



UNIVERSITY CITY
CHILDREN'S CENTER

Family Handbook

Revised 10.25.2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Peaches Lott, Center Director	3
Letter from Steve Zwolak, Executive Director.....	4
Mission and Values.....	5
Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives	6
Licensing and Accreditation	7
Building	7
Educators and Staff.....	8
Curriculum.....	8-9
Lesson Plans.....	9
Assessments.....	9
Healthy Minds.....	10
Guidance and Positive Discipline.....	10
Infant/Toddler Room Schedule.....	11
Two-to-Five-Year-Old Room Schedule	12
Family Support and Involvement	13
Center Communications	14
General Policies and Guidelines	15-16
Health and Safety.....	17-18
Affiliations and Partnerships.....	19



Hello UCCC families,

As the Center Director of University City Children's Center, it has been wonderful to meet you and your children. You will see me in the classrooms, at the front desk, and in my office (located behind the front desk).

We are thankful that you have chosen UCCC as the center for your child(ren) and we want to make sure we are constantly innovating and improving our programs.

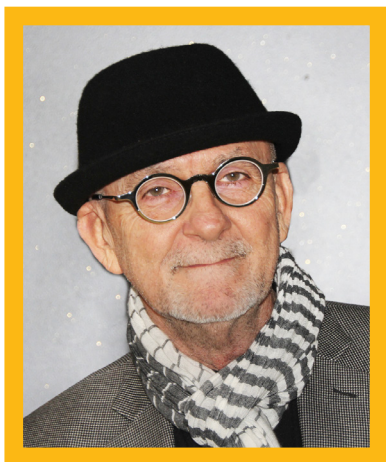
UCCC is a place of warmth, wonder, and growth. We focus on understanding and nurturing the whole child and in doing so, we embrace the whole family. Parent involvement is important and we will keep you connected through events, communication, and conversations.

Providing quality care and education in a safe, trusting environment is essential at University City Children's Center. We provide a social atmosphere where all children feel accepted and respected, allowing them to accept and respect others.

I look forward to learning, playing, and celebrating with your child(ren) and you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ovella Lott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a stylized end.

Ovella "Peaches" Lott
Center Director



Dear UCCC Families,

Our everyday lives are often consumed with rules and regulations. At University City Children's Center (UCCC), our aspiration is to be a place that is driven by values. These three major values are developmentally appropriate for children:

- Respect:** cultivating respect for self and others
- Responsibility:** taking responsibility for self, equipment, and materials
- Compassion:** demonstrating compassion for others

We believe if everyone in the building lives by these major values, then we are fostering citizenship and a healthy future for our children.

Developmentally Appropriate Practices, as described by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, provide a means for instilling these values. As parents and teachers, we need to enable children to embrace their confidence in their competencies—whether they can count to 10 or 100. We must celebrate their individual successes—encouraging an environment **“where every child is an individual.”**

The philosophy behind our curriculum is that children learn best by doing, because active thinking and experimenting are required to discover how things work. Children learn through trial and error, enabling them to develop a deep, long-lasting understanding of the relationships in their environment.

Developing a partnership between school and family is essential for a successful, holistic, educational experience for children. Teachers and parents must make a conscious decision to become deeply involved in the educational and developmental process of their children. In the words of Bev Bos, an internationally renowned educator, “together we’re better.” I hope this Family Handbook will assist you in becoming involved at University City Children's Center with your child.

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Stephen P. Zwolak'.

Stephen P. Zwolak
Executive Director

MISSION AND VALUES

Mission

We partner with families of diverse backgrounds to nurture the growth and development of their children through education and care that is inclusive, innovative, and high quality.

Vision

All children are prepared for life.

Belief

We believe what happens early in life lasts a lifetime and the power to change society lies in changing the way young children are taught.



Values

University City Children's Center is a diverse, intentional, early childhood community that respects and nurtures children and adults in a trusting culture of **love, empathy, compassion, and joy** that is guided by visionary leadership. An integral part of our mission and practice is developing partnerships and educational outreach to the larger St. Louis community.

