

Common Questions:

Does the center offer ½ day care?

No. You must pay for a full day of care and we recommend that you bring your child at least from 9-3 in order to receive the full benefit of the program. However, if you choose to bring your child for a shorter day, you must still pay for the full day.

Do the center have drop off or temporary care?

No. We do not have drop off or temporary care for short term basis.

Can I sign up for part time and then increase to full time or vice versa?

Yes, if space allows. Decreasing care requires 2 weeks of notice to allow me time to recruit a child/family to fill the remaining space. Changing from 2 to 3 to 5 days per week is always allowed as semesters change.

What if I only need Monday and Wednesday care or I have rotating schedule?

Our schedule is set up to correspond with the way most of the University's classes are arranged. In order to pay for only MW, we must find a family who is willing to attend TRF. Since this is unlikely, you will have to pay for MWF even if you only need MW. If your schedule rotates, you will need to enroll fulltime to ensure space is available everyday.

I'm not sure if I'll be attending MU, I don't have a student # yet. When should I apply?

As soon as possible. There is no application fee so there is no reason to wait. On the application just mark student and leave the ID # blank. The main information I need is your name and phone number, along with the child birth or due date.

How will I know if I am accepted?

Once you have applied, your application is kept in the waiting pool. You will be contacted when there is space for your child. Space is determined by the number of days that you request (MWF, TR or M-F) and the age of the child. Some priority is given to single parents, families with both parents enrolled in school, undergraduate parents, families who reside in residential life housing.

I've heard that you accept faculty and staff children. Is that true?

Yes, but priority is given to student parents. Faculty and staff should also be aware that we are closed 5 weeks of the year (see parent handbook) and that our hours during intercession are 7:30-4:00. This is due to lack of student staff during intercession periods.

Is there a reduction in rates for a second child?

No. We already apply a sliding scale to our fees to account for student parents' low income. Additionally our fees are lower than the Community average.

When can I tour the center?

I usually recommend parents complete the application and drop it off at the center so that they can see the facility and get a feel for the environment. Once your child has been accepted for enrollment, you will be given a more thorough tour of the classroom. The morning hours from 8-11 are generally the best time to visit as that is when the kids are most active. From 11-2:30, children are having diaper changes, eating lunch, taking naps and having afternoon snack and it isn't the best time to stop by to see the center. Calling ahead is best if you expect someone to be available to answer your questions.

What type of schedule do you have for the babies?

Babies under 6 months eat when they are hungry and sleep when they are tired. When they are happy, we are happy. At about 6 months, we start working toward a more set schedule.

What do the kids do all day?

Regardless of their age, all kids need play and developmentally appropriate activities to challenge their bodies and minds. The kids are engaged in reading, singing, moving their bodies, and manipulating blocks, puzzles, writing utensils, and basic busy toys. They are socializing with other children and adults, and have pretend play with foods, baby dolls, trucks, and dress up. All of this play requires a lot of eating and napping too.

Does the rate drop for 2 yr olds?

No. Our center is organized differently than other centers. Mainly this is due to my effort to do what is best for the kids. At age two, licensing allows 1 teacher to 8 children. Most centers will take advantage of this ratio and put 16 children and 2 teachers in a classroom. I feel this is too stressful for the teachers and children at a time when the children are at the peak of learning acceptable strategies for social behavior. Hitting, biting, grabbing toys, and toilet training take one teacher's attention away from the group leaving 15 children with one teacher. It is no wonder teacher turnover in some centers is so high!

Our classrooms have mixed ages for children Birth- 36mo which require 1 teacher to 4 children which I feel is much more appropriate for supervision, learning and bonding. At 3 yrs old, the child will move to our preschool when the ratio and daily rate of care drops.

Occasionally we will have enough 24-36 month olds to create a "2 yr old room" in that case, I never allow more than 6 children alone with 1 teacher. Even in the case of a "Two's room" the daily rate does not drop until the child moves to the Preschool.