

FAQ'S ABOUT KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT AT THE LUTZ CENTER

What is the curriculum of the Kindergarten Enrichment program? Is it just babysitting?

Our Program is designed to enrich the ever-expanding horizons of kindergarten children. We strive to provide an exciting afternoon in a classroom environment exploring topics of interest through art, music, science, social studies, cooking, drama, creative movement, sports, and group games. Children develop social skills in a supportive environment with a true sense of community. Curriculum units are selected by the children to make learning more meaningful and interesting. Literacy skills are reinforced through journaling and there is plenty of time for outdoor and gym play. Jewish holidays and customs are celebrated from a cultural point of view through music, cooking, stories and crafts. Shabbat is celebrated every Friday with songs, blessings and a special snack of challah. Many parents tell us that their child learns more in our program than in morning kindergarten!

Can my child be in morning or afternoon kindergarten and attend your program?

Our Kindergarten Enrichment Program is designed for children who attend morning kindergarten in Highland Park and Deerfield schools. The program runs from 11:30 AM to as late as 6:00 PM. Care is also available before school from 7:30 AM at our Center for HP students with transportation to the schools. Unfortunately, we do not have room at our Center to provide kindergarten enrichment for children in afternoon kindergarten .

Does my child have to attend until 6:00 PM every day?

Although the program runs till 6:00 PM, parents are welcome to pick up anytime from 3:30 PM onward. Don't be surprised, however, if your child asks you to come back later because they are having so much fun!

Does my child have to attend every day?

You may select the days you want your child to attend with a two-day-per-week minimum.

How will my child get to the JCYS Lutz Center ?

Kindergarten children are picked up from their schools after morning kindergarten by either District 112 buses (from Sherwood, Red Oak, Braeside and Ravinia Schools) or by JCYS vehicles and transported to the JCYS Lutz Center. Our van drivers have had background checks and have been certified by the state of Illinois. Our vans comply with the safety code of Illinois and are equipped with booster seats and harnesses or shoulder belts. The first days of the program our directors ride on the vans with the children.

What happens after my child arrives at the Center?

The children are met at the door by one of the kindergarten teachers and checked in. The children are helped to hang up their back packs and escorted outside to the fenced-in play lot. Play is supervised by our Kindergarten Enrichment teachers.

Do we have to send lunch?

No, we provide a nutritious hot lunch that meets DCFS regulations as well as an afternoon snack of fresh fruit, cheese, crackers, etc.

Does my child have to nap?

In accordance with DCFS regulations, all children have a brief, half-hour-long rest time. They can read on their cots or listen along to a story on tape.

What happens when the public schools are closed?

We offer full-day events with exciting field trips together with our 1st-5th graders on all days that our center is open and public school is closed. You will have the opportunity to sign up a few weeks in advance for an additional fee. We also offer Winter and Spring Break Camps.

Are there other activities available at the Center for my kindergarten child?

You may choose to also enroll your child in an organized sports or afternoon Spanish class. We also run Saturday night undnighnters from 5:30-10:30 PM for children in K-5th grade. These are optional and provided for an additional fee.

Are there scholarships available?

You may submit a scholarship application when registering. JCYS provides some assistance based on family income and extenuating circumstances. We encourage you to apply. Call the JCYS office and we will send you an application.