We believe **trust** is the foundation of any value; that through trust, our school community, our partners, and our friends have the ability to carry the message of creating systemic change for children and families.

We believe empathy and compassion are found naturally in children. In order to ensure these values are woven into the fabric of their personhood, children must experience an environment that is intentionally empathetic and compassionate. We believe love needs to be among the primary examples we set for children, acting as a compass that directs all interactions as we grow a school community.

We believe joy is an essential element to creating and maintaining an emotionally healthy life, is established through the alternating experiences of struggle and success, and begins at birth.

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Philosophy

Our inside-out approach to caring for young children is part of what makes us unique and one of the most critical ingredients missing in other early childhood programs. We have developed a model, The LUME Approach, that integrates three interdependent developmental lines, each of which is critical to developing the whole child.

The LUME Approach supports intentional teaching practices. We integrate each sphere into daily practice. Within each sphere, there are key elements of children's growth that are based on developmental theory, observational research, and current brain research. Our responsibility is to provide educational experiences that are driven by best practices.

We identify literacy as the foundation of current and future academic success for all children. UCCC offers a literacy-based curriculum which supports the social, emotional, and intellectual health of children and enables them to have the opportunity for academic success.

Our approach is an ambitious conceptual understanding for teachers of early childhood, when the norm emphasizes product, not process or understanding of the inner world of children. We have created a school that can heal and is emotionally responsive to the needs of children and families. Yet as ambitious as this may be, we believe it is the key to systemic family change. This integration of disciplines creates a model for early childhood education in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Program Goals and Objectives

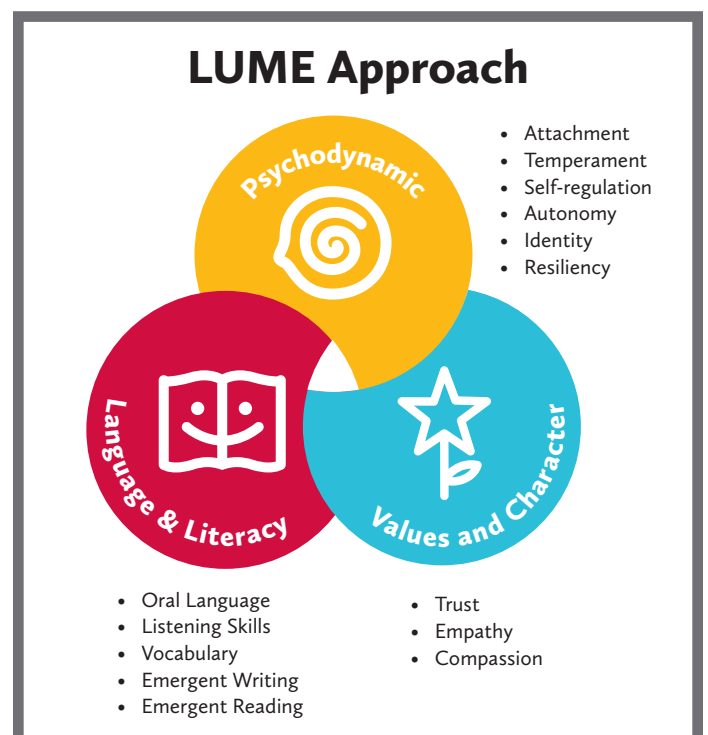
To provide innovative quality early care and education for an economically, racially, and culturally diverse population of children from 6 weeks to 6 years of age in a year-round program.

To enhance early literacy development of children in an emotionally responsive environment that advances the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development of children.

To provide an emotionally safe environment where children have the opportunity to develop their intellectual capacity while building skills for academic success.

To develop partnerships with families that increase their understanding of the importance of early care and education through comprehensive family services.

To enhance character and value development of children, families, and UCCC's faculty and staff through building a caring community.



LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION

UCCC is licensed for 180 children by the Missouri Department of Social Services-Child Care Division. Hard copies of all state licensing compliance/inspection reports are located on site at the Center and are available for viewing upon request. A hard copy of the licensing regulation hand book is also located on site and are available for viewing upon request.

We are accredited by the Missouri Accreditation of Programs for Children and Youth. This accreditation focuses on qualitative aspects of the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth opportunities available to children.

