



# Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook

## ONE CHILD AT A TIME®



### Creating a Safe Haven

The Circuit Court of Cook County in Maywood, Illinois, is a busy place. Each day, about 800 people from the Chicago area appear in the courthouse for domestic violence, drug possession, traffic offenses and criminal cases. The courtroom is no place for children. But many parents and guardians can't afford the cost of childcare. Where can your child go while you appear in court?

The Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook is now available on the premises of the Maywood courthouse to provide free childcare and other services while parents and guardians are in court. The innovative new center is a unique partnership among the nationally recognized Loyola University Medical Center and the Circuit Court of Cook County and the County of Cook. Opened in 2002, the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook is the area's first courthouse program offering on-site childcare and health services for youngsters from birth through 16 years of age.

Tight security procedures give you the peace of mind you need to leave your child at the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook. Supervised play activities, counseling, referral resources and health-care screenings improve your child's health and well-being — all at no charge to you. Based on parents' strong evaluations — and the children's smiles when they return to our center — we know our safe and supportive environment fills a void in often stressful lives.



### Our Staff as a Vital Resource

Staff members of the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook are uniquely qualified to care for children. The dedicated social worker and child life specialist focus on doing what's best for children and serve as a resource to their parents and guardians.

### The Heart Of Our Center

The warm and welcoming atmosphere of the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook immediately makes you feel at home. Located on the second floor of the Fourth Municipal District Court in Maywood, the center's colorful décor and fanciful, hand painted murals create a friendly and happy place to visit. A caring team of Loyola pediatric professionals designed the 3,000-square-foot center. Our goal is to lessen a child's anxiety and stress by creating a fun, safe and supportive atmosphere that promotes learning, good health and building self-esteem.

Tiny tots love the Infant/Toddler Room with its brightly colored carpeting, miniature tables and chairs, a play kitchen set, a comfy wooden rocking chair surrounded by plenty of books for storytelling and a variety of toys. Although our staff provides all types of childcare, we ask parents to change their own child's diapers.

The ages 4 – 8 Room is geared to older children who enjoy playing with different costumes and

accessories, multi-colored building blocks, and a miniature kitchen set. Tables and chairs line brightly decorated walls, and a multitude of appealing toys and books fill the room.

The Multipurpose Room offers a larger space for a variety of fun and educational activities.



A mural depicting the four seasons animates the walls. Children create arts and crafts at tables arranged around the room. Lining the room are computers with age-appropriate educational games and software, and chalkboards for creative expression. In a special area, youngsters play with teddy bears, gauze and medical masks to feel comfortable about health-care procedures. Doors are decorated with special themes, such as the sports in season, Feelings of the Month and Artists' Alley, where children proudly display their artwork. Special activities include making holiday decorations, medical collages, theme masks, and egg coloring, among others.

Twice a month, volunteers bring specially trained dogs for certified pet therapy. Officer Friendly visits each month promote positive relationships with law enforcement.



### Security Gives Peace of Mind

Because the doors to the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook are kept locked, each visitor is carefully screened upon entry. Parents or guardians must produce picture ID's and complete a registration form for each child in English or Spanish that includes information such as child's age, special needs and medical or behavioral issues. All information is kept strictly confidential. The person who drops off the child must also pick up the child. Sheriff's deputies are close at hand to deal with any problems.

## Services to Meet Each Child's Needs

Each month, more than 200 children visit the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook. Regardless of their ages and background, many of the youngsters deal with stress and conflict at home. Some children come to the center to wait until they are called to testify in angry custody battles. Others have parents who need to appear in traffic court. In more serious cases, parents are sentenced to prison or are grappling with drug addiction. Some children are homeless and have been abused. Many youngsters seem to fall through the cracks of the system. We are here to help, one child at a time.

## Engaging in Play

In our center, children enjoy fun activities with an educational focus. The child-life staff provides a full array of therapeutic activities for each child. By engaging youngsters in play, our staff evaluates their progress on a developmental, psychological and physical level. Through working with art exercises, dramatic play dress-up activities and sensory

experiences such as sand play, children boost their self-esteem and express their feelings.

Older children engage in computer games, art activities and one-on-one discussions with staff members.



Children enjoy tasty snacks and juice during their time at the center, in some cases receiving their first meal of the day.

## Making Connections and Referrals

Through spending time with the children, our staff may identify problems that require follow-up treatment, such as depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, speech delays or failure to thrive. There may be concerns about the child's access to health care or community services. Our social worker connects parents with the appropriate professionals and resources to get the help they need.

## Free Health Screening and Education

Health and family education is an important component of the center. Books, magazines, pamphlets and videos on various health and parenting topics are available in English and Spanish, including information on babysitting, how to use baby car seats and safe bicycling tips.

Every week, the Mobile Medical Unit of the Ronald McDonald® Children's Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center provides voluntary, free, on-site health screening to children and parents of Loyola's Children's Center at Maybrook. Started in 1998, Loyola's Mobile Unit was the first in the Midwest to take mobile health services directly to medically underserved children throughout the Chicago area. Thousands of children have benefited from these free vital services.



We can perform vision and hearing testing, growth screening, asthma testing, blood pressure check, anemia/hemoglobin testing and blood oxygen testing, all free of charge. When the Mobile Unit's medical professionals detect problems, they refer the child and parents for appropriate follow-up and further testing.

## Success Stories

After a Maywood mother brought her children to the center, they were examined and the Mobile Unit staff discovered that the 3-year-old daughter was blind in her right eye and the 4-year-old sibling was deaf in her left ear. The center staff encouraged another mother to have her 4-week-old son evaluated by the Mobile Unit staff, who immediately sent her and the baby to a hospital emergency room,

where the infant was diagnosed with a serious infection. Prompt action by the parent made the difference.

We also encourage parents to utilize the services of the Mobile Medical Unit. The free adult health screenings may prevent more serious problems from developing later in their lives.

## Goodies and a Dose of Love

Depending on the generosity of our donors, youngsters who leave the Loyola

Children's Center at Maybrook may receive a bag of goodies, or a book or a cuddly stuffed animal, and a toothbrush and toothpaste to fight dental caries common in many children. Adults may also get a parent-family tip sheet and childcare information from the Early Intervention Program, written in English and Spanish.



## We Need Your Support

Our services are free to all adults and children. We depend on the generosity of donors — individuals, foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and you to support this important work. Help us make a difference in the lives of children, one child at a time. Loyola University Medical Center is a not-for-profit corporation organized under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## Accessing Services

Every day, the Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook is making a difference in children's lives. If you need to go to the Fourth Municipal Court in Maywood, remember this special place for your child:

Loyola Children's Center at Maybrook  
Fourth Municipal District Court Building, 2nd Floor  
1500 Maybrook Drive  
Maywood, Illinois

Open every day the court is in session,  
8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
For more information, call (708) 786-2465.

