UCI Infant Toddler Center

Virtual tour









Welcome to ITC!







UCI Infant Toddler Center

Location: 533 California Ave, Irvine CA 92617

Hours: 7:30am- 5:30pm (Monday - Friday)

Enrollment: Children ages 3 months- 2.5 years. Available to UCI students, staff, and faculty only. Subsidized for full time students by a grant from the California Department of Education.

Infant Toddler Center Telephone: (949) 824-4754

Assistant Director: Denise McPartlan - dmcp@uci.edu or (949) 824-3009

Program: We serve three age groups listed below. Infants–1:3 ratio, group size of 6 children Older Infants–1:3 ratio, group size 6 of children Toddlers– 1:4 ratio, group size of 12 children If you have questions about billing or enrollment/waitlists, you can call the Child Care Services Office at (949) 824-2100.

COVID 19 Guidance

UCI announced that beginning Saturday, March 19, 2022, the University will be easing up on some of our COVID-19 campus protocols (<u>https://uci.edu/coronavirus/</u>). Face coverings will be recommended indoors but not required, regardless of vaccination status, and will be optional outdoors. This guidance aligns with the California Department of Public Health and the CDC and applies to childcare settings as well as TK-12th grade schools.

For our staff and children ages 2 and older, the decision to wear (or not wear) a face covering will be a personal choice. If you would like your child to continue wearing a face covering while at the center, please let your child's teacher know and be sure to bring the required number of face coverings to school each day (3). We know that there are many factors that go into the decision to wearing a face covering or not and we will support and respect the decisions made by families and staff.

As always, we will be working with our campus COVID-19 response team and will adjust any protocols as needed in case of a rise in infection rates or new public health guidance.

Licensed, 5 Star Site

ITC is licensed by the State of California Department of Social Services, and is in good standing with compliance visits.

ITC voluntarily participates in Quality Start OC, a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). ITC has achieved the highest rating of 5 stars. We are very proud of this accomplishment.



What ITC Provides

ITC provides:

- Similac & Enfamil Iron Fortified Formula (child's formula must be readily available for purchase) *Parents provide labeled baby bottles*
- Gerber baby food
- Food & milk (morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack)
 - \circ Whole milk for children 12-24 months, 1% for children 2 & up
- Signature Care diapers (from Albertsons) and Kirkland baby wipes
 - Preference for a different brand will be provided by family
- Cribs, cots and bedding for naps
- Bibs, spoons and dishes, burp cloths
- Written daily record of child's activities, including foods eaten, naps, diapers

Relationships and Partnerships

- Central to the philosophy of the Infant Toddler Center is the premise that children need to feel physically and emotionally safe in order to achieve their maximum potential in all areas of development. "All babies and toddlers need positive early learning experiences to foster their intellectual, social and emotional development and lay the foundation for later school success." *(source: Zero To Three)*
- Parents, caregivers, and children form a respectful, responsive and reciprocal partnership with the goal in mind of providing as much continuity as possible between home and school. Of primary concern is the establishment of a strong emotional bond between caregivers and children. Additionally, we are interested in strengthening families to meet the varied demands of maintaining a career and a family in a rapidly changing world.

Individualized Care

At UCI Infant Toddler Center, we strive daily to provide high-quality, individualized, responsive and stimulating experiences that occur within the context of strong relationships and which are imbedded in everyday routines.

- Each child will have his/her own cubby, crib or cot, and place for personal belongings.
- Children under age 12 months are not all on the same schedule. They play, eat, and sleep according to their own schedule and based on information parents share during drop off time. We provide responsive care according to each child's individual needs and routine.
- By the time the children are about a year old, their routine is more predictable and similar to that of the other children. Typically they will follow a similar daily schedule. Having a routine that is generally the same each day provides consistency and structure for the children, which helps them to feel safe because they know what to expect.

