



## EXPANDING TO INCLUDE INFANTS AND YOUNG TODDLERS

Currently, the Child Development Center enrolls a maximum of 28 children between the ages of 18 months and three years old. The longest waiting list is for this age group. The center also receives many requests for infant care. Additional funding is necessary to expand the number of children who can be enrolled in this age group and to add infant rooms for children from six to 17 months of age. This expansion would address the growing need for care and education for very young children, particularly those of single college-student mothers. A new wing would also expand the laboratories for the professional development and research missions of the center.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

#### Steve Hawthorne

Director of Advancement,  
College of Education, Health and Human Services  
330-672-0425  
[shawtho3@kent.edu](mailto:shawtho3@kent.edu)

#### Kent State University Foundation

P.O. Box 5190  
Kent, Ohio 44242-0001  
Phone: 330-672-2222  
Email: [advancement@kent.edu](mailto:advancement@kent.edu)  
[www.kent.edu/advancement](http://www.kent.edu/advancement)

*"Child-driven research is the heart of the school program and will help me to focus future inquiry and learning in my classroom."*

— Child Development Center visitor

### HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We can help you decide what and how to give. You may want to specify criteria for your gift. You may want to take advantage of tax savings, make a one-time contribution or a gift over multiple years. We can guide you through your options and help you choose what works best for you.

Kent State University, Kent State, and KSU are registered trademarks and may not be used without permission. Kent State University, an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, is committed to attaining excellence through the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce. 12-2336

# IMPACT PROFILE

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

*Advocating Child- and Family-Centered Education*

### YOUR GIFT WILL HELP:

- > **Create an endowment fund to support the children of low-income Kent State students, enabling them to pay for the cost of early childhood education and care.**
- > **Fund graduate assistantships that will provide family services and support to classrooms.**
- > **Renovate the Studio, a laboratory for the expressive language of art that supports the ways children learn and grow best.**
- > **Support construction of a new wing at the Child Development Center to serve infants and young toddlers.**



### QUALITY, INNOVATION AND INQUIRY

The Child Development Center, a laboratory school for children on the Kent Campus, has a three-part mission that provides:

- High-quality education and care for children from 18 months through kindergarten.
- Professional preparation of personnel for schools and agencies serving young children and their families.
- Innovation and inquiry that informs theory and practice in the field.

Above all, the center is an advocate for child- and family-centered education for all children.







The Child Development Center is committed to diversity. Each year from 20 to 29 percent of the center’s population is from underrepresented groups, with first priority given to children who have special needs. University families constitute nearly 90 percent of those enrolled at the center, and college-student families make up a sizeable portion of that group. Most are single-parent families who qualify for funding from the *Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services* (ODJFS). Unfortunately, the rules governing this program often prohibit families from seeking all the education or special care that their children need.

**MAKING AN IMPACT IN EDUCATION**

The Child Development Center has created regional, state, national and international visibility for its educational approach for children and families. These initiatives enhance the professional development of the center’s teachers and provide a dynamic approach to early education that is never static but, instead, is constantly expanding.

- The center has hosted a statewide conference with internationally known educator, Dr. Lella Gandini, the U.S. Liaison for the Reggio approach to early childhood education. She asked to visit the center because of its visibility within the field.

- Educators at the center have published their work in both national and international journals, including *Innovations in Early Childhood Education: The International Reggio Exchange* and the *Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children*.
- The center is a member of two multistate laboratory school research collaborations. With South Dakota State, the teachers at Kent State have studied the impact of small group work on social and intellectual development. Another multiuniversity collaboration has focused on children’s outdoor activity at home, and a new way for teachers to observe and document a child’s thinking processes.
- During each academic year, the center hosts many visitors seeking to learn more about its inquiry-based curricular approach. Visitors have told us that their observations at the center have resulted in significant changes in their practice.
- Enrollment at the center is at capacity each year. Families who participate in the annual program evaluation tell us that the center greatly advances their goals for their children and values the individual identity of each family.



**FUNDING PRIORITIES**

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Overwhelmingly, research demonstrates that all young children benefit from attending high-quality schools, but the cost of full-day early childhood education/care now rivals that of a mortgage for many families. For those with children who have special needs, and those who have moderate to low incomes but don’t qualify for subsidized child care, the cost is often prohibitive.

The income source for the Child Development Center is fees for service. The center cannot rely on outside funding to pay for daily operations. The payments the center receives from the county, provided through ODJFS, are significantly less than the full cost of care and education of each child. In addition, the ODJFS reimbursement rate is not guaranteed across a school year, so the number of families who can enroll through ODJFS is restricted. Non-ODJFS families also often experience a financial crisis (e.g., loss of job, divorce, death) that prevents them from continuing enrollment. An endowment fund would provide vital support dollars to low-income families and those experiencing a temporary family crisis.

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS**

Two master’s-level graduate assistantships, at a projected annual cost of \$20,000 each, will serve both families and education students. One will be dedicated to family services with a special focus on student families, those with children who have special needs and families experiencing a crisis. The second graduate assistantship will support the professional preparation of undergraduate students for positions within the eight classrooms at the Child Development Center.

**ANNUAL FUNDING AND ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**\$4,600** will fund a scholarship for a five- to six-year-old child for one academic year

**\$6,200** will fund a scholarship for a child between three and five years for one academic year

**\$6,800** will fund a scholarship for a child between 18 months and three years for one academic year

**\$20,000** will fund a graduate assistantship for a year

**\$85,000** will provide funding for the complete renovation of the Studio. Project phases include:

- > **\$6,500** to fund new technology
- > **\$6,500** to cover the cost of visually opening the Studio to children and families
- > **\$16,000** to create a permanent wall to provide a more functional space and improved lighting
- > **\$55,000** to build an exterior window bump-out and improved storage

**\$4 to 5 million** will fund an infant toddler wing with naming rights

**RENOVATION OF THE STUDIO**

The Studio is the “heart” of the school, a place for children to communicate their ideas through multiple media. It allows them to experience a variety of approaches to art, design and technology in order to enhance their creative and imaginative skills and their representation of ideas and feelings. The Studio provides the teachers, who document the children’s work, an opportunity to create high-quality photo and video images for both study and publication. Student teachers benefit from studying children’s expressive communications and learn about facilitation strategies from experienced mentors. Families also become more involved in the visual communication process in children’s learning and act as advocates for the arts in education.

*“Working with an experienced mentor teacher enabled theories to become reality. I began looking at children as capable, confident individuals. I learned the importance of taking time to truly listen to children and develop trusting, mutually respectful relationships.”*

— Child Development Center student teacher