



Center for Early Childhood Education

Rice Children's Campus
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

What is the relationship between Rice University and the Rice Children's Campus?

Rice University is committed to expanding the availability of high quality care for the infants and young children of our faculty, staff and students. Rice and the Board of Trustees recognize that its ability to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and students is enhanced by providing a children's campus. While Rice owns the land and the building, the Center for Early childhood Education (CECE) will operate the children's campus. Enrollment is limited to benefit-eligible faculty, staff and students.

What are my chances of getting my child into the children's campus?

We hope to be able to accommodate the children of Rice University faculty, staff and students. However, enrollment depends upon the age of your child(ren) and the ages and number of children currently enrolled. Once your wait list application is received, the process of enrollment will begin and you will be notified of your status. Please visit the following page on CECE's website for more information on the enrollment process: <http://www.discovercece.org/enrollment-information>.

Who is eligible to attend the children's campus?

Children six weeks old through 5 years of age are eligible for enrollment. At this time, the children's campus is open only to Rice University faculty, staff and students.

How many children will be enrolled at the children's campus?

Currently, the children's campus can accommodate approximately 110 students.

Do I have to schedule an appointment to visit the children's campus?

Families interested in enrolling their child at the children's campus and families on the wait list are welcome to visit. Prospective parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment prior to a visit to ensure that a staff member will be available to provide a tour and answer questions.

How do I submit an enrollment application?

Download and print the Wait list Application at <http://www.discovercece.org/enrollment-information>. Once the application is completed please fax to 713-348-5890.

Is a deposit required?

Upon notification of placement at the children's campus, an enrollment packet will be provided to prospective families. An application fee of \$75 and a deposit fee equal to one-half month's tuition is required to complete the enrollment process. The deposit is refundable with a minimum 45-day written notice of intent to withdraw.

Is there any priority given regarding enrollment at the children's campus?

Priority will be given to the faculty, staff and students of Rice University. Once a family has a child enrolled, siblings will also be given priority. Additionally, RCC may implement preferential admission system (prioritizing faculty, then staff, then student enrollment requests) if incoming faculty or existing faculty are not able to enroll in the RCC on a timely basis which is typically defined as nine months or longer.

Does the children's campus offer drop-off/backup care?

The children's campus does not offer drop-off/backup care. Rice offers backup care in downtown Houston, other centers around Houston and in the employee's home as part of the employee's WorkLife benefits.

For more information visit

http://people.rice.edu/benefits.cfm?doc_id=7681.

CHILDREN'S CAMPUS PHILOSOPHY AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Who will be my child's teachers?

The children's campus is staffed with a highly qualified, diverse and experienced team of early childhood professionals. Faculty are knowledgeable in child growth and development, guidance techniques, cultural and individual diversity, observation and assessment, and the Montessori curriculum. Additionally, faculty are trained in Dr. T. Berry Brazelton's Touchpoints approach to working with families.

Does my child have to be toilet trained?

No. "Toilet learning" is included as part of the daily process of the child's natural growth and development. Each classroom is equipped to assist children and parents in this process.

What is the teacher-to-student ratio?

The teacher-to-student ratio meets or exceeds standards adopted by the National Association for the (NAEYC) Education of Young Children and the Texas Child Care Licensing Department. Classroom ratios for the children's campus are as follows:

- Infants 1-to-4
- Toddlers 1-to-5
- Twos 1-to-5
- Preschool 1-to-10

What is the curriculum philosophy of the children's campus?

The children's campus is committed to providing the best possible educational experiences for young children and their families.

Understanding that strong partnerships with families is a critical component of a quality early childhood education program, the children's campus offers many opportunities for parental involvement. The fundamental framework for our curriculum is based on the Montessori method, which recognizes that the first six years of a child's quest for knowledge are characterized not only by ordinary curiosity but also by an acute need to learn and explore.

Each classroom environment is equipped to ensure the success of all students with teachers facilitating learning in five key areas: math, language, science, sensory development and everyday living skills. Life lessons of respect, cooperation, appreciation of others, problem solving and responsibility are modeled and practiced on a daily basis by children and staff.

Is the school licensed and/or accredited?

The children's campus is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services - Child Care Licensing Department. It is expected that the children's campus will achieve National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation within the next two years of operation. Additionally, the campus expects to be a member school of the American Montessori Society.

Is the children's campus nonsectarian?

The children's campus is dedicated to providing a culturally rich and diverse community with awareness and respect for each family's individuality. There are no religious instruction, affiliation or practices at the children's campus.

