



# Early Childhood Services

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Full-Day and School-Day Programs available

**UCR** | Early Childhood  
Services

3333 Watkins Drive • Riverside, CA 92507  
(951) 827-7454 • [ecs.ucr.edu](http://ecs.ucr.edu)



## PHILOSOPHY

*UC Riverside's Early Childhood Services offers child-centered programs designed to best support the healthy development of young children. Our evidenced-based curriculum meets the standards of our accrediting body, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the California Department of Education, as well as rigid University of California standards.*

***Our philosophy is that each child is unique, with their own individual pace for growing and developing.***

*So we provide a safe and healthy environment that encourages exploration and provides for social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. A strong parent-teacher partnership is also fostered.*

*Because we are a part of a major research university – with students, staff and faculty from around the globe – UCR Early Childhood Services offers a unique ability to celebrate and support the wide cultural and ethnic diversity of our children.*

## FACILITY

Our original facility opened in 1996 as the UCR Child Development Center. The building, accessed from Watkins Drive, was designed with classrooms featuring floor to ceiling windows that open physically and visually to the large outdoor play areas. Our second building, with an entrance on W. Blaine Street, opened in 2009.

Each of our Child Development Centers has seven classrooms, staff preparation rooms, administrative offices and meeting rooms. Our program also functions as a lab school for students and researchers.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

UCR's program operate Monday through Friday year round and offer the following options:

**Full-Day Infant and Toddler Services**

**Full-Day and Part Day Preschool Services**

**Full-Day Kindergarten and After-School Care**

**Full-Day Summer Camp**

## DAYS OF OPERATION

UCR Early Childhood Services is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., on days when the university is open.

Two Kindergarten programs are available: School Day (7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.) or Extended Day programs (7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.).

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## TUITION

Tuition is charged monthly and is determined (in part) by parents' affiliation with UC Riverside. In addition, a Registration Fee will be charged at time of enrollment and yearly thereafter.

Tuition-Assistance may be available for qualifying students, staff and community members primarily funded by the State of California Department of Education, Riverside County Office of Education and U.S. Department of Education, CCAMPIS Program.

## CURRICULUM

### Infants and Toddlers

The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers adheres to the belief that a quality and developmentally appropriate curriculum concentrates on what is most important for children's whole development, which includes developing warm and responsive relationships with children and families.

The Creative Curriculum for Infants and Toddlers goal is to help programs and teachers provide quality services, which includes developmentally appropriate care, meeting individual needs, and supporting children's home culture.

### Preschool

The Creative Curriculum gives teachers a framework to provide children with developmentally appropriate care and instruction. This approach suggests

that children learn best through hands-on interactions in a well-organized environment. The Creative Curriculum gives emphasis to the different learning areas throughout the classroom

Classroom arrangement has a huge impact on how children learn and as a result, teachers organize materials/equipment in separate interest areas. Providing interest areas, which subdivide the classroom into spaces, allows children to work in small groups. In smaller groups, children are able to focus on their work and their play becomes more elaborate and complex. Clearly defined learning centers allow children to concentrate on their activity without being interrupted by other activities.

### Kindergarten

The "thematic based" curriculum and its integrated approach has been carefully

designed to challenge early learners, without overwhelming them. Students have the opportunity to engage in whole group, small group, and individual pursuits as they move between six to eight learning centers each day.

Areas of study includes Language Arts (reading, writing, and listening); Math and Science; Music and Art; Geography and Social Studies; development of Large and Small Motor Skills; lessons in diversity and multiculturalism, and more.

In addition to hands-on demonstrations, there are regular field trips related to each month's theme. The curriculum is also designed to take advantage of a myriad of our university's resources through guest presenters and visits to various campus functions.

## STAFF

Teachers and administrative staff are selected based on high educational standards and years of experience. Our teachers hold valid California Child Development Teaching Permits; many have advanced degrees and years of early childhood experience.

## NUTRITION

UCR participates in the USDA Food Program. Our nutrition program ensures that children are being served nutritious well-balanced meals and snacks. The program also provides two types of infant formula; an iron fortified and soy based formula; as well as baby food for children less than 12 months old. All meals are included as part of our regular tuition rates.

Special meals are provided for students with food allergies or specific dietary requirements.



## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

UCR supports parents in raising their children and recognizes that they are the primary educators of their child. We welcome parents' ideas and insights; in addition, we have an open door policy and parents are encouraged to visit their children's classroom at any time. Parents are able to observe their child's classroom in a private observation booth and are also encouraged to contact their child's teacher or site supervisor regarding volunteer opportunities.

UCR Early Childhood Services also meets regularly with the Parent Advisory Committee and the Parent Teacher Organization to support educational goals and fundraising efforts.

## SUMMER CAMP

UCR Early Childhood Services Summer Camp provides full day services that include a variety of enrichment activities and field trips. Our schedule includes daily academic development to help prepare our students for another successful year. Reduced and no-cost services are available for families that qualify.



## ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

UCR Early Childhood Services serves students, UCR staff, faculty and families from the surrounding community; priority may be given to UCR-affiliated families. Children must be at least eight weeks old and are eligible for services until entrance into 1st grade. Children who are 5 years of age on or before September 1 are not eligible for services, except enrollment in our private-pay Kindergarten or Summer Camp Programs.

Other eligibility guidelines for subsidized children have been established by the State of California Department of Education; Early Education and Support Division (CDE-EESD). Admission is based on self-referrals, those from social service agencies, family size, and priority rankings are determined by income and family needs.

Hours of Operation are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Child Development Centers are licensed by the CA Department of Social Services Licensing Division.

*In accordance with university policies, discrimination is prohibited in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, family status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*

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