

2010 Curriculum

What should I know about United Services Early Childhood Center?

What is unique about our program?

We are nationally accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. We provide quality education and care for children ages six weeks through pre-Kindergarten. Our inclusive educational experience means each classroom supports children who are typically developing as well as children who have delays or disabilities.

What is the educational background of the staff?

All teachers are credentialed, degreed and/or certified, and are required to complete continuing education courses. Our staff includes a nurse, social worker, behavior specialist, and physical, occupational and speech therapists.

What is the student/teacher ratio?

We meet or exceed recommended ratios (Missouri licensing, NAEYC and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education). Ratios in classrooms will differ, depending upon age and specific needs of each group (4:1, 6:1, or 8:1)

What do we teach?

Our curriculum includes all areas of child development:

- **Social Skills:** Through Paw's Laws, positive support, and our curriculum, we encourage self-esteem, pride in accomplishments and cooperation in relationships with friends and teachers. Your child will become a vital member of the classroom community.
- **Literacy and Language:** We encourage communication (speaking, listening, and self-expression) and a love of books by providing experiences through reading, story extending activities and dramatic play. Your child will explore the sounds of language with songs, finger plays, rhyming words, and letter sounds each day. He will begin to understand that written words have meaning and recognize and identify symbols, letters and sounds.
- **Math, Social Studies, Science:** We help your child to think, reason, and question through hands-on experiences and build intellectual concepts around the ideas of patterns and relationships, numbers, and matching. Your child will learn about his world through experiments, technology, and the five senses.
- **Arts:** Your child will be introduced to the arts through a variety of media and cultures. This will include music, movement, drama, art, cooking and construction.
- **Physical and Fine Motor Development:** We will support your child's gross (large) motor skill development by focusing on movement, balance and coordination. Your child will practice fine (small) motor skills through drawing, cutting, and writing (shapes and letters).

- **Healthy Living Practices:** Your child will develop healthy living practices as he is exposed to concepts in health, safety, and nutrition. In addition, your child will participate in POWER KIDZ, our own health and fitness initiative, designed by our staff therapists.

How do we teach?

Teachers carefully plan group and individual activities that engage and challenge the children. We teach through hands-on activities by using all the senses through experimentation, manipulation, discovery, problem-solving and interaction with materials in the environment. We educate through realistic, everyday experiences in the classroom using three dimensional objects instead of worksheets.

How do we document progress?

We look at each child as an individual and assess skills through a skills checklist (all developmental areas), and through monthly contacts with parents. We have parent-teacher conferences twice a year, and maintain children's work samples in a portfolio.

What will we do or teach to help children be successful in Kindergarten?

We teach social skills (learning to work and play cooperatively, be a friend, and care for self and belongings). Additionally, children will learn pre-reading (listening, telling stories, following directions, letter recognition and sounds) and pre-writing skills (strengthen fingers and hand muscles using play dough, scissors, lacing activities, using various writing tools), and learning to write their name. We'll also discover shapes, colors and number concepts.

How do we approach discipline?

We encourage and teach correct behavior through our Positive Behavior Support System. This includes preventative approaches to behavior, which encourages responsibility, sets clear expectations, and teaches children to make good choices.

What else should we know?

Potty training is not required for enrollment. We will support your efforts at home when you feel your child is ready. You are an important part of your child's education! We will partner with you to encourage your participation, and will work as a team to make this the best experience for your child.