

WILLIAM L. CLAY, SR. EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT/PARENTING EDUCATION CENTER

Fact Sheet

I. Program Goals:

- Provide an ongoing contribution toward meeting the critical workforce needs for highly qualified early child development practitioners in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area;
- Assist local partners, through collaborations, in improving the quality of early care and education programs in the area;
- Contribute to the efforts of the HSSU Teacher Education unit toward making the early childhood education teacher preparation program an exemplary model;
- Assist parents in improving parenting skills; and
- Provide a comprehensive child development for infants, toddlers, and Pre-K children.

Benefits For:

1. Harris-Stowe Students

- a. The Center will provide a practicum setting for Teacher Education/Early Childhood Education majors to gain valuable insight and experiences observing and interacting with children 6 weeks to Pre-K. Students will have opportunities to engage in hands-on learning activities to translate theory into practice. The lack of accredited programs and certified teachers in infant/toddler programming make it difficult for our Teacher Education Department to locate adequate placements for majors needing exposure to this early developmental level.

2. Parents/Families

The vision for the parent education component encompasses:

- Application of system's theory to the study of families;
- Working with families and parent educators in understanding family functioning;
- Addressing parenting in the context of a social system organized around roles and structure;
- Providing on-going parenting educational sessions addressing topics such as child growth and development, health and nutrition, money management and discipline; and
- Providing parents with resources in child-rearing practices.

3. Children

- It is proposed that the child development program serves approximately 112 children, from 6 weeks to kindergarten age (5 years). We provide a full-year/full-day program and a well-rounded curriculum. Our program includes technology and the introduction of other languages in a developmentally appropriate learning environment, which is sensitive to the needs of children, parents, and adult learner.

4. Community

- The center will serve as a facility through which potential and practicing child care providers can receive training and acquire research-based materials for professional growth and development while networking and learning from others in the profession.

II. Action Research

The center, its training components, and clientele will provide possible data sources for educational research and scholarly publications.

III. ECE Center's Local Partnerships

Child Day Care Association Regional Training Collaborative

YWCA Head Start

ARCHS

PNC Bank (Pending)

Washington University's Synchrony Parenting Program

Places for People

Saint Louis Science Center

Saint Louis Public Schools

Parents as Teachers

Child Day Care Association

IV. Center's Professional Memberships

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Black Child Development Institute Inc.

National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers

V. Grant Writing Efforts

Support for ongoing Educational Programming for Children

Support for Parent Education Programs

Capital Improvement