

April 28, 2010

Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to announce that starting this Fall, UCLA will be offering a new Child Care option to all faculty, staff and student families with children or grandchildren ages 2 months to 5 years. The UCLA Westwood Child Care Center will be managed by Bright Horizons Family Solutions and is scheduled to open September 2010. The new center is conveniently located on the third level of the Westwood Market Place, above the Ralph's grocery store on Le Conte. It is expected to be licensed to care for over 200 children. This new project will allow UCLA to essentially meet the demand for child care at current tuition levels. This new child care center is a welcome addition to UCLA Early Care and Education (ECE) programs already in operation.

Please go to <http://centers.brighthorizons.com/uclawestwood/> for more information about this exciting campus-adjacent project or call (310) 481-0664 to speak with a Bright Horizons representative.

In addition, please be reminded that the UCLA Child Care Center continues to offer a number of other services in support of the child care needs of our community and are listed below. More information is found on the UCLA Health System Human Resources website under Useful Links at <http://hr.uclahealth.org/>

ECE Child Care Resource Program

Parents who wish to find a variety of community-based child care services are encouraged to contact the ECE Child Care Resource Program, a free-of-charge service for UCLA-affiliated families. Meet the coordinator of this program, Judy Bencivengo, at the Choosing Child Care forum, held at noon on the first Monday of the month at the Bruin Resource Center in the Student Services Building. You may also leave a voice mail message at (310) 825-8474 detailing your contact information and needs.

ECE Center-based Services

UCLA Early Care and Education operates three centers - the Fernald and Krieger centers on campus and the University Village Center at Family Student Housing at 3332 South Sepulveda Boulevard. The total licensed capacity of ECE is 325 spaces for preschool children ages 2 months to 6 years old, and 24 kindergarten spaces at University Village. All UCLA-affiliated parents of children ages 2 months to 6 years are eligible to enroll children in ECE centers. The program is now admitting for fall, with space available immediately for children who will be age-eligible for kindergarten in September 2011. The ECE web site provides program, child care tuition financial aid information and application forms at <http://www.ece.ucla.edu>.

Preschool Pathways to Science

UCLA ECE, in collaboration with the Gelman Cognitive Development lab at Rutgers University, has a unique approach to early learning specifically designed to prepare children for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. *Preschool Pathways to Science (Brookes, 2009)*, is a description of this curriculum. The book was reviewed in April, 2010 by the National Science Teacher's Association under "[NASTA Recommends](#)". The review states in part, "The authors integrate theory and teaching practices in a very complete way, introducing key science practices to be introduced to preschoolers." UCLA proceeds from the sale of this book go to supporting child care tuition scholarships for low income student families. Proceeds to Rutgers support research in early childhood issues.

Other Early Childhood Resources

Link to other UCLA early childhood programs and resources from the ECE web site, <http://www.ece.ucla.edu>. With this "menu" of child care options and resources, UCLA demonstrates a serious commitment to family support for UCLA faculty, staff and students.