

## **New Stanford Child Care Center** Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is this a new construction? Is it completed?**

Yes, the new Stanford child care center is a totally new construction. Teresa Rasco, the Director of the WorkLife Office has been working for the past two years with the Provost and Land, Buildings and Real Estate at Stanford to plan, design and construct this new center. It is a two story, residential style design which has been modeled on the CCLC in Downtown Palo Alto. It will be completed in late July/early August.

### **Have you used non-toxic materials? Is it “green”?**

Every effort has been made to use non-toxic materials when possible and to create an environment that is safe and healthy for children. Building codes were followed, Environmental Health and Safety was consulted and child care licensing requirements will be met by completion. The carpets are “non-gassing” and oak trees have been left intact to help with air quality and provide shade.

### **Will it have a small playground?**

No – it will have more than the 75 feet per child required by licensing. The play yard has been designed using guidance from child development professionals. Each age group will have access to a developmentally appropriate play area that will not require sharing of the playground or timed usage. A grove of beautiful oak trees have been retained to provide a natural, forested feel. There will be a large sand area, plenty of room to run and an emphasis on nature (lots of trees, dirt, plants and a trellis).

### **What about the balcony? Who will be upstairs?**

Only children 2 and up will be allowed upstairs. The upstairs houses the preschool classrooms, so it will primarily be used for children 3-5. The balcony will not be used except in the event of an emergency. It is to be considered an escape route only and the doors to the balcony will be kept locked on a daily basis.

### **What kind of security will there be to enter the center?**

There will be a key code entry system for parents, similar to the ones used in other CCLC program sites. There will also be a daily sign-in/sign-out process, requiring each person picking up a child, if not the primary parent or caregiver, to be identified by teachers and/or the Director. If some one new will be picking up your child on a given day, you will need to provide written permission and inform the person that s/he will be asked for an ID.

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#### What will the ratios be?

	Teacher:Child	Group Size
Infants – two rooms of 9 each	1:3	9
Toddlers	1:4	16
Two's (Junior Preschool)	1:6	18
Three's (Preschool)	1:9	18
4's and 5's (Pre-Kindergarten)	1:10	20

#### How will diversity be addressed?

CCLC uses a family-focused approach to child development, meaning that the program will ask the parents and families of the children enrolled to help define and develop the multicultural curriculum. CCLC will celebrate diversity through representing a variety of life styles, foods, and celebrations, including some of those specific to the Stanford community. Parents are encouraged to bring in their cultural experiences and traditions and share their families with the center.

#### What do you look for in a Head Teacher?

Recruitment for teachers is already underway. CCLC is searching for Head Teachers who, preferably, hold BA's in Child Development or a related field and have experience in an early childhood environment.

#### Will there be a Head Teacher per room or per area?

Each classroom will have a Head Teacher, several Teachers (as appropriate for the age group, ratio and group size) and a "Floater" who provides breaks for regular teachers and moves between classrooms.

#### Can we switch schedules once enrolled – like part-time to full-time?

In a typical child care program that is already running, parents can request a schedule change and would be placed on a waiting list for a particular schedule. Because this center will be brand new, all schedules will be set for the year. Only if another family drops will there be an opportunity for a schedule change in this situation, and offering that would be up to the discretion of the Director.

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#### **When is naptime?**

In a full day program, nap time is generally after lunch, around 1-3 or 12:30-2:30 (which usually includes time for transition to mats, settling in, getting up and putting mats away). Each room will have its own nap schedule and these will be posted once the schedules and curriculum are set by the Director and staff. Licensing requires that all children 5 and under be provided an hour of uninterrupted rest-time.

#### **How will we know when activities start?**

Once the schedules are created by the Director and staff, they will be posted in the classrooms and either emailed or placed in parent folders. Parents are always welcome to ask questions about activities and request more information about their child's day. Each room typically posts its activities, themes and field trips on a general board inside or outside of the classroom weekly.

#### **Are meals provided? Is lunch provided?**

Two snacks a day are provided by the program (for children who are eating table foods and infants require bottles prepared by parents). There are two options for lunch: (1) purchasing the hot lunches provided by our food vendor (name and details to be announced) or (2) parents provide a packed lunch daily. If your child/ren have/has food allergies, you will need to notify the Director so that alternative snacks can be provided and staff can take precautions in the classroom. The program will be NUT-FREE, meaning that snacks containing nuts will not be served and families will be asked to keep nut containing foods at home.

