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September 2014

Rochester's First Dual-Language Preschool and Childcare Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —Rochester's first dual-immersion, Spanish-English preschool and childcare is planning to begin operation in the fall of 2015.

Listos Preschool and Childcare will be open to all children ages 3 to 5 years and feature bilingual education and care. Listos is a Spanish word that means both smart and ready.

Peace United Church of Christ will house and be the fiscal agent for the non-profit preschool and childcare. Listos will have a separate board of directors and will have no religious curriculum.

Listos Preschool and Childcare is slated to open in September 2015. Enrollment will begin in January. Half-day preschool sessions will be held in the morning and afternoon from September through May. Full-day childcare will be available year round. Listos will be seeking contributions to provide scholarships to ensure that this high-quality learning environment will be available to all children.

The program will strive to have a balance of children who speak different languages in each classroom. Instruction and care will be given in both Spanish and English by bilingual staff. In addition to learning from the teachers, children in the program can also learn language from each other.

Why learn a second language at such a young age?

Brain research has found that the majority of language learning happens from birth to age five. By age 12, humans begin to lose the ability to hear and say new sounds. Research has also revealed many cognitive benefits of being bilingual such as brain growth, improved reading and listening abilities, boosted creativity and enhanced problem-solving skills. The ability to speak another language in addition to the benefits of attending a high-quality preschool and childcare will create a positive life-long impact for the children and their families.

Listos mission is: To provide a unique, diverse and affordable Spanish-English preschool and childcare experience.