inc. - (412) 281-6629

YouthWorks builds a community solution to help young people whose potential might be overlooked to pursue employment and career development opportunities.
www.youthworksinc.org

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh - (412) 391-5100

YWCA works to improve our community by increasing the status of women, girls, families and advancing racial justice by tackling homelessness, childcare needs, unemployment, fair housing and civil rights issues.
www.ywcapgh.org

Cultural Organizations

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh - (412) 622-3131 Natural History & Art, (412) 237-3400 Science Center, (412) 237-8300 Andy Warhol

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh has a fascinating history dating back 111 years. But the story of who they are today—a collection of four dynamic, distinctive museums, and the Pittsburgh region's home for great art and science exploration—is the real page turner.
www.carnegiemuseums.org

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh - (412) 322-5058

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh provides innovative museum experiences that inspire joy, creativity and curiosity.
www.pittsburghkids.org

Fort Pitt Museum - (412) 281-9284

Through exhibits and programs, the museum also addresses the important role of Fort Pitt during the American Revolution and the early development of the city of Pittsburgh.
www.fortpittmuseum.com

The History Center - (412) 454-6000

The Senator John Heinz History Center is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in the state of Pennsylvania.
www.pghhistory.org

National Aviary - (412) 323-7235

The National Aviary is America's only independent indoor nonprofit bird zoo. It is home to 600+ birds of more than 200 species.
www.aviary.org

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens - (412) 622-6914

Encounter the wonders of the natural world. Tour through the jewel-like Conservatory and visit exotic lands and ancient worlds with vivid colors, natural oddities, and surprises around every corner of the botanical gardens.
www.phipps.conservatory.org

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium - (412) 665-3640 or 1(800) 474-4966

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG is a 77-acre facility that is home to thousands of animals representing hundreds of diverse species. The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium is one of only six major zoo and aquarium combinations in the country.
www.pittsburghzoo.org