How can parents become involved at the children's campus?

The children's campus serves as a hub for an array of family activities and offers parents a multitude of ways to be involved, including classroom observation, lunch in or out with their child, Arts Alive (music and movement sessions), parent connection meetings,

Week of the Young Child activities, holiday-related activities, guest reading opportunities, birthdays, fundraising fairs, parent resource library coordination and many other activities. Additionally, interested parents will be asked to provide input on specific topics of interest throughout the year. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to drop-in and visit.

Will I be able to breast-feed my child at the children's campus?

Yes. The children's campus supports breastfeeding mothers and offers a private lactation room as well as rockers in the infant rooms.

My child has special needs. Can I enroll him/her at the children's campus?

Your child will not be precluded from enrollment as long as the children's campus is able to meet his or her physical, developmental and emotional needs. The children's campus looks upon each child individually and efforts will be made to meet the needs of each child in care. In caring for children with special needs, we make deliberate plans to provide inclusive activities while ensuring everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Will there be any off-campus activities offered?

At this time there are no plans to offer off-campus activities. Developmentally and age-appropriate activities are offered on-site for enrolled children.

Will I be able to see my child's classroom over the Internet?

No. Classrooms will not be equipped with cameras.

FEES AND HOURS

How much does it cost to enroll my child and how often will I be billed?

Tuition is paid on a monthly basis. The monthly tuition rates for 2010 are as follows:

- Primary - \$1,020
- Twos - \$1,080
- Toddlers - \$1,140
- Transition - \$1,140
- Infants - \$1,220

How is the tuition calculated?

Tuition is calculated to meet the costs associated with operating a high quality early childhood education facility.

Do I have to pay for days my child does not attend?

Tuition is calculated on a monthly basis. There is not a reduction in tuition for days your child is absent or days the school is closed.

What are the hours of operation?

The hours of operation are 7 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

When is the children's campus closed (holiday schedule)?

The holiday schedule parallels Rice University's holiday schedule. The children's campus is open during the university's designated Spring Break and during the summer and winter breaks except for the week between Christmas and New Years Day.

Is there a sibling discount?

Yes. The oldest sibling enrolled receives a 15 percent discount off his or her tuition.

Can my child attend less than full time?

Your child can attend less than full time, however, tuition rates are based on full-time enrollment with no reduction in tuition for part-time

attendance.

Will I have to pay for my child during the summer months?

Yes. You must pay for your child during the summer months as tuition is based on annual enrollment. If you withdraw your child for the summer, re-enrollment for the fall cannot be guaranteed.

DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

Where is the children's campus located?

The children's campus is located one block west of campus at 5504 Chaucer Drive between University and Rice Boulevard and parallel to Greenbriar Drive. Limited onsite parking is available for drop-off and pickup.

Does Rice University operate the children's campus?

No. The children's campus is operated by the Center for Early Childhood Education (CECE). CECE is affiliated with Metropolitan Montessori Schools, Inc. an organization that has a long history of providing quality early childhood education to Houston's young children. MMS has operated Cathedral House school in downtown Houston for 25 years.

Are meals provided for my child during school days?

Meals and snacks are provided for enrolled children. The health and nutritional needs of the children are the primary considerations in menu planning. The children's campus makes every attempt to meet dietary and/or cultural preferences. In the event we are unable to meet these needs, parents are welcome and encouraged to provide preferred meals and snacks.

Are the teachers trained in CPR/First Aid?

Yes. All teachers and staff are certified in Infant/Toddler First Aid and CPR and certifications are kept current. Additional health and safety trainings are provided throughout the year for all teachers and staff.

What do I need to bring/send for my child?

Each class provides families with a list of items, such as extra clothes, diapers, blankets, personal supplies, etc.

What extracurricular/enrichment activities will be offered?

The children's campus offers a variety of developmentally and age-appropriate enrichment opportunities to enhance day-to-day activities. For a comprehensive list please contact the Center's administration. These activities are optional and additional fees may be required.

Are naps offered during school hours?

The children's campus provides parents with a daily schedule of activities that include academic instruction, nap times, outdoor play times and special activities. Quiet times will be offered for children not requiring a full nap.

Can I drop-off my child's car seat for someone else to use for pickup?

The children's campus has a designated area for car seat drop-off. The administration will need to be notified if someone other than a parent will be picking up a child.

If you need additional information or have questions not covered here, please contact us at info@DiscoverCECE.org or visit the website at www.DiscoverCECE.org.



