



Early Childhood Services

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Full-Day and School-Day Programs available

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
UCRIVERSIDE

3333 Watkins Drive • Riverside, CA 92507

(951) 827-7454 • ecs.ucr.edu

Want to prepare your child for first grade?

Send them to college first.

PHILOSOPHY

Kindergarten at UCR Early Childhood Services is a child-centered program designed to best support learning in your five- or six-year-old child. Our unique curriculum meets the standards of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the California Department of Education, as well as rigid University of California standards.

We believe 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.

Finally, because we are 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.



STAFF

Teachers and administrative staff are selected based on state-required educational background and field experience. Our teachers hold valid California Child Development Teaching Permit; many have advanced degrees and years of early childhood experience.

Kindergarten classes operate with a 1:12 teacher-student ratio, two teachers with a maximum of 24 students. Individual attention is the rule, not the exception.

DAYS OF OPERATION

UCR Early Childhood Services is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., on days when the university is open. Two Kindergarten programs are available: School Day (8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.) or Extended Day programs (7:30 a.m.–6 p.m.).



TUITION

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



CURRICULUM

The kindergarten curriculum is “thematic based” and integrated in its approach. It 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 Motor Skills 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 our university location through guest presenters and visits to various campus locations.

NUTRITION

A fresh breakfast, hot lunch and healthy afternoon snacks — all provided by UCR Dining Services — are served daily as part of the regular tuition. The menu is filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and low-fat milk; no sugary snacks or carbonated beverages are served. Special meals are provided for students with food allergies or specific dietary requirements.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We work hard to involve parents in all aspects of the learning environment, including participation in field trips and such in-class activities as Halloween Sing-Along and Parade, November Feast, 100-Day Museum, Parent Day, Guest Reader opportunities, cultural exchanges and other special events.

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



FACILITY

Our original facility opened in 1996 as the UCR Child Development Center. The building, accessed from Waktins 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.

The center has seven classrooms at each building, plus kitchen, laundry area, administrative offices and meeting rooms. The program functions as lab school for students and researchers.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

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 five years old on or before September 1 to be eligible to start Kindergarten in the fall.

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

The Child Development Center is 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, familial 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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