

# SIUE Early Childhood Center Families Benefit from Diaper Distribution

January 15 2021 8:31 AM



EDWARDSVILLE - According to the National Diaper Bank, one in three families struggle to provide clean diapers for their baby. To help fulfill that need locally, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Early Childhood Center (ECC) partnered with The Metro East Diaper Bank to supply 17 of its families with diapers. On Thursday, Jan. 14, approximately 2,400 diapers were distributed to parents who expressed a need.

“This is an important offering for our families, because many are struggling during this time as they juggle school, parenting and sometimes, multiple jobs,” said Lealia Williams, ECC family support specialist. “We thought it would be nice for them to have one less thing to worry about.”

The partnership came to fruition after Williams had previously met Norma McCandless, founder and executive director of The Metro East Diaper Bank, while volunteering for a book and diaper giveaway. Upon learning of the non-profit's work, Williams calculated the number of diapers and sizes needed by interested ECC parents, and filled out an application to receive supplies.

“At the Early Childhood Center, one of our goals is supporting our student parents and making sure their needs are met, and that they stay on track to graduation as they juggle their other responsibilities,” Williams said.

“Thank you for your generous gift of diapers,” said Abidemi Ajayi, a student in the School of Pharmacy. “It is challenging to be a full-time student and provide for my child. With your help, we do not have to worry as much about diapers.”

[The Metro East Diaper Bank](#) is a 501c3 non-profit. The organization partners with area agencies, charities and other non-profits that have a population with a diaper need and are located in the Metro East. According to Founder Norma McCandless, for some, diaper donations are supplemental, and for others, it may be their only source for diapers.

The [SIUE Early Childhood Center](#) provides full-day, year-round early childhood care and education for the children of students, faculty, staff and others, ages two through five. The ECC assists student parents with their goal of degree obtainment by providing them with convenient and affordable childcare and connecting them to resources. The ECC serves as a demonstration site for research, observation and practicum purposes.