

Child Care

DIRECTORY

Winter/Spring 2004
Cook County



day care action council
of Illinois

Cuidado Infantil
Información en Español

Complete Listing of
Child Care Options

Asthma and Child Care

Comforting Children
in Challenging Times

New Law Serves 14,000
More Children

Special Needs:
Early Intervention

Campaign for
Early Learning

Important Numbers
and Web Sites



Different, But Included

Pathways Awareness Foundation promotes early detection, early intervention and inclusion for children with disabilities

Mike and Terry like to tell the story of their son Matt. He was the second of twins, and was the only one of their three children who refused to be placed on his tummy. He also would not take any weight on his feet, even at nine months of age, when his twin brother was walking around furniture. Through the information they received from Pathways Awareness Foundation, Mike and Terry had their pediatrician refer Matt for further evaluation. Matt began physical therapy at nine months of age and took his first steps at fifteen months. His therapist feels that he may no longer need treatment by his second birthday. Thanks to his parent's persistence, his future is very bright.

Pathways Awareness Foundation, a national non-profit organization established in 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness about the gift of early detection and therapy for infants and children with physical movement differences. In addition, Pathways highlights the importance of inclusion of children and young adults by promoting the same respect and opportunity to participate in their communities, schools, recreation and houses of worship.

Their activities are based upon the expertise of the Pathways Medical Round Table—leading physicians, clinicians, nurse practitioners, and lay advisors. They are sensitive to the medical and emotional needs of infants and children with physical movement differences, including cerebral palsy, and their families and/or caregivers.



First Lady of Chicago, Maggie Daley, pictured with her family

"We firmly believe that early detection is the best prevention," says Maggie Daley, First Lady of Chicago and President of the Pathways Awareness Foundation. "And we urge parents to trust their instincts and to seek help if their baby is developing at a different pace. As we spread the word about early therapy, more children will have the opportunity to achieve their full potential."

Pathways Awareness Foundation produces materials for both professionals and parents promoting the importance of early therapy for physical movement differences. Pathways brochure, "Assure the Best for your Baby's Physical Development", allows parents to track their child's speech, play and physical development from 3 to 15 months of age. To receive your free copy of the brochure or to get more information call their "parent answered" toll-free number at 1-800-955-2445, email at friends@pathwaysawareness.org or visit their web-site at www.pathwaysawareness.org. ■