

## ECL Enrollment

Families interested in the ECL program for their child may submit an **application, accompanied by the administrative fee of \$30**, at any time during the year, and will be added to our applicant pool. Children are enrolled in April for the following school year. During February we will contact each family in our applicant pool (via letter and e-mail, if available), to confirm their continuing interest. **A child whose family responds by mid-March will be kept in the applicant pool and the names of others will be removed.** Occasionally an opening will occur at another time during the year and a child from the applicant pool will be enrolled then.

To accomplish the ECL's educational and research missions, we enroll a diverse and balanced group of children in each class. **Children are not enrolled strictly in order of application.**

The following criteria are used to make selection and enrollment decisions:

- Age
- Sex
- Ethnic and cultural background
- UC Davis student status of parent(s)
- Sibling relationship to currently enrolled child
- Special needs
- Date of application

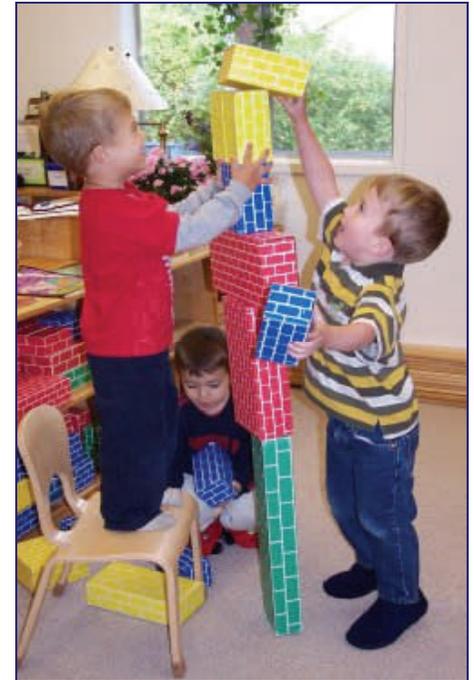
For an application form, as well as more detailed information about our programs, please visit our website at [ccfs.ucdavis.edu](http://ccfs.ucdavis.edu).



Early Childhood Laboratory

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## Early Childhood Laboratory Program

The ECL is the weekday children's program at the UC Davis Center for Child and Family Studies. It was founded in 1963 and is known in the community for its emphasis on the social and emotional development of young children, its support of early family relationships, and its translation of research-based best practices into infant, toddler, and pre-school programs. It also serves as a site for research about early childhood development, an educational laboratory for human development students, and a demonstration program for the wider community.

The children's program is **in session Monday through Thursday** of each week. Morning classes are **8:45-11:45** and afternoon classes are **12:45-3:45**. All children are enrolled for all four days, either mornings or afternoons. Infants and toddlers attend morning sessions and preschool children are placed in one of four classes based on age and group balance.



Classes are composed as follows:

**Infant Program:** One morning class of 10 children, with 1 adult per 2 children (ages from 6-14 mos. in October)

**Toddler Program:** One morning class of 12 children, with 1 adult per 3 children (ages from 15-27 mos. in October)

**Preschool Program:** 4 classes (2 morning, 2 afternoon) 14-16 children each, with one adult per 4 children (age range 2.5-5+ years in October)

*Class placement is at discretion of staff.*

Children's classes begin on the third day of instruction each quarter and end on the last day of instruction. There is no summer quarter program.

Tuition is \$346 per quarter for children of UC Davis students and \$524 per quarter for children of non-student parents.

## Curriculum and Philosophy

The ECL curriculum varies by age group, but all classes take a play-based, constructivist approach to children's learning. This kind of active learning is the cornerstone of developmentally appropriate practice in early care and education. We believe that children learn best about the world by actively exploring and experimenting with its elements: touching, tasting, observing, listening, smelling and investigating. As adult caregivers, we are responsible for providing a safe, stimulating physical environment, as well as a nurturing, reflective social environment. A supportive environment that encourages curiosity and exploration helps children build the foundation for later learning and self-reliance. Because of our focus on children's opportunities for exploration, each class spends a substantial portion of the daily session outdoors, in a spacious, stimulating play yard designed for their age group. We emphasize interaction with the natural environment, rather than only with manufactured play structures, and encourage children to notice insects, take care of plants and use natural materials and spaces in their play (e.g. infant yard pine circle, toddler sensory garden, preschool bamboo forest).

Respect for the young child is the fundamental value that guides our philosophy. We plan with an awareness of each child's social, emotional, physical, linguistic and intellectual development in mind. The staff seeks to provide experiences that will be interesting, educational and challenging in all of these developmental domains.

We encourage and value family involvement in order to build a partnership that supports children's growth and development. We strive for diversity and welcome children of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and those with differing learning needs and abilities.



## Staff

The ECL employs a staff of professionals who are well educated in the areas of child development and early childhood education. They are mature, warm and nurturing, adept at applying their knowledge in the classroom and respectful of each child as an individual. The Director and Program Coordinators have all earned Masters degrees in their fields and each classroom's Head Teacher holds at least a Bachelor's degree. Supplementing our professional staff and directly supervised by them are undergraduate students working with the children in conjunction with their coursework in child development.