

U. C. Berkeley Early Childhood Education Program

Information for Volunteers

We at the UC Berkeley Early Childhood Education Program welcome anyone who is interested in volunteering at any of our child care centers. Below is information about our program as well as the requirements and procedures required of volunteers.

❖PROGRAM INFORMATION

Our program has a long history of providing a high quality, play-based and developmentally appropriate program for children of students, faculty, and staff of the University and the Berkeley community. We offer our services from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Each center implements a daily schedule geared to provide a consistent, balanced, and integrated learning environment for children 3-months to 8 years of age. A diverse curriculum offers the children many options while staff encourages individual choice and decision-making. All aspects of the program, even “custodial tasks” such as diapering, feeding, and napping are seen as significant learning experiences. Our philosophy and curriculum respond to parent concerns and our awareness of the ever-changing needs of the children.

❖PHILOSOPHY

In support of the UC Berkeley mission, the Early Childhood Education Program provides a developmental child care program for the children of university and community families. This is accomplished by nurturing partnerships among and between parents and staff, and supporting ongoing professional development of teachers and administrative staff. Each center shares a common commitment to providing a warm and challenging environment in which the child is seen as both an individual and as an integral member of the group. Staff members strive to equally support all aspects of a young child’s growth within an atmosphere of respect for each child. We believe that the attainment of these goals depends upon a direct partnership between staff, parents, and children.

❖VOLUNTEER’S ROLE

You are not part of our adult/child ratios and therefore we would place you in a center as a supplemental support person. This would involve you in our daily activities and educational program such as field trips, classroom projects, and individual activities (i.e. reading to a child, helping during lunch or snack time, and helping with outdoor play). Our educational program promotes the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and language development of the whole child.

❖REQUIREMENTS and PROCEDURES

1. Complete the volunteer application.
2. Arrange an interview with the Center Director.
3. Obtain written proof of a negative TB test before beginning to volunteer at a center.
4. We encourage you to volunteer at least 4 to 8 hours a week. The minimum commitment we can accept is 4 hours a week. The maximum amount of time is 16 hours a week.
5. You will be assigned to a center based on program need and your interest.
6. Your commitment to a consistent time slot and center is important and we therefore require that you call when you cannot make it.

We thank you for volunteering, and look forward to your participation in our program. We anticipate that it will be a rewarding experience for you as well as for us.