Accreditation involves a thorough validation of the criteria listed below:

- Administration
- Children's relationships and interactions
- Family connections
- Health, safety, and nutrition
- Physical environment
- Programming
- Curriculum

BUILDING

UCCC has the capacity for 180 children daily in a state-of-the-art facility. The 10,000 square foot building has 12 classrooms (infant to pre-k), an infant/toddler playground, infant/toddler herb

garden, adventure playground, vegetable garden, greenhouse, trike track, tea house, library for children and families, reading garden, and lactation room. Our kitchen and nutrition program is led by an in-house chef.



EDUCATORS AND STAFF

Each teacher, staff member, or administrator of the Center has an important role and responsibility in supporting the emotional, social, and intellectual growth of all children. We take a team approach to the development of children, knowing that each Center member has the capability to positively influence the life of every child. To comply with State of Missouri child care licensing regulations and other best practices, all employees of UCCC undergo required background screenings and medical exams.

Equal Employment Opportunity

UCCC provides equal employment opportunities to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, information derived from genetic tests, or any other protected characteristic.

UCCC is committed to making reasonable job accommodations when possible. This policy governs all aspects of employment, including, but not limited to, selection, promotion, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination, and access to benefits and training.

Professional Development

UCCC is unique in its commitment to professional development. All employees are expected to maintain at least 35 hours of professional development per year. UCCC hires professionals that meet qualifications to work in early childhood education. In addition, all of our educators participate in LUME professional development courses which cover various aspects of early childhood development.

CURRICULUM

The Center follows the Developmentally Appropriate Practices established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We believe these practices have standards that support the whole child.

UCCC uses The Creative Curriculum which guides teachers in creating quality learning environments and facilitating learning experiences to support positive outcomes for children. Teachers guide the children through the learning process by intentionally exposing them to experiences, both indoors and outdoors, that support their development in the areas of: literacy, language, math, science, social studies, and fine and large motor skills.

Each day, children engage in learning experiences that are a balance of teacher-directed and child-initiated activities through interaction with their peers and adults in the classroom learning centers. Individualized learning experiences are implemented daily to assist children in developing and gaining skills that focus on individual needs as well as to build on their learning interests.

Diversity is cultivated throughout the learning experience so that children learn to appreciate the differences of others. With your permission, children may occasionally participate in field trips that enhance programmatic themes.

CURRICULUM (CONT'D)

Guiding Principles of Curriculum

- Early learning and development is an integrated experience as one domain influences the development in others.
- The expectation of children must be to succeed, regardless of their background.
- Children are individuals who develop at different rates.
- Children learn through exploration of their environment in child-initiated and teacher-facilitated activities.
- Teachers, staff, and families must work collaboratively to ensure children are provided optimal learning experiences.

Emotionally Responsive Programming

- Children will show the capacity to think about important people when they are out of sight.
- Children will be able to identify and name emotions.
- Children will find pleasure in relating to other children.
- Children will anticipate and participate in routines, activities, and transitions.
- Children will use pretend play, symbolic play, storytelling, drawing, painting, and clay modeling to process experiences and express thoughts and feelings.

Adapted from *Creating Schools That Heal* by Lesley Koplow (2002).

LESSON PLANS

Lesson planning is an opportunity for the teaching team to come together and brainstorm how they will intentionally incorporate the interests of their group into the UCCC curriculum framework. The plan is then written into a creative format that provides a system to ensure that all domains of the curriculum are covered. An updated copy of the lesson plan is posted outside the classroom and

individual copies are available upon request. Lesson plans are developed by teachers and individualized for each student. Educators create their curricula with activities and play-based experiences in mind that support children's cognition and social and emotional development. All curricula meet kindergarten readiness standard.

ASSESSMENTS

UCCC ensures your child will gain knowledge and life skills while in the classroom. We use ongoing observations, assessments, and individualized planning to track the progress your child makes. Your consent is required prior to the administration of an assessment. This General Consent Form

is valid throughout your child's enrollment and includes a list of assessments currently in use. Each child has a classroom portfolio that reflects his or her work and learning progression through the developmental milestones.

