



## Important Dates

### SUMMER 2017

#### Session 1

May 30 – June 30 (5wks)

#### Session 2

July 3 – Aug 4 (5wks)

### Optional Break Weeks:

May 8 - 12

May 15 -19

May 22- 26

### Center Closed Dates

#### Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

#### Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4

### Professional Development Week

August 7 -11

### Swimming Lessons

Session 1: 6/19-29 (8 lessons)

Session 2: 7/3-13 (8 lessons)

Please call (618) 650-2556  
For more information.

### Center Hours

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

\*10% sibling discount for oldest children

## Summer Program – School Age

Summer is around the corner and the staff at the Early Childhood Center is already busy making plans for an exciting summer. We are looking forward to swimming lessons, exploring the gardens, and enjoying summer projects and activities that reinforce the learning objectives children have accomplished throughout the school year. Information regarding swimming lessons and other summer activities will follow.

The Early Childhood Center offers a unique blend of Reggio-inspired, project-based learning, in conjunction with exposure to the needed Illinois Early Learning Standards. The Reggio Emilia approach offers a “negotiated” curriculum, where children work together with their teacher to forge a path of knowledge.

Children are active participants in the learning process. Through collaboration, shared experiences, and in-depth exploration of unique topics, they develop a rich understanding of the projects, which they undertake. Our project-based curriculum encourages children to be active participants in the learning process and to develop the skills needed to explore their ideas, interests, and questions in a meaningful way.

### **Teachers ensure that children are offered broad experiences in the following content areas:**

#### **Science and Nature**

Because the Early Childhood Center staff recognizes that children need experiences in nature, we have worked to create the first certified Arbor Day Foundation Nature Explorer Classroom in the area. Nature provides a multitude of resources for children to learn about themselves, about others, and about their world. By using materials from nature to introduce children to the basic concepts of science inquiry, we are providing them with the opportunity to develop a bond with nature and the outdoors. Children will also spend time tending to (and sampling) the Center’s vegetable gardens.

#### **Art**

Children will have the opportunity to explore art as they dabble in a range of mediums, including drawing, painting, sculpting, and mixed media. We believe art serves as a visual representation of what children understand and are thinking. Children will have a chance to make their own mark while gaining an appreciation of art through a variety of projects. They will become familiar with artist like Andy Goldsworthy and others, by studying their work and creating our own art installations.

#### **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)**

With guidance from SIUE’s STEM Lab and Engineering department, children will be introduced to activities designed to reinforce verbal, mechanical, and creative problem solving skills. These experiences are interactive; open the possibility of multiple solutions, add context for rich mathematical, scientific, and technological conceptual development, and lend inspiration for systems thinking, modeling, and analysis.

#### **Mind and Body**

Movement not only helps ensure physical fitness, but significantly stimulates learning physiologically. Throughout the summer, children will have opportunities to participate in active play including swimming lessons, games, exercises and music and movement activities. Our goal is to help strengthen the children’s sense of what they can do - and inspire them to do more. Games, indoor/outdoor activities and challenges are enhanced by weekly visits to the indoor swimming pool at the Vadalabene Center, the Bowling Alley in the student center, nature walks and field trips around the area.

#### **Literacy**

Literacy is embedded in all projects with lots of reading, writing and discussion activities. Each day children will be read to from a variety of books to extend their thinking and to help them make the important connection to the joy of reading.

**To ensure that the space you want will be available, please complete the attached Summer Parent School Agreement and return it to the ECC office by Friday, March 17, 2017.**