

Child and Family Center Most Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What ages does our program accept?

A: Toddler Classroom is 18 months to 3 years; Preschool classrooms are 3 to 5 years (fully potty trained)

Q. What are your ratios?

A: Our Toddler classroom is 1:6; Our Preschool classroom is 1:10

Q. How many children are in the classrooms per day?

A: In our toddler and preschool classrooms we have 14 children per day.

Q. What are the centers hours?

A: We are open Mon. thru Friday. 7:30am-5:30pm

Q: Is your center Accredited?

A: We are accredited by NAEYC. We are currently going through reaccreditation this year.

Q: What is the centers Philosophy/Mission?

A: **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Child and Family Center, located in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at CSULB, is an educational program which provides training of early childhood professionals in Child Development and Family Studies. The Center also provides quality childcare services for CSULB employees and their families. Promotion of educational resources to campus parents is an important component of the Center's mission. The Center is tied to the mission statements of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; the College of Health and Human Services; and California State University, Long Beach.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The Child and Family Center is a nationally accredited program for children ages 18 months-5 years. The Center is designed to model the philosophy of Developmentally Appropriate Practices from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Student teachers are observers and participants in the daily program, designed to meet the developmental needs of young children in the areas of physical/motor, cognitive, language, and affective development.

The Center's educational environment enhances the developmental skills that are age and individually appropriate for each child. A healthy and safe environment is the top priority of faculty, staff, and student teachers. The professional staff designs the program to be rich in interactive materials for the children in the program.

Q: What does it mean to be a lab school?

A: Being a lab school means that we have students who are doing their practicum hours in our classrooms. They are all getting their bachelors in Child Development and Family Studies and have to do practicum hours to graduate with their degree. Our lab students "Brown Apron Teachers" are not included in our ratio. Brown Apron Teachers are never left alone with the children and they are not included with the diapering/toileting routine.

Q: What curriculum does the Child and Family Center Follow?

A: Within a scheduled routine each day, we implement an emergent/play based curriculum, designing activities based on observation of children's developmental needs and interests while fulfilling the developmental domains: cognitive, language, physical/motor, and social/emotional. The Child and Family Center utilizes the Infant/Toddler Learning & Development Foundations, and Preschool Curriculum Framework, both set by the California Department of Education.

Q: What is the staffs educational background?

A: At the Child and Family Center the administrators have a M.A. in Early Childhood Education, the lead teachers have their M.A. in Early Childhood Education, and all of our assistant teachers are working toward BA's in Child Development and Family Studies, their M.A. in Early Childhood Education, or working towards their credentials in education.

Q: How long have the lead teachers been working here?

A: We all have been here since we were brown aprons many years ago! Teacher Noemi has been at the CFC for over 9 years, Teacher Priscilla has been at the CFC for over 8 years and Teacher Brooke has been at the CFC for 5 years. Teacher Stefanie has been at the center for over 12 years.

Q: How do we apply and when are applications due?

A: Applications for the 2022-2023 school year are available online and in person. Applications are due by Friday April 15. Any application received after April 15th will immediately be put on the waitlist. All applications can be emailed to the center director, Stefanie Pedigo at Stefanie.Pedigo@csulb.edu or turned in to the CFC admin office in FCS 111. We will notify families **by email** if they have been accepted or not by early May.

Q: Who qualifies for enrollment?

A: Priority enrollment is given to CSULB staff/faculty; Second Priority is to community Families. Children must be 18 months old for toddler and 3 years old for preschool by the start of the Fall semester (August 22nd). We are unable to accept student families at this time.

Q: How much does is cost to attend?

A: **Toddler-**

M-F \$1150.00

MWF \$841.00

T/Th \$653.00

Preschool-

M-F \$997.00

MWF \$688.00

T/Th \$527.00

Tuition is paid monthly.

Q: What is the enrollment fee?

A: The enrollment fee is an annual fee that is collected once a year upon acceptance into the program. It is nonrefundable.

Q: Does it cost anything to be put on the waitlist?

A: No- there is no charge for being on our waitlist.

Q: How long is the waitlist good for?

A: The waitlist is only good for one year. If you do not get accepted this year, you will need to reapply for the following school year.

Q: Do you offer tours?