HEALTHY MINDS

Early childhood mental health is an important component of UCCC. Our goal is to assist each child and family in finding effective ways to meet their physical, social, and emotional needs. Throughout the year, information will be shared on positive parenting, emotional wellness, behavior management, and developmental delays. If you would like more information about these services,

please contact the Center Director or Education Support Specialists.

If your child has a diagnosed disability, or if you suspect your child may need additional support, contact the Center Director or one of our Educational Support Specialists. We will partner with you as we develop a plan for your child.

GUIDANCE AND POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

We help children learn to be self-assured, helpful, and cooperative. We believe positive discipline is an ongoing process through which young children can learn self-regulation. The emphasis at the Center is placed on acquiring positive social skills, problem-solving strategies, and the ability to see things from other people's perspective. This process occurs at different times for different children, but from the earliest age, children are encouraged to express their feelings appropriately through facial expression, body movements, or language.

Teachers are encouraged to:

- Make expectations clear and age-appropriate
- Model desirable behaviors
- Anticipate potential conflicts
- Use discussion and/or redirection as needed

Teachers are prohibited from:

- Using physical punishment, including, but not limited to, spanking, slapping, shaking, biting, or pulling hair.
- Using discipline techniques that are humiliating, threatening or frightening to children; children shall not be shamed, ridiculed, or spoken to harshly, abusively, or with profanity.
- Using punishment or threat of punishment that is associated with food, rest, or toilet training.
- Placing children in a closet, a locked or unlit room, or any other place which is frightening.
- Permitting children to intimidate or harm others, harm themselves, or destroy property.

INFANT/TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

7:00 to 7:30 a.m.	Arrival, saying goodbye to parent, selected activities
7:30 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 to 9:00 a.m.	Diaper change / language
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Storybooks and music and movement
10:00 to 10:30 a.m.	Outdoor playtime
10:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Diaper change / language
11:00 to 11:30 a.m.	Art / sensory
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:00 to 12:30 p.m.	Gross motor / outdoor
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.	Naptime for toddlers*, diaper changes, individual activities for infants
2:30 to 3:00 p.m.	Diaper changes / snack time
3:00 to 3:30 p.m.	Fine motor activities
3:30 to 4:00 p.m.	Language / storytime
4:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Dramatic play
4:30 to 5:00 p.m.	Diaper changes
5:00 to 5:15 p.m.	Music / books
5:15 to 6:00 p.m.	Selected activities, hello to parents and goodbye to caregivers, departure

*Please see the Safe Sleep Policy (page 17) in the Health and Safety section for more information on how children are kept safe during naptime.

TWO-TO-FIVE-YEAR-OLD ROOM SCHEDULE

7:00 to 7:30 a.m.	Morning welcome; greeting children and families
7:30 to 8:00 a.m.	Open play as other friends arrive
8:00 to 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast in classrooms; children that are present clean up, wash hands, and enjoy breakfast
8:45 to 11:00 a.m.	Children participate in: outdoor time, free choice time, small or large group play, morning meeting, center time, or journaling
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Classrooms are preparing for their lunch times which include clean-up time, setting-up for lunch, putting down cots, hand-washing, and potty/diapering
1:30 to 3:00 p.m.	Nap and quiet time.* Children have independent reading time, small group reading times, and/or soft music playing. For children who wake up or do not nap during this time, quiet activities on their cots or a near a staff person, that include writing in their journal or working on a puzzle are provided
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Children put away cots, potty/diapering, hand-washing, setting up, and eating snacks; some children may begin to leave for the day
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Children participate in: outdoor time, free choice time, small or large group play, center time, or journaling; children who stay after 5:00 p.m. are served a snack

*Please see the Safe Sleep Policy (page 17) in the Health and Safety section for more information on how children are kept safe during naptime.

