



Grand Valley State University Children's Enrichment Center

since 1974

Overview:

- ▶ Our mission
- ▶ The Center's History
- ▶ How we operate now
- ▶ What we offer throughout the day/year
- ▶ What we offer to families
- ▶ What makes us the “Littlest Lakers”
- ▶ How we utilize the campus
- ▶ The Future of the CEC
- ▶ Questions?



The Centers Mission:

- Our mission is to educate children, families, and students to shape their lives and societies in order to nurture habits of intellectual growth, curiosity, and a love for learning.



History:

- ▶ The Children's Center was originally housed in a ranch style home on Lake Michigan Drive near the entrance to Grand Valley State University. The original Center was comprised of two houses.
- ▶ The Children's Center was established in the early 1970s shortly after Grand Valley College was started.
- ▶ The Center was operated by undergraduate students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at Grand Valley College.



Continued:

- ▶ In 1987 the Children's Center had its first full-time on-site director; Mary Ann Krause until 2007.
- ▶ During her term as director the Children's Center was moved onto campus. Construction on the new building at its present location was completed in 1995. The building was designed with an open floor plan. The center operated as a drop in center.
- ▶ During this time the main mission of the Children's Center was to provide childcare services for families and students.
- ▶ Along with offering hands on educational experiences for GVSUs students. These practices are still being continued today.
- ▶ In 2005, the Children's Center became the first childcare center in Ottawa County to become accredited through the National Association for Young Children (NAEYC).



National Association for the
Education of Young Children



Continued:

- ▶ In the fall of 2008 the Children's Center underwent some major structural and programmatic changes.
- ▶ The Center was now known as the Children's Enrichment Center (CEC).
- ▶ After being an open floor plan the Center now had 2 classrooms: Beginner Preschool and Preschool.
- ▶ The Center no longer operated as a drop in center.
- ▶ Under the new administration there was a desire to align the CEC program with GVSU's mission and values.
- ▶ Increased awareness of the CEC on campus enabled a third classroom to be added; Beginner Preschool 2 in 2009. Enrollment at this time was over 50 families, serving mostly faculty/staff and student families.



How we operate now:

- ▶ The CEC runs a year round preschool program serving children ages 2.5 years - 5 years of age with 3 preschool classrooms.
- ▶ Each classroom has a full-time lead teacher with a BA/BS in education or education related field.
- ▶ Before and after school care is provided for local Allendale elementary students up to age 12 with transportation provided by Allendale Public School Transportation.



What we offer throughout the day/year:



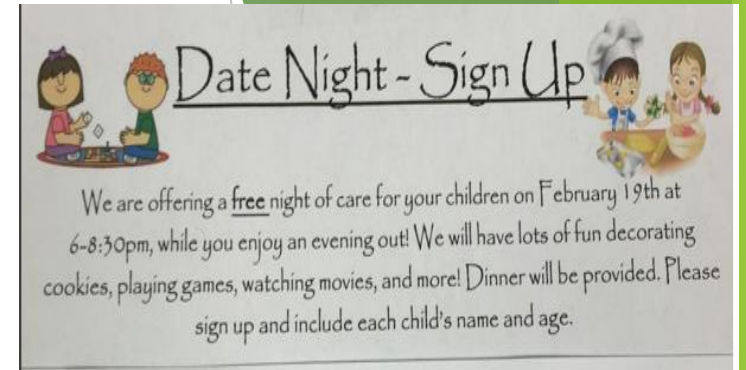
- ▶ Healthy meals served meet the CACFP food guidelines
- ▶ NAEYC accredited for the past 11 years
 - ▶ Teacher to child ratios 1:8 in P1 and P2 and 1:10 in P3
 - ▶ Meals are served family style

- ▶ Structured routine and schedules
 - ▶ Creative Curriculum based and Zoophonics
- ▶ State licensed Center
- ▶ Family conferences twice a year
- ▶ During the months of May- October we take weekly trips to the farmers market
- ▶ Nature or educational walks on campus
- ▶ Gardening opportunities on our playground
- ▶ Visits from the local Allendale Fire Department and GVSU Police Department



What we offer to families:

- ▶ Programs and Events we offer to families:
 - ▶ Free Date Nights every 2-3 months during the school year
 - ▶ Free Carnival during the month of April
 - ▶ Holiday parties
 - ▶ 2 scheduled field trips a year
 - ▶ Preschool graduation



What makes us the “Littlest Lakers”:

- ▶ Our students at the Children’s Enrichment Center are Grand Valley State University’s youngest students in attendance.
- ▶ On average most children do not know what a university is and or even get to experience one until they are much older.
- ▶ Our children have been able to be a part of such a wonderful opportunity at such a young age.
- ▶ Our student’s at the CEC are already interested in the concept of furthering education such as college and some children will already tell you that someday they will go to college at GVSU.
- ▶ Being a part of the GVSU campus has provided our center the opportunity and advantage to offer our families a greater experience than any of our competitors.
- ▶ As a center we are able to expand our student’s learning far beyond the classroom and out onto Grand Valley’s campus.
- ▶ Our center is currently teamed and continues to make connections with many other departments, faculty, and staff on campus to better provide more learning opportunities and experiences for our students.
- ▶ We love being a part of Grand Valley State University and having the ability to offer our families and our Little Lakers the best life and educational experiences possible.



How we utilize the campus:

Laker Village



Laker Field House



Snack Outside



Outdoor Basketball Courts



Fountains



Arboretum



Exploring Art

Farmer's Market



Kirkhof



Library



Intramural fields



How we connect to campus:

- ▶ Our support staff
- ▶ Observation students
 - ▶ Psychology
 - ▶ Education
- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Practicum students
- ▶ Alpha Phi Omega's
- ▶ Art- Dance
- ▶ Goodwill
- ▶ Departments
 - ▶ Math
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Nursing
 - ▶ Psychology
 - ▶ Education
- ▶ Giving back to the Campus
- ▶ Student Parent Group