A: We have our in-person Open House in which tours are given at that time. If you are unable to attend, upon acceptance to the program, you can schedule an in-person tour before confirming your acceptance to the program.

Q: How do I find out how my child is doing during the day?

A: You are more than welcome to use our observation room window throughout the day. We also use a really cool app called Learning Genie. Learning Genie allows us to post photos and videos throughout the day of your child and the activities that they have been doing. We often post during down times such as naptime because our attention is always fully on the children at all times.

Q: How much time will my child spend outside?

A: We go outside in the morning for about an hour and about an hour and a ½ in the afternoon based on the weather and sun.

Q: Will you go outside if it is raining or really hot?

A: If it is really hot or raining then we will stay inside and do other gross motor activities in the classrooms. When there are multiple rainy days in a row usually in winter, we allow for children to have rainy fun days outside with rain boots and jackets for about 5-10 minutes. After we are done outside, we change the children into new dry clothes and send home the wet clothes to be washed. We let parents know about these days beforehand and they are completely optional.

A: Do you provide lunch? Can you microwave their lunch?

A: No, we do not provide lunch. We do provide AM/PM snack and each family provides their child's lunch. We do provide milk with lunch. We are unable to warm lunches because we don't have access to a microwave in the classrooms. However, thermos work great!

Most Frequently Asked Questions During COVID:

Q: Are all of your teachers vaccinated?

A: At this time, the university does require all staff and CSULB students to be vaccinated and boosted, if an individual is not vaccinated or boosted they are required to participate in weekly covid testing.

Q: How many children/adults are in each class?

A: We maintain a stable cohort of 14 children per day and have specific teachers in each cohort. Our classrooms/cohorts do not mix during the day.

Q: Do you conduct daily health checks?

A: Yes, before children enter the classroom, their temperature is taken and parents are required to complete a daily health card through learning genie.

Q: Are parents allowed in the classrooms?

A: All parent drop-off and pick-up is conducted outside. Once the child is signed in through the learning genie app using the contactless method, the child's teacher is notified of the child's arrival and the parent is able to walk them to his/her classroom door (doors are all outside).

Q: What guidelines do you follow?

A: The center is required to follow all childcare COVID guidelines that are written out through childcare licensing, the Long Beach Health Department, Los Angeles Health Department, The CDC and the University.

Q: How do you maintain social distancing in the classroom? And are children allowed to play with others?

A: Activities have been set up to encourage more individual play. There are also fewer toys set out on the table to encourage fewer friends at the table. We have also reduced the number of chairs placed at the table for lunches and snack so that children can be spaced out more. During nap time, children are spread apart and sleep head to toe. Yes, children are allowed to play with other children. We always remind children to give each other space. Social development is a huge component of learning in a toddler and preschool setting.

Q: Are masks required to be worn during the day?

A: Yes, at this time teachers are required to wear masks at all times. Children over the age of 2 wear masks in our program as well. Children take off masks for snack, lunch, and napping. Any child under the age of 2 does not wear a mask per CDC recommendations.

Q: How are you preventing the spread of COVID?

A: At the Child and Family Center, we take a lot of pride in the health and safety of each child and teacher in our program. Handwashing plays a vital role in slowing the spread. Our children and teachers frequently wash their hands. Upon entry into the classroom, during transitions, before and after snack or lunch, after use of the bathroom or diapering, and after a nose is wiped etc. All of our toys, surfaces, and classrooms are cleaned and sanitized regularly throughout the day. Health checks are conducted daily and if a child is showing signs of an illness they are asked to stay home. If the child has multiple symptoms or a fever of over 100.4 they are sent home.

Toddler Most Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What if my child doesn't nap at school?

A: Not to worry, they all end up napping at school! They might need some time to get adjusted, but all the children eventually nap once they're comfortable with school. A teacher sits with each child if needed, and we either pat or rub their back until they fall asleep. The children will see other friends sleeping and eventually learn that nap time is part of the regular routine. We record the time they fall asleep and the time they wake up.

Q: Where do they nap at school?

A: They nap in the classroom. We have a strategic placement of each child's nap cot. Heavy sleepers will be placed next to the light sleepers, and underwear friends will be somewhere on the tile.

