



## ***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 have delays or disabilities along with typically developing children.

### ***What is the educational background of our teachers?***

All teachers are 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?***

United Services has 6 curriculum goals to cover early childhood development. Our curriculum covers:

- **Social skills:** self-esteem, personal information (name, address, phone number) cooperation in relationships with adults and peers
- **Pre-Math, Social Studies, Science:** through experimentation, cooking, computer skills, counting and numbers
- **Physical Development:** movement, balance, coordination, ball skills, and participation in POWER KIDZ, a health initiative designed and implemented by on-staff therapists
- **Language:** literacy (books and stories), emerging reading and writing (letters, rhyming, sounds)
- **Fine Motor:** cutting, pre-writing (shapes/letters)
  - **Arts:** music and movement, dramatic play, art and construction

### ***How do we teach?***

Teachers carefully plan group and individual activities to 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 you teach my child to be ready for 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 you approach discipline?***

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

### ***What else should I 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 little one.

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