Mesa Child Development Center
For children 2 1/2 to 5 years old, in a mixed age group

Part-time Programs
Full Day: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Morning Sessions: 8 a.m. – noon, or 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Afternoon Session: 12:30–4:30 p.m.

Vision
To contribute to a bias-free society, to teach children to be world citizens, to build community among families of all cultures and backgrounds coming to UC San Diego, and to utilize all available resources from the campus community that can contribute to the child’s total development.

Educational Goals
We strive to promote the well-being of the child and family by providing high-quality child care in an early childhood education setting.

Our educational goals are:
• To provide a rich, safe and healthy environment that stimulates creative learning and satisfies a child’s natural curiosity
• To cultivate a lifelong world view by embracing tolerance, respect and appreciation for human diversity and the fair treatment of all people
• To promote self-esteem by accepting a child’s failures and successes to enable him or her to manage personal feelings
• To foster a child’s development through interactive pursuits with the physical, social and natural world in which we live
• To pursue and maintain accreditation from the National Association of Education for Young Children as a high-quality program for young children

Philosophy
Inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, the Mesa Child Development Center is committed to hands-on, child-driven learning in which children are initiators of their own discovery, parents are collaborators, and teachers are facilitators. We seek to bridge family, school and community and create an awareness of global inclusivity by understanding the impact of culture on families. Collaboration between teachers, parents, children and staff is a key element of our program.

More Information
For details about Early Childhood Education Center and Mesa Child Development Center programs, current tuition rates and subsidized care, visit http://child.ucsd.edu.

The University of California, San Diego provides equal access to and equal opportunity in its services and employment and implements student and employment affirmative action programs.

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Designed by RM&P Media Services
UC San Diego offers full-time child care programs at the Early Childhood Education Center and a part-time child care program at the Mesa Child Development Center. ECEC operates year-round and is open to children of full-time UC San Diego students, staff and faculty.

**Early Childhood Education Center**

For children 3 months to 6 years old

**Full-time Programs**

Regular hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
After hours: 5–6 p.m. (additional fee applies)

Tuition for Early Childhood Education Center programs includes a nutritious breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Additional children from the same family receive a 10% tuition discount.

Prices are slightly higher for those not affiliated with UC San Diego. Parents who meet income guidelines may be eligible for subsidized care.

**Mission**

To provide high-quality child care, following the standards of the National Association for Education of Young Children to serve and support the diverse UC San Diego community.

**Developmental Programs**

Following Piaget’s Theory of Learning, we offer an open classroom format where children have opportunities to initiate their own activities and take responsibility for completing them. The ability to initiate learning through purposeful play serves as their foundation for lifelong learning skills necessary for personal, academic and professional success.

Young infant program (3 to 12 months): Modeled after collaborative research and guidelines developed by the California Department of Education and the WestEd educational laboratory, the young infant program was designed to be an extension of the family unit. The program facilitates infants’ natural intellectual development.

Infant program (11 months and walking to 24 months): The infant program provides individual attention to help infants feel secure as they make the transition from home to the center. The daily schedule is designed to meet infants’ physical and psychological needs (e.g., morning and afternoon naps, snacks, lunch and regular diaper changes). During learning and play periods, teachers encourage children to move freely among indoor and outdoor activities.

Toddler program (2 to 3 years): This program is designed to increase toddlers’ autonomy, self-motivation and self-selection of activities and allows children to work together in small groups. Toddlers choose from activities designed to stimulate small muscle coordination and development of cognitive processes, such as language acquisition, reading, writing and math skills.

Preschool program (3 to 5 years): This program facilitates many areas of growth in young children and includes the following types of activities:

- Writing and computer projects that promote development of literacy skills, fine motor control, hand-eye coordination and visual discrimination
- Listening tasks designed to enhance verbal expression, listening, comprehension and auditory discrimination
- Sensory experiences that allow children to experiment with a range of materials such as clay, sand, flour, mud, salt, water and other media for artistic expression
- Cognitive and experimental activities that illustrate concepts of cause and effect relationships, sequence, size, position, color, shape, time, quantity and comparison

Kindergarten program (5 to 6 years): Our curriculum follows guidelines established by the California Department of Education. Kindergartners work individually and in small groups to develop their reading, writing, math and science skills, in addition to engaging in creative activities and applied cognitive tasks. Formal instruction takes place 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily.

**Staff**

At both centers, classrooms are staffed with one lead teacher and 2-3 assistant teachers based on classroom size and child-to-adult ratio. All teachers are certified and carefully selected for their outstanding training, commitment and child care background.

**Parent Participation**

Parents of children attending both centers are encouraged to observe children at play, join in classroom activities and share skills to enrich the curriculum whenever possible. We believe that each family possesses its own ethnic and cultural background, values and beliefs. The quality of child care depends upon active parental involvement and all parents are invited to attend monthly Parent Advisory Board meetings.