FAMILY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT

Parents are always welcome at the Center. UCCC hosts a variety of family involvement activities to enable every family to have a relationship with the Center. Some of the events include a family potluck to celebrate our diversity, Curriculum Night, Literacy Night, year-end giving, and family work days. Our goal is to have 100% of our families engaged.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Home Visits

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled at least twice a year, every six months, or in the spring and fall. A written report on your child's development will be given to you at the spring conference. Parents are always welcome to request a conference at other times with teachers and/or any member of the Administrative Team. All students enrolled at UCCC receive home visits.

Requesting Child Records

There is a secure record of each child's history and progress during his or her enrollment at UCCC. These files are kept safe to protect confidential information about your child; however, you can request the following information by completing the proper request form with the Center Support Manager:

- Health records
- Developmental assessments and screenings
- Attendance
- Developmental notes
- IEP or IFSP
- Accident reports
- Tuition

Breastfeeding Support Policy

University City Children's Center is proud to be a designated Missouri Breastfeeding-Friendly Facility. To support our families we do the following:

Provide a breastfeeding-friendly environment. We invite mothers to come to the Center and nurse their babies, and we maintain a lactation room for them to do so.

Ensure that families are able to properly store and label milk.

Continue learning about how to support parents in the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding. We have up-to-date materials on hand that include information on breastfeeding

Support breastfeeding employees. Employees have access to a clean, private location to nurse their babies or express milk, and are able to take breaks as needed to do so.

CENTER COMMUNICATIONS

UCCC is committed to promoting communication between the Center and our families. We communicate with our families in the following ways:

Newsletters

A monthly newsletter is emailed to all families. This newsletter contains information such as event recaps, school information, thought-provoking articles, and more.

Website

UCCC's website, www.uccc.org, includes useful information such as the school calendar, lunch menus, upcoming events, announcements, and news stories.

Facebook

UCCC has an official Facebook page. Notices are posted for school announcements, school closings, calendar reminders, and links to news stories. The Facebook page is **University City Children's Center**.

Print Publications

UCCC mails out two print publications each year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Phone Calls

Phone calls will be placed to families in the event of early closings, updates on their child(ren), and emergencies.

Media Disclosure

Any parent who does not want his or her child to be interviewed, photographed, or videotaped by newspaper, television, or radio, for the purposes of news coverage or other projects, may opt-out via the general consent form in the enrollment packet. Students with a signed opt-out form will not be included in any publicity-related materials produced occurring at or produced by UCCC..

GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Admission Procedures

We strive to mirror the diversity of our community within our Center. Children are enrolled regardless of race, gender, religion, or national origin on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tuition

Please refer to your individual enrollment packet for tuition policy.

Hours of Operation

The Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. School closings due to inclement weather will be posted on KTVI Channel 2, KSDK Channel 5, and KMOV Channel 4. You will also receive an automated telephone call. Please be sure we have an up-to-date contact number at all times. If your child will be absent due to illness, vacation, or any other reason, please inform your child's teachers ahead of time or call the Center before 9:00 a.m. at 314-726-0148.

Dismissal Information

We know that all families understand the difficulties caused by not picking children up on time –6:00 p.m. at the latest. However, the procedure in case of an unavoidable delay or an occurrence, which makes it impossible to come to the Center or notify us is:

In the event that no staff member can stay and/or the time is unreasonably late and we cannot reach any of the people on your list, a UCCC administrator will contact the University City Police Department. As alarming as this sounds, it is standard procedure for early childhood programs. This allows you or family members to know exactly where your child will be in the event of a true emergency, and provides our families with a consistent procedure.

School Closings

Watch and listen for school closing on the following stations:

- KTVI Channel 2
- KMOV Channel 4
- KSDK Channel 5

In case of school closing, you will receive a telephone call from our automated phone system, SchoolReach, as soon as the decision to close has been made. Please be sure we have an up-to-date contact number at all times. We will also do our best to post the information on the homepage of www.uccc.org and our Facebook page.

To check past messages on SchoolReach, or if you feel a message has been missed, call 855-955-8500 to hear up to 30 days' past messages

Note: Your call must originate from a telephone number to which a message was originally sent. SchoolReach has an app (Android and iOS) for managing the messages you receive.

