

## **A Teacher Appreciation Week message from our CEO**

Jun 29, 2022



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May 2-6, 2022 is Teacher Appreciation Week! Since 1984, the National PTA has designated a week in May as a special time to honor the individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. This year, our President and CEO, Sara Ray Stoelinga, has a special message:

“During Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to all of our educators at Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford.

At Easterseals, teaching and educating takes varied and beautiful forms to meet the diverse needs of our thousands of amazing clients across Chicagoland and the greater Rockford area.

My gratitude to our teachers and clinicians at Easterseals Academy in Chicago, Machesney Park and Tinley Park who provide educational, emotional, and behavioral services and caring support to our students with autism and other disorders.

My sincere thanks to our early childhood teachers in Head Start/Early Head start centers who work with our youngest learners to provide high-quality early learning opportunities across Suburban Cook County and the City of Chicago.

My heartfelt appreciation to our staff at the Easterseals' Illinois Autism Partnership (IAP) and The Autism Program at Easterseals (TAP), where they teach teachers, schools, and families how to successfully work with and support young people with autism.

Deep thanks to our talented and committed staff at Easterseals' Child Family Connection Centers, Partnering with Parents, Teen Family Support and Family Support Services who provide training and educational services to families in areas such as supporting children with disabilities, supporting siblings of children with disabilities, teen parenting and parenting practices.

My gratitude to our dedicated staff in HarrysButtons and in Employment Services who instill workforce knowledge and job skills in young people and adults with disabilities.

This week, I would like to publicly recognize all of our amazing educators, in the many forms that teaching takes across Easterseals' incredible programs. Thank you for being an educator. Thank you for choosing to bring your talents, expertise, and service to your many roles as educator at Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford."