The Child Development Center and Laboratory School at Moorpark College is a nationally recognized and accredited program and state licensed child care program. We offer an exemplary early care and education experience for children ages 2 through 5 years. Our comprehensive program is based on current brain research ensuring optimal development in the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of each individual child.

Philosophy Statement

What is a Laboratory School?

Accreditation

Our Staff

Programs
We believe that a preschool program should be respectful, encouraging, and personalized to meet the needs of young children and their families. The first five years of life are crucial for the development of the child as a whole person; therefore, we strive to enhance the child’s growth in not only the intellectual domain, but also the physical, social, emotional and creative domains.

We believe that learning is an active and experimental process which is best accomplished when children are able to pursue their own unique interests. As teachers, we recognize that children have individual strengths and come to us with an innate desire to learn. We provide an environment that fosters growth and builds an academic foundation by encouraging children to learn about their world through active participation, meaningful language, literacy, math and science experiences, and hands on approaches to understanding their senses, feelings and mind.

We also believe that families are the child’s primary teacher and source of comfort. We wish to develop relationships with families, so that as a community we can work together to support our children.

As a laboratory school, it is our mission to provide an environment that encourages children, families, teachers, and students to learn together. We continually endeavor to be a model of quality and high-standards for the community and the profession.
What is a Laboratory School?

At Moorpark College, being a “lab” school means that we are model preschool program, as well as an integral part of the Child Development Instructional department. The Child Development Center serves as a training institution for the College with an outstanding teaching and administrative staff that attract both quality students interested in Child Development professions and families who are interested in quality early childhood education for their children.

Our highly qualified teaching staff serve as mentors to practicum students, interns, observers and research students. Students are expected to be a careful observers of children’s development. They are assigned to a regular classroom where they receive intensive mentoring from our superior staff. In addition, our observation rooms are utilized by a variety of campus disciplines for child study and research.

We participate in the ongoing activities of the College campus and explore the campus environment regularly with the children. Moorpark College provides our building and grounds, the upkeep, administrative staff, technology support, and public safety, as well as access to a variety of resources not available to typical Child Development programs, such as America’s Teaching Zoo.
NAEYC Accreditation

We are proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standard. NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, Moorpark Child Development Center went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC Assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the ten program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs are also subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

“The NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for child care centers and other early childhood programs,” said Jerlean E. Daniel, Ph.D, executive director of NAEYC. “Having earned NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that Moorpark Child Development Center is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education.”
Moorpark CDC Staff

The Center is staffed with a Program Director, an Administrative Assistant, full-time Child Development Associates and part-time Child Development Assistants who are all employees of the Ventura County Community College District. Our Child Development Associates and Assistants are well-educated, degreed, and experienced teachers of both child and adult learners. The Associate and Assistant teachers share equitably in planning and implementing curriculum with children, documentation, and parent contacts. Additionally, they supervise and advise Child Development practicum students and interns. The Director works with teachers, children, parents and the community. She facilitates collaboration between College faculty and Center teachers, ensuring that the Center continues to incorporate new developments within the field of Early Childhood Education. Our Administrative Assistant manages the Center Office and is an important point of contact for all Center families.

In addition to the permanent staff, several Moorpark College students are hired each semester to work as classroom and office aides. The students working in the classroom are all recognized and screened by the state of California as qualified Early Childhood Teachers. Many of these students stay with the program over several semesters and assume increasing responsibility as they gain experience and complete advanced coursework at the College working towards their career goals and degrees.

Child Development practicum students and interns are preparing for a variety of careers working with children and families. While these students do not supervise children outside the presence of a paid staff member, their presence makes it possible for children to participate in many small group experiences and one-on-one interactions with adults. College Child Development faculty facilitate students’ work in the lab school, and engage them in ongoing dialogue and reflection about teaching, learning, and child development.
Programs/Security

As we are a demonstration site of best practices in the field of Early Childhood Education, our classes are comprised of several mixed-age groupings of children. We offer one class of children ages two to three years and several classes of three to five year-old children, including children with disabilities or other special needs as is appropriate. Children will be engaged in active learning throughout the day, moving freely through indoor and outdoor learning areas. Low ratios allow for small group experiences, individualized attention, and ongoing adult-child interactions daily.

Program Options are as follows:

Program Option 1: Morning Preschool Program
Available Monday through Friday 8:30am to 11:30am

Lunch Bunch
Children may stay an extra 1.5 hours after their regular morning program to enjoy lunch and additional socializing and playtime for an additional fee.

Program Option 2: Afternoon Preschool Program
Available Monday through Thursday 1pm to 4pm
The afternoon class is also available to all college students at a discounted tuition rate.

Program Option 3: Full Day Preschool Program
Available Monday through Thursday 8am to 4pm and Fridays from 8am to 1pm
Children begin their day in a morning preschool class at 8am and transition to the afternoon classroom at 1pm, after lunch and rest time. Additional learning experiences, outdoor times, and snack finish their day. Children in the are picked up by 4pm Mon. through Thurs. and 1pm on Friday.

Enrichment Programs
Enrichment classes are taught by qualified teachers and focus on skills or experiences such as cooking, sewing, wood-working, dancing, etc.

Security:
At Moorpark CDC, security is a primary focus. Every person who enters and exits must sign in and be identified by staff at the front desk. Anyone without proper ID will not be permitted into the center hallway or classrooms. Children must be signed in and out each day by their parent or caregiver. Anyone working with children will be fingerprinted, and is identifiable by a name tag. The college police department is located just below the CDC and frequently patrols our grounds.