Q: Do you allow bottles or pacifiers?

A: Not at school. It's part of our center's philosophy that the toddlers gain independence and learn how to self-regulate their feelings and emotions. Instead of bottles, we encourage children to drink out of a cup. Instead of pacifiers to soothe crying, we encourage the children to understand their emotions and find a solution to make them feel better.

Q: My child has never used a cup or utensils before. What do you do at school?

A: That's okay! Many of our children have never used a cup or utensils until they started school. Teachers will help your child. We will assist in helping them hold their cups and drinking. If spills happen, we will change them.

Q: How does my child learn reading or math?

A: Through play! Our center's philosophy is not to have children memorize letters or numbers. We will have letters and numbers through play-based activities. For example, placing foam numbers into a water sensory table. We have their picture/name labeled on all their cubbies so they can begin letter recognition in their name.

Q: Do you potty train at school?

A: Yes! But that doesn't mean potty training is only at school. The teachers and family work together as a team to potty train. Your teacher will talk to you about when is a good time for your child to start trying the potty at school, or you can let your teacher know if your child is trying the potty at home. They do not have to be fully in underwear to try the potty. Teachers can change their diapers standing up.

Q: What if my child has never been in school before?

A: That's okay! It may seem scary at first, but over time, your child will learn the routine, understand consistency, and gain lots of valuable skills.

Q: Is my child too young for school?

A: Of course not. No matter what age your child is, it is never too early.

Q: Will my child stop crying at morning drop-off?

A: Yes! Eventually they will stop crying when you leave in the morning. Separation anxiety is very typical. It varies with many children, but eventually they will no longer cry at drop-off. There are four S's that I tell parents to do to help with your child's morning drop-off. Short, Simple, Sweet, Same. 1) Short: Keep the minutes short. Prolonging your departure often makes the separation anxiety longer. 2) Simple: Try to keep your drop-off to 3-4 simple steps. For example, signing in, putting lunchbox away, washing hands, and goodbyes/handing them to a teacher. 3) Sweet: Stay happy, be kind to your child, and give lots of love even if your child is crying. 4) Same: Keeping consistent drop-off times and keeping the same routine will help your child adjust to school.

Q: How do I help my child prepare for school?

A: There are lots of things to help. Talk to your child about how much fun school is, there will be lots of toys, and how there are so many friends they can play with. Reassure your child that you will always come back after school. For example, by telling them, "Mommy/Daddy always comes back." Also, use your teacher's name at home so your child can recognize it at school.

Q: What if my child is a picky eater?

A: Many children are. We encourage them to try new foods because it might taste good. If they don't eat it, then they won't. We provide and they decide. Children will eat whenever they're hungry.

Q: Do you speak any other languages in the classroom?

A: Yes! All the time. Teacher Priscilla is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese. She is also proficient in Spanish, and able to use simple, everyday phrases in Korean and Japanese. If your child speaks a different language at home, Teacher Priscilla will ask to learn some of the words and phrases you use at home and use them at school. This helps your child adjust easier to school. For example, Teacher Priscilla has picked up Farsi and Vietnamese!

Q: Are you with my child all day?

A: There is a lead teacher with the children at all times. Teacher Priscilla and Teacher Nichole alternate between the opening and closing shift.

Q: How do you communicate with parents about my child?

A: Everyday we communicate with the parents in the morning at drop off and afternoon at pick up. We also communicate through our app Learning Genie throughout the day. We have parent teacher conferences twice a year as well.

Q: What's the difference between daycare and childcare?

A: We are more than just a daycare! Your lead teachers are highly-qualified early childhood educators. Yes, we care for your child, but we also meet the needs of each, individual child in all developmental domains. Everyday never looks the same, and each activity planned at school meets certain objectives in a specific developmental domain.

Preschool Most Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Will my child read after being in this program?

A: We introduce children to letters and words. Some children do read and some do not. We do not expect them to read when they leave our center, but they are exposed to letters every single day that they are here.

Q: What happens when my child needs to go to the bathroom? Can s/he go by themselves?

A: We have designated times for children to go to the bathroom and if they need to go at a different time then we take them to the bathroom. There is a teacher with the children at all times, even in the bathroom. Children are never unsupervised.