#### **Will organic food be served, including organic milk?**

The program will purchase and provide organic produce for snacks as often as possible and will serve food that is as natural as possible. Many snacks will be purchased from Trader Joe's and will emphasize healthy and nutritious eating. Food being served to children will follow USDA program guidelines.

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#### **Will there be scholarships or sliding scale fees available?**

This year, there are no scholarships or sliding fees available (except for the existing child care subsidies through the WorkLife Office for Stanford employees listed below). The WorkLife Office will pursue this avenue during the following academic year, and it is recommended that those needing support contact their department for assistance.

Stanford University employees who work at least 50% time are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Grant – contact: Denise Bebb [dbebb@stanford.edu](mailto:dbebb@stanford.edu) or 723-2660. There is an additional grant available for Junior Faculty – please ask about the Junior Faculty Child Care Assistance Program.

Parents who are both employed full-time or who are full-time students may qualify (income based) for the California State Subsidy Program. Contact the Subsidy Coordinator at Palo Alto Community Child Care at 650-493-2361 or Choices for Children (for the Alternative Payment Program) at 408-297-3295 for more information or assistance with applying.

#### **When is the center open? What is the start date?**

There will be two possible start dates: Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 2. Those who choose to start on August 25 will pay an additional amount for that week. Everyone else who enrolls will start on Sept.1. If you do not need child care until mid-September (when Stanford begins), you will have the opportunity to start your child early this way and offer him or her the best transition possible. Parents are encouraged to start their children early to provide a positive transition.

#### **Can parents stay with their children during the transition period?**

Of course! CCLC welcomes parents at any time to come and visit the classroom and to stay with their child during a transition. However, you are the best judge of how your child will do. Sometimes it is in the best interest of the child to leave when you feel the need to stay. Communicating with your child's teachers about how the transition is going will help you make this decision.

#### **What is a Needs and Service? When are they?**

A Needs and Service is CCLC's term for an appointment that each family receives with the Head Teacher of a child's new classroom to learn about a child firsthand from the primary experts on that child – the parents! Each family will be contacted by the Head Teacher of the enrolled child's classroom to set up this appointment before the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Will there be a breastfeeding room?**

No, there will not be a separate room designated for this purpose, but there will be plenty of extra space and rooms that are not in use. It will be a priority of staff (especially in the infant room) to point this out to nursing mothers. Mothers are also welcome to nurse in the infant classrooms.

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#### **What is the potty training philosophy and how will it be set-up?**

All of the classrooms, except for the infant rooms, have toilets. All children have individual “potty” schedules so toileting and potty-learning will be addressed on an individual basis. Potty learning is part of the curriculum in the Two’s rooms and teachers will try to reinforce what children are doing at home and will ask parents to do the same. There are no “potty training” requirements for any of the classrooms.

#### **Will this be a new career for teachers?**

CCLC will seek to hire experienced ECE teachers. Head Teachers will be expected to have experience in the childcare field. However, there may be some new teachers as well.

#### **What is the screening process for hiring new teachers?**

Teachers are required to pass a fingerprint and background check before being hired into a teaching position. Professional references will also be checked and candidates will have a phone screening, in-person interview and behavioral interview (meaning that CCLC will observe them interacting with children) before being hired.

#### **How proficiently will teachers be required to speak English? Will they be tested?**

English will be the primary language spoken in the center, however there will not be a proficiency test or requirement for teachers. Children between ages 0-5 benefit from hearing many different ways of speaking, communicating and learning language. Having teachers whose primary language is not English can be beneficial to children who are also bilingual and it supports the diversity philosophy of the program and the university. Stanford is a multicultural and multilingual community and seeks to support the diversity inherent in its student, staff and faculty populations.

#### **When can we meet the staff?**

The Head Teachers will contact the families to set up appointments for Needs and Services for the week before the center opens (August 25). There will be an Open House (TBA) before this week during which many of the staff who are already hired may be in attendance.

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#### Who is the new Director?

Her name is Kadie Albrecht. She has a BS in Child Development and ten years' experience. She comes to Stanford from CCLC's Kinderplex childcare program, which she ran for the past 4 years. She was handpicked by CEO, Fran Durekas because of her experience in opening and running a new child care center.

Kadie has over 10 years teaching/directing experience in infant to school-age programs. An active member of several early childhood professional organizations, Kadie believes in excellent customer service, open communication with families and staff as well as a hands-on approach within the program. Therefore, Kadie can often be found in the classroom working with staff and conducting observations.