



YOUNG CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Program Description and Goals

Administered by the College of Education
Early Childhood Education Program
James Madison University

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Young Children's Program is an early learning program operated by the James Madison University College of Education. Its curriculum, environment, and organization are based on professional standards and knowledge of how young children learn and develop. The program operates Monday through Friday with a morning session for three-year-olds and an afternoon session for four-year-olds. Each class is led by a master teacher and a support staff of students.

The Young Children's Program recognizes that children's development is best facilitated through cooperative efforts of families and school. Family members are welcome contributors to the ongoing curriculum and are encouraged to be involved in ways that support their children's adjustment and growth. Avenues for communication are varied and personal in order to meet the needs of all families.

In addition to providing a quality educational experience for children and their families, the Young Children's Program serves as a laboratory site for JMU teacher education students. The opportunity to observe and interact with children under the careful supervision of early childhood professionals is critical in the preparation of high quality teachers. The presence of student staff also ensures that each child receives individual attention as needed and the opportunity to form friendships with other caring adults. Because the YCP operates as a laboratory school, it also serves as a site for student and faculty research. Specific guidelines are followed to protect the privacy of all children and families.

The YCP is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and licensed as a child care facility by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Young Children's Program provides an environment designed to help each child

- Grow in independence and self-sufficiency
- Develop enthusiasm and skills for learning
- Grow in the ability to interact positively with others
- Increase personal awareness and self-discipline
- Grow in the ability to use language effectively
- Value individual creativity and self-expression
- Construct knowledge through experience and inquiry
- Develop and refine motor skills
- Make choices that support personal wellness

The Young Children's Program provides an environment designed to help families

- Participate meaningfully in their children's educational experience
- Grow in their understanding of child development and appropriate early education
- Develop a support network with other families in the program
- Become more familiar with family support resources within the community



YOUNG CHILDREN'S PROGRAM Admission Policies

Administered by the College of Education
Early Childhood Education Program
James Madison University

- New children are admitted to the Young Children's Program as 3-year olds and to fill vacancies in the 4-year old class based on the date of application and consideration for the gender and ethnic composition of each class.
- A non-refundable fee of \$10 is required at the time of application to cover processing costs. Checks should be made payable to JMU Young Children's Program with the notation "Application Fee".
- It is the responsibility of each family to be sure contact information is kept current. Changes of address and/or phone numbers should be reported to the YCP secretary (568-6292) at the address below.
- Tuition is charged for all children enrolled in the Young Children's Program. The amount is communicated in the commitment letter sent to applicants in February of the school year for which they applied. Tuition payments are expected on or before the due date.
- Enrollment is limited to 13 three-year olds and 16 four-year olds. Applications are recorded on the date they are received in the YCP secretary's office. Notification of acceptance is made in writing to parents by March 1 of the school year for which they applied. Applications remain on file and are reconsidered if vacancies occur.
- A non-refundable deposit is due by April 1 to formalize each child's acceptance. The remaining tuition is expected in monthly installments during the school year. Lump sum payments are also acceptable.
- Verification of each child's identity and age is required by the Virginia Department of Social Services. If you do not have a birth certificate for your child, we encourage you to apply for one as soon as possible.
- Every child entering the Young Children's Program must have on file a completed medical form signed by a physician. This must contain verification of a physical examination and up-to-date immunization record. These forms are mailed to families with acceptance letters in the spring.
- The Young Children's Program is a laboratory school operated by the JMU College of Education. As such, its mission includes presentation of an exemplary program for young children, as well as educational services to teacher education students and faculty. It is expected that parents who choose to send their child to a laboratory school understand and support the vital role it serves in the development of education professionals.
- Because the YCP depends on student staff members to provide an appropriate adult-child ratio, days that are missed due to weather emergencies are not made up.
- The Coordinator of the JMU Young Children's Program maintains applications. Please forward new applications and all correspondence to: **Young Children's Program, Mrs. Becky Elia, Secretary, MSC 6909, Memorial 3100, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807.**



RETURN TO:
Young Children's Program
MSC 6909
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT JMU Young Children's Program

Full name of child _____

Sex _____ Date of birth _____
(month/day/year)

Specify the session for which you are applying by checking the appropriate box & completing the school year. The session must correspond with the cutoff date for entrance to public school kindergarten (the child's age by September 30).

3-year old class, school year _____ 4-year old class, school year _____

Does this child have any conditions which might require special attention? yes no

If yes, please explain _____

Name(s) of parents or guardians _____

Complete address _____

Home telephone number _____

Father's work number _____ E-mail address: _____

Mother's work number _____ E-mail address: _____

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH FAMILY TO BE SURE CONTACT INFORMATION IS KEPT CURRENT. CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBERS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE YCP SECRETARY (568-6292), MSC 6909, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, HARRISONBURG, VA 22807.

Is either parent or guardian a member of the JMU faculty or staff? yes no

I have read the *Program Description and Goals and Admission Policies* on the attached sheet and agree to the conditions stated.

I am enclosing a check for \$10 made payable to **JMU Young Children's Program**.
(Please note **Application Fee** on the check.)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____

Confirmation Sent _____

Signature of parent or guardian

Date