Q: What happens if my child has accidents?

A: If your child has an accident we will change your child's clothes and put their wet or soiled clothes in a plastic bag and put that in your parent cubby to take home at the end of the day.

Q: Does my child have to be potty trained? Are pull-ups allowed?

A: We do not allow pull-ups. Yes, your child must be potty trained to be considered eligible for our preschool program. We understand that sometimes accidents happen, but if they happen every day, your child is not fully potty trained.

Q: Are you with my child all day?

A: There is a lead teacher with the children at all times. Teacher Brooke and Teacher Noemi alternate between the opening and closing shift with the other teacher in the classroom.

Q: This is my child's first time at a school, how do you handle that?

A: We have a lot of children that have had their first school experience here. Sometimes, parents worry that their child will have a hard time and it turns out to be the opposite. For some children it is a little harder to adjust, but we keep a consistent schedule that they quickly adapt. We encourage parents to give one hug and say bye one time at drop off. We see that the quicker the drop off transition is, the easier the children adjust to school.

Q: What does a typical day look like here for my child?

A: Our day begins with free-choice play time indoors. We set up the classroom with different activities on each table and the carpet. After play time, we clean up and transition to our morning story time. During story time we read books, sing songs, play games, and introduce children to letters, sounds, etc. After story time, we all wash our hands and sit down to eat our morning snack. After snack time we all clean up and go to the bathroom. Once all the children have gone to the bathroom we start to transition to go outside. We play outside for about an hour; outside we have more activities for the children set up. After play time outside, we clean up our yard and come back inside our classroom. We all wash our hands and sit down for lunch time. The children have 30 minutes to eat their lunch. Once children are done eating lunch they clean up and go to the bathroom. After they are done in the bathroom they have a few minutes before it is time to lay down on their cot. The preschool children nap in their classroom for 2 hours. After nap time, we have our afternoon story time. After story time, we go to the bathroom and then we sit down for our afternoon snack. When we are done eating we clean up and then get ready to go outside for our afternoon play time. We spend about another hour outside playing and then we clean up and come back inside. We go to the bathroom and then find calm activities to do before school is closed.

Q: Where do the children nap?

A: All of the preschool children nap in their classroom. Each child has their own cot that is given to them at the start of the school year. On Monday we put a clean sheet and on Friday we take it off and wash it. Parents can provide a blanket and stuffed animal in a bag

Q: Where do the children eat?

A: The children eat in the classrooms. We clean and sanitize the tables after play time.

Q: What do parents pack for lunch?

A: Parents typically pack sandwiches, mac n cheese, pasta, soup, fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, fruit strips, etc. Hot meals can be packed in a thermos and they will keep warm until lunch time.

Q: Do you speak any other languages to the children?

A: Teacher's speak Spanish and will sometimes read to the children or do circle time activities and incorporate Spanish. Our student assistants and fieldwork teachers sometimes also introduce children to different languages when they implement their language activities.

Q: What time is the best time for drop off? Does my child need to be here at 7:30am?

A: The best time for drop off is anywhere between 7:30am - 9:30am. This gives children the opportunity to play during the morning inside play time. If children are dropped off after 9:30am they do not have much time to play indoors and miss some of the activities that our fieldwork students implement. It is also easier for children to come into the classroom when the other children are playing. We have noticed that children coming in after 9:30am have a harder time transitioning into their school day.

Q: How do you deal with behavior issues?

A: We get asked this question often and our answer is redirection. We always find out what is causing the behavior.

Q: What kinds of activities do you do with the children?

A: We do all types of activities. We have language activities, math activities, science activities, motor activities, and creative activities.

Q: Does my child have to go outside?

A: Yes, all the preschool children go outside at designated times. We have a different set up every day. We have different activities for them to explore.

Q: Does my child learn at school?

A: Yes. We are teaching the children in our care most of the basic skills that they are going to need for the rest of their lives. We teach the children how to be independent; they learn to clean up after themselves, they learn how to interact positively with other children and adults. We learn through play at the CFC. While we are playing, we are teaching children colors, numbers, letters and shapes. We work on their motor skills through play as well; they learn how to move their bodies and how to control their bodies as well. There is always learning happening at school.