Delayed Opening/Early Closing Plan

In the event that weather or other emergency conditions exist that require UCCC to delay opening, the Center will open at 9:30 a.m. The decision to open late will be made by 6:00 a.m. if possible. Parents will be notified via an automated phone call once the decision is made.

If UCCC must close early due to weather or other emergency conditions, the decision will be made by 1:00 p.m. and the Center will close at 3:00 p.m. Parents will be notified via an automated phone call once the decision is made.

GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES (CONT'D)

Calendar

UCCC is closed on the following holidays. Please refer to your school calendar for exact dates.

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr., Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following
- Early closing at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Early closing at 3:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve
- Four early closing dates, one per quarter, for professional development

Celebrations and Holidays

Our classrooms celebrate often-sometimes in response to traditional holidays, and sometimes spontaneously! We respect and acknowledge many traditions. All-school birthdays are celebrated once a month.

Meals

The Center provides breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack for each child. These meals are nutritious and prepared on site. A vegetarian/vegan option is available and we are sensitive to medical dietary restrictions. We incorporate fresh produce from our garden as available.

- Breakfast is from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Parents of children who arrive at 8:45 a.m. and want their child to have breakfast must stay with their child until he or she finishes breakfast. The classroom begins their program day at 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch is served between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Snack is delivered to the classrooms by 2:00 p.m. and served at the teachers' discretion.
- After 5:00 p.m., children receive an additional snack.

The lunch menu is distributed every two weeks in classrooms and is available on the Center's website.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Medical Admissions Requirement

The Center must have up-to-date and accurate reports of each child's physical history and immunizations. State licensing requires this information be on file and current for all children to remain in attendance. All medical information must be submitted at the time of the orientation visit or, at the latest, on the first day of attendance.

Medication

Prescription medication must be prescribed by a physician and in its original container, labeled with instructions for staff and the physician's name. Non-prescription pediatric medication must be in its original container and labeled with the child's name and instructions for administration, including the times and amounts for dosages (medication must be pediatric). Non-prescription cold medication will not be given without a doctor's note. Medication authorization forms must be completed for all medications and must not deviate from the instructions. Families are asked to partner with teachers to ensure that all expired medications are promptly removed from the Center.

Medical Action Plans

Children with specialized medical care needs may be required to provide a current emergency action plan from their licensed medical provider.

Illness/Acute Infectious Disease

If a child becomes ill while at the Center, his or her parents will be contacted. For the comfort of your child and the protection of other children, we ask that you pick up your child as soon as possible, preferably within one hour of notification.

A child with a fever of 100, diarrhea, or vomiting **will not be admitted to the Center until the child has been symptom-free for 24 hours.** The following

conditions and illnesses will require temporary exclusion from the Center:

- Rashes: A physician must investigate an undiagnosed rash or spots; before returning, a written physician's diagnosis must be presented to the Center.
- Pinkeye: Antibiotic treatment for 24 hours before returning to the Center.
- Chicken Pox: May return when all lesions have crusted, approximately 5 to 7 days.
- Strep Throat: May return after 48 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- Lice: May return after treatment with medicated shampoo and hair is nit-free.
- Ringworm: May return with a doctor's note after receiving treatment. Ringworm on the skin may be treated with a topical cream. Ringworm in the hair requires shampoo and medication before re-admittance to school.

SAFE SLEEP POLICY

UCCC follows the safe sleep guidelines established by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services:

- Children under one year are placed on their backs
- A doctor's note is required for alternate sleep positions
- Physical checks are given during sleep to check for distress or overheating
- For infants, UCCC uses firm mattresses, tight sheets, and does not allow blankets, toys, or loose bedding in the crib
- A child's head must remain uncovered during sleep
- Covering cribs with blankets is prohibited
- Smoking is prohibited

HEALTH AND SAFETY (CONT'D.)

Injury/Accident Guidelines

A written Accident/Injury Report will be filled out to document any accident, including major scrapes, bruises, bumps, or any other injury. Parents will be notified in a timely fashion. Staff will note the time and date of the incident, the child involved, why and where the accident happened, what injury resulted, when a parent was notified, and what actions were taken. Staff will call 911 before notifying a parent if the incident warrants such action. A parent will be asked to sign the Injury/Accident Report and will receive a copy.

