Our Mission
The Early Childhood Studies Child Development Center will provide a quality educational program for children and college students who are pursuing a career in the field of Early Childhood Education. We will provide a culturally rich, child-oriented environment where the cognitive, social, emotional, creative and physical health and safety of all children are nurtured and protected. We will work to develop a trusting and supportive relationship with children, parents and college students. We believe that by working together, we can make a positive difference in the care and education of young children.

Licensed Capacity: 105 children at any one time, ages six weeks through five years. (Open to students, staff, faculty and the community.)

Licensed By: Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division. (Licenses are posted for viewing in office area.)

Hours of Operation: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

Observation Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. / 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Program
Philosophy – The center uses an open education approach within self-contained classrooms. Curriculum is based on developmental stages, characteristics and needs and interests of children and research related to learning theories of preschool children. The curriculum is not a model of any one curriculum approach, but it is primarily developmental-interaction, drawing from models such as Piaget, the British Infant School and the Process approach. Teaching practices and discipline/guidance follow the humanistic philosophy of Allport, Rogers, Combs and Maslow rather than the behaviorist philosophy. This approach views children as capable of participating in and influencing their own behavior as they interact with the environment. Each age group stresses developmentally appropriate activities and materials. We do not use a pre-packaged curriculum. Teachers within individual classrooms plan the environment and curriculum to meet the needs of the children in the class.

Children may choose to participate in a variety of activities included in Learning Centers. The activities encompass the areas of art, science, math, music, language development, dramatic play, reading readiness, listening skills, outdoor activities and field trips. Each child receives individual instruction in addition to participating in small and large group activities. In this way, the children have the opportunity to participate in learning experiences, which will help them to understand themselves, their world and others in their world according to their needs, interests and abilities.