UCI Child Care Services Curriculum Framework

The UCI Child Care Services Department uses a curriculum framework that encompasses the following areas:

- Outdoor Classroom--outdoor play and nature education
- **Kindness/Mindfulness**--teaching about empathy, compassion, respect, kindness, and mindfulness
- Inclusion/Anti bias curriculum--celebrating differences and including all members of our community

Curriculum

Curriculum for infants and toddlers is largely based on the following:

- Relationships: Respectful and responsive interactions
- Caregiving routines: Increasing awareness, fostering development and positive identity during mealtimes, diaper changes, nap times, etc.
- Carefully planned activities, materials, experiences and environments that are based on and responsive to children's developmental needs and interests. These include the following developmental areas:
 - Approaches to Learning and Self Regulation
 - Social and Emotional Development
 - Language and Literacy Development
 - Cognitive Development (including Math and Science)
 - Physical Development (including health, safety, personal care routines)

Sample Daily Classroom Routine

- 7:30 9:30 Arrivals, classroom activities 8:15- 8:45 Morning snack offered
- 9:30 11:30 Outdoor play, small groups/circle time
- 11:30-12 Lunch
- 12-2:30 Nap, quiet play
- 2:30-3:30 Afternoon snack (as children wake up), free play in classroom
- 3:30-4:30 Outdoor play
- 4:30 5:30 Free play in classroom as parents pick up

* Diapers and pottying will be done as needed throughout the day * Infant bottles and feeding will be offered according to infant food plan or on demand.



Teaching Staff

Primary caregivers are assigned to each classroom. Primary caregivers are full time career staff who have AA or bachelor degrees with credit-based training in early childhood education, and who hold child development permits.

- All career staff are trained, certified and current for CPR and first aid.
- Health and criminal background screenings are completed on all staff prior to working.
- Staff must complete ongoing professional growth hours.
- All career staff have completed specialized infant toddler training.

UCI Student Employees (TAs)

Our center operates with the help of our undergraduate UCI employees, teacher aides (TAs). We hire student employees who share a keen interest in gaining and/or furthering their experience with infants & toddlers specifically. They work under the supervision of our career teachers in the classrooms and undergo training with our assistant director.

Infant Room Environment



Infant Room Environment



Infant Room Environment



Older Infant Environment



Older Infant Environment



Toddler Room Environment





Toddler Room Environment



Outdoor Play Space









Outdoor Play



Outdoor Play









Outdoor Play Space



Teachers will bring out riding toys, balls, sand toys, and other materials for the children to play with.



Gardens











ITC has four garden beds where children can dig, plant seeds, and water plants that they are growing. We also have a small orchard that includes apple, lemon, peach, and avocado trees.

Tending a garden with children is one of the ways we model and teach kindness, compassion, and care for our earth and each other.



Sleeping



All children are supervised by staff while sleeping.



Infants sleep in a crib until they are one year old. We have a safe sleep policy for infants up to 12 months old.

Children ages 12 months and up sleep on cots. ITC provides all the bedding.

Resources for Families



www.zerotothree.org

www.helpmegrowoc.org

For Families (naeyc.org)

https://outdoorclassroomproject.org/

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/parenting_family

Once enrollment is confirmed

<u>Paperwork</u>: An enrollment packet will be given to the family with several forms to fill out. The child will need a physical and an immunization record prior to the first day. The family will complete a child history form in order to give the center staff some background about your child and family.

<u>Intake appointment</u>: The director will set up a virtual intake appointment with the family prior to the first day of enrollment. During this zoom meeting, we will discuss your child's needs, your family's preferences, and anything you feel is important for us to know. You will meet your child's teacher as well. This appointment generally lasts 1-1.5 hours and is done via zoom.

<u>First week of care</u>: To ensure a smooth and positive experience for your child, the first week of attendance will consist of a gradual transition to the program. It will generally look like this:

- Day 1 1 hour visit with one parent present from 10am-11am
- Day 2 Child attends for 2 hours 9am to 11am
- Day 3 Child attends: Infants-- 9am to 1pm or Older Infants/Toddlers-- 9 to 12 (staying for lunch)
- Day 4 Child attends for 6 hours 9am to 3pm
- Day 5 Child attends for 8 hours 9am to 5pm

For more information and waiting list

Please visit <u>www.childcare.uci.edu</u> to learn more about our programs.

If you wish to apply to the waitlist, go to the Admissions tab, download the application, and mail the completed form and a \$50 application fee to:

> UCI Child Care Services Irvine, CA 92697-2250

For enrollment/wait list questions, please call 949-824-2100.