



Children enjoy three challenging age-appropriate playgrounds.



The Children's Center at USC is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a high-quality program of early care and education for young children. We serve USC faculty, staff, and students, as well as the general public. We support the University's educational, scientific inquiry, instructional, research, service, charitable and outreach endeavors.

The Center values inclusion and actively seeks diversity. We strive to serve families who represent a wide range of educational, racial, ethnic, national and economic backgrounds. We welcome all children who can participate in, and benefit from, its programming.

The Center is proud of our diverse and well-qualified staff of well-trained professionals and enjoy collaborative relationships with USC faculty from a variety of academic departments.



CHILDREN'S CENTER AT USC

Children's Center at USC
1530 Wheat Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Conveniently located near the heart of campus.

Phone: (803)765-2666

Fax: (803) 217-0200

<http://www.sc.edu/childrenscenter>

Our mission is to provide the best quality education and care for children and become a national model for early childhood education.



CHILDREN'S CENTER AT USC



The Children's Center at USC provides quality full-day year-round childcare for the rich cultural mix of the greater Columbia area with a diverse and well-qualified staff.

The Center fulfills an exciting mission on the USC-Columbia campus and in South Carolina's early care and education community.

Children's Center at USC

Telephone: (803) 765-2666

The Children's Center at USC

The Children's Center at USC operates year-round from 7:00am - 6:30pm. We provide quality full-day programming for children from 6 weeks through pre-K.

Afterschool, holiday and summer programs are available for children up to 11 years of age. The Center picks up children from near-by elementary schools in its own air-conditioned bus.

The Center selects only research-based approaches to early care and education that support developmentally appropriate practices. The WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers' approach guides our work with children from birth through 3 years of age. Practices include primary individualized care, small groups, cultural responsiveness and, when possible, inclusion of children with special needs.



Primary caregiving helps form strong attachments.

The Center takes a constructivist approach to curriculum. Children learn from first-hand experiences in a rich, supportive environment that gives them opportunities to interact with materials, children and adults. The curriculum emerges from themes of inquiry selected by children through their play and exploration. Teachers are viewed as facilitators of learning who help children make meaningful connections to previous experiences. They create carefully planned environments, encourage child-child interactions, and provide a positive climate for social growth.



Purpose

The Children's Center at USC serves a three-fold purpose.

First, as a high quality early care and education facility the Center follows accreditation standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The low adult/child ratios and small group size ensure children personalized care and education, enhancing their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. Center personnel are committed to working effectively with young children and their families.

Second, as a lab site the Center plays an important role in University's research efforts. It welcomes research related to young children and their families, supports teacher education programs, and offers clinical placements for students from a variety of disciplines.

Third, as a demonstration and training site for South Carolina's early care and education workforce, the Center welcomes visitors from throughout South Carolina who benefit from seeing quality in action.



Each day includes activities that support children's emerging reading and writing skills.



Family style dining is an important daily routine.

At the Children's Center at USC we take full advantage of our unique on-campus location. All children enrolled full time have the opportunity to participate in exciting extra-curricular activities at no additional cost.

- **Music play** classes led by Dr. Wendy Valerio and graduate students working under her direction. Dr. Valerio is the founder of USC's Children's Music Development Center.
- **Dance** — We are pleased to be collaborating with the USC Dance Program. Children learn movement, fine motor skills and cognitive skills through music, and the USC Dance Education Majors get a quality teaching experience.
- **ASQ**— We are participating in the pilot testing of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Online. The ASQ is a reliable developmental screening tool widely used by teachers and pediatricians to assess children's development in communication, problem solving, cognitive development and large and fine motor skills. It helps us develop individual and group learning experiences, and increases the efficiency of communication with families.

