

ECDC Fact Sheet

The Early Childhood Development Center, Inc. (ECDC), founded in 1971, is a nonprofit program accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and licensed by the Indiana Bureau of Child Development. ECDC operates two programs, one on the campus of Saint Mary's College and the other on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Both sites are governed by one Board of Directors, which includes parent representatives from each ECDC program. Parent paid tuition primarily funds ECDC. ECDC is partially funded by Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame to serve their communities. The ECDC program at Saint Mary's is the only ECDC program open to the public.

Enrollment: ECDC-SMC serves children ages 3 through 5 during the school year and 3 through 9 during the summer. There are approximately 135 children enrolled in the ECDC-SMC program with 90 children in attendance each day.

ECDC-ND serves children ages 2 through kindergarten during the school year and 2.5 through 9 during the summer. There are approximately 185 children enrolled at ECDC-ND with 130 children in attendance each day during the school year and 165 children in attendance during the summer.

ECDC serves families affiliated to the University and College. ECDC-ND enrolls families who are affiliated to ND or SMC in the categories of faculty, administration, staff, student and alum. ECDC-SMC gives priority to the enrollment of families who are affiliated to SMC or ND in the categories of faculty, administration, staff, student and alum. Should ECDC-SMC have enrollment openings after enrolling affiliated families, nonaffiliated families from the community are enrolled. Please note - ECDC-ND does not serve families from the community. Historically, both programs operate at capacity enrollment and have a waiting list for most age groups. Waiting lists for the younger groups, 2's, 2/3's, 3's and 3/4's, are typically the longest.

The ECDC Teaching Staff is composed of teaching teams with at least one degreed Lead Teacher in every activity room. Several teachers have been with ECDC more than 20 years, with one teacher and the Executive Director more than 30 years. **Undergraduate students** studying early childhood education, nursing, speech and communication, sociology and psychology at the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, IUSB, Bethel College and IVY Tech participate in the ECDC program as interns, practicum students, student teachers and volunteers.

ECDC Registration takes place during the spring for both the upcoming summer and school year programs. Registration due dates are March 1 for the summer program and April 1 for the school year. Registration for the ECDC kindergarten is due February 12. Full time and part time enrollment schedules are available. Registration materials are mailed to families on the mailing list one month prior to the registration due date.

Tuition at ECDC-ND is an income based tuition schedule. ECDC-SMC tuition is flat rate tuition, with scholarships available to families with financial need. Please visit the website at www.nd.edu/~ecdncd or call 631-3344 for tuition and/or scholarship information.

The ECDC program embraces the following early childhood principles:

- Children learn and grow as whole persons. Children learn best when their physical and emotional needs are met and they feel safe and secure. The child's self-image strongly affects his or her eagerness to learn and ability to do so. The ECDC program fosters the child's social, emotional, physical, creative and cognitive development.
- * Children grow and develop through predictable stages, but at individual rates. All children can learn, and given appropriate settings, want to learn. Children are persistent, curious, creative and active learners. The ECDC program enhances each child's love of learning.
- * Children learn through active engagement and through conversation and dialogue concerning their experiences. Young children are concrete learners who construct knowledge based on direct sensory experiences. For children, play is serious work. ECDC offers a wealth of inquiry based play opportunities with rich materials for children to play with and learn from.
- * Children learn quickly when material is presented in meaningful ways at appropriate times. Young children learn best when actively involved in activities they have a role in initiating.
- * Children exhibit different learning styles. Learning activities at ECDC are varied and offer multisensory experiences and frequent opportunities to choose from a variety of materials appropriate to their individual learning styles and interests.
- * Child guidance and discipline at ECDC fosters the development of respect, responsibility, resourcefulness, and responsiveness, which assist children in appropriate decision making skills, the development of self-regulation, conflict resolution skills, and altruistic behavior.
- * ECDC teachers and staff recognize and celebrate the diversity of our children and families. We are committed to establishing an anti-bias curriculum that supports our multicultural community.
- * ECDC provides a positive environment within which young children thrive. We view ourselves as an extension of each child's family, building partnerships with families. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled two times per year, once during fall semester and once during spring semester. The thirty-minute conferences are designed to provide opportunities to discuss individual child development, learning, strengths, interests and goals and to provide an opportunity for the family and teacher to collaborate to support the child's holistic development.
- * The Early Childhood Development Center admits students of any race, color, religion, gender, and national or ethnic origin.

Enrichment Opportunities:

Dance/Creative Movement - parents may register children, for a small fee, for a series of Dance Classes/Creative Movement each semester with Bonnie Baxter.

Gymnastics - through Gymnasts in Motion, parents may register, for a small fee, for a weekly gymnastics program. This supports gross and fine motor development, balance and agility.

Specialists and Resource Experts – visit the classrooms to share their interests, talents and special information. These resource experts include storytellers, puppeteers, musicians, artists, community helpers, health practioners, naturalists, animal experts, etc.

Field Trips - children enrolled in the 4's, 4/5's and Kindergarten groups participate in a variety of field trips in the community providing experienced based learning. ECDC owns a 30-seat special activities bus (2006 Bluebird Bus) with seatbelts and integrated child restraint seats that is used for field trip transportation. A licensed school bus driver drives the ECDC special activities bus. Teachers and parent helpers accompany the children on all field trips.

Spanish - children enrolled in the 4's, 4/5's and kindergarten groups participate in developmentally appropriate Spanish classes.

Speech and Language screenings are provided once per year. Speech and Language therapy is provided through the South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) for children qualifying for speech and language services and who reside in the South Bend Community School Corporation.

College Students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Indiana University South Bend, Bethel College and IVY Tech bring enthusiasm and extra adult hands and attention to the children and classrooms as they learn about young children and early childhood curriculum. Undergraduate students are involved in all classrooms as part time employees, practicum students, interns, observers and volunteers. All college students are provided with orientation and training regarding the ECDC philosophy, curriculum, child guidance and policies and procedures; college students work under the direct supervision of the ECDC professional teaching faculty at all times.

Family Enrichment Seminars and Family Lecture Series are offered regularly. Family enrichment series including Raising Responsible and Respectful Children and Winning Your Child's Cooperation are offered at least twice during the school year. Other topical parent presentations are provided on a regular basis to support families in their important role of parenting.

Please visit the ECDC website at www.nd.edu/~ecdcnd or call ECDC-ND at 631-3344 or ECDC-SMC at 284-4693 for further information and/or to request a program brochure