Child Abuse/Neglect Policies and Procedures

Missouri Department of Social Services is an agency that can provide services and assistance for families to help prevent abuse and neglect. UCCC works closely with this agency to provide resources and services for families. Trauma in children can take years to manifest; therefore, it is important that victims of child abuse receive counseling as soon as possible after the abuse is disclosed. If you or someone you know is in need of services or resources, stop in and talk with our Center Director who will be happy to support you through the process.

Child abuse includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect (which is the failure to provide a minimum standard of care for a child's physical and emotional needs). UCCC staff is trained to recognize indicators for abuse and neglect. We are mandated reporters. If a staff person has reasonable cause to suspect a child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, he or she must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Missouri Department of Social Services (1-800-392-3738).

Disaster and Emergency Plan

In the event of an emergency that would cause UCCC to evacuate the building (fire, gas leak, storm, etc.), parents would be notified as soon as possible of a location to pick up their child. The following are possible locations we would go in the event of such an emergency:

Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center
737 Kingsland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-721-2965

Washington University – North Campus Building
700 Rosedale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63112
314-935-5727

Laciny Brothers, Inc.
6622 Vernon Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-862-8330

Safety Drills

The Center performs two safety drills per month. One of the drills is monthly and the other is on a rotating basis between tornado, earthquake, and intruder.

AFFILIATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

LUME Institute

More than a partnership, LUME Institute is an integral part of University City Children's Center. LUME Institute evolved in 2010 from the values, philosophy, and methodologies embodied by UCCC. UCCC serves as the founding school and living model for LUME Institute's Inside-Out Approach. LUME Institute brings that model to other organizations involved in early childhood education through courses and coaching that develops teachers, administrators, and families. Visit www.lumeinstitute.org for more information on LUME Institute and its partners.

YWCA/Head Start

Effective January 2007, UCCC became a partner in the YWCA Head Start Program. This enables us to serve several qualified families at a reduced rate of tuition.

Youth In Need/Early Head Start

Effective in 2016, UCCC became a partner in the Youth In Need Early Head Start Program. This enables us to serve several qualified families at a reduced rate of tuition.

St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute

UCCC and LUME Institute have longstanding partnerships with St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute. Several UCCC staff and teachers have completed the St. Louis Psychoanalytic Child Development Program. The St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute supports UCCC's ongoing Healthy Minds for the Future program. Analysts visit classrooms on a regular basis and consult with the teachers about the children in their care. This partnership began in 2000.

UCCC is a member agency of United Way of Greater St. Louis and Variety the Children's Charity

Soldan International Studies High School

UCCC has partnered with Soldan International Studies High School and some of their students interested in gaining hands-on experience in early childhood education, leadership, business management, marketing, and human services. Each year, UCCC has one or two interns from January to April.

Special School District: Vocational Skills Program

UCCC has partnered with Special School District's Vocational Skills Program since 2006. Each new school year, up to six students attend the program at UCCC. These students handle all UCCC's laundry, assist in the kitchen, organize and maintain UCCC's library, help with meeting set-up, and sanitize and clean as needed throughout UCCC.

The mission of the Vocational Skills Program is to provide a continuum of supports and services to students and families to assist the students in gaining skills needed to achieve realistic and meaningful post-secondary goals.

Foster Grandparent Program

UCCC is fortunate to partner with this program through Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. Grandparents in the program work in our classrooms on a daily basis and provide support to our teachers and children.

Volunteers

In addition, UCCC is fortunate to have numerous volunteers, health consultants, and other individuals who assist children, families, and staff.

Board of Directors

The Center's Board of Directors is composed of a maximum of 24 members who are community leaders, business people, professional volunteers, educators, parents of Center children, and one Center teacher. For a list of current Board members please visit www.uccc.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Peaches Lott
Center Director
6646 Vernon Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
plott@uccc.org
314-726-0148 ext. 112



Steve Zwolak
6646 Vernon Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
Executive Director
szwolak@uccc.org
314-726-0148 ext. 113

For a complete list of staff and educators
please visit www.uccc.org.