

## IUB Early Childhood Education Services Frequently Asked Questions

### Programs

- 1. What child care is available on the Bloomington campus?** *IUB has five (5) child care programs on campus. Three are state licensed, nationally accredited and professionally staffed (Campus Children's Center, Campus View Child Care Center and Hoosier Courts Nursery School) and two are parent cooperatives (Knee High Day Care Cooperative and Sunflower Day Care Cooperative).*
- 2. What ages are served by the IUB centers?** *The entire range of the preschool years (birth to six) is served on campus.*
  - a. Campus Children's Center - birth to six.*
  - b. Campus View Child Care Center - birth to three.*
  - c. Hoosier Courts Nursery School - 3 to 6 year olds.*
  - d. The parents at the two cooperatives decide each year what ages will be served in their programs.*
- 3. What are parent cooperatives?** *Knee High and Sunflower Coops are essentially operated and staffed by parents. Parents are required to work 9 – 10 hours per week in the coop. Because of the time commitment, parent fees are significantly lower at the coops than the licensed, professionally staffed programs. Parents are assisted by IUB student workers.*
- 4. When are the child care centers open?** *The licensed IUB centers are open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 50 weeks per year. The coops are open 7:30 – 5:30 and normally follow the IU academic schedule.*
- 5. Do the IUB centers serve only IU affiliated families?** *The IUB centers give first priority to families with an IU affiliation (faculty, staff or student). The only time a non-affiliated family is enrolled is when the center's entire waiting list is exhausted of IU affiliated families.*
- 6. Does one IU group get enrollment priority?** *Center waitlists operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Families of students, faculty and staff receive equal priority for enrollment.*
- 7. Are the IUB child care centers regulated?** *The three professionally staffed centers are state licensed through the Bureau of Child Care in the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). While the two parent cooperatives are exempt from state licensing, they are required by the university to comply with all regulations for Indiana child care homes.*
- 8. Are the centers nationally accredited?** *Yes, Campus Children's Center, Campus View Child Care Center and Hoosier Courts Nursery School are all accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Less than 10% of programs in the country are NAEYC accredited.*
- 9. How do I enroll my child at an IUB child care center?** *Each individual IUB center handles its own enrollment. Parents can contact each center to inquire about enrollment.*
- 10. Is there a waiting list?** *Yes, most of the IUB programs are fully enrolled. Those programs that are full maintain waiting lists. You can place a child on the waitlist by calling the respective center. There is no cost to place your child on the waiting list.*
- 11. Why are IUB child care centers among the most expensive in the community?** *The high cost of quality child care is directly related to employing high quality staff. Over 80% of the IUB child care center expenses go directly to staffing expenses. Research clearly indicates that the quality of a child care center is directly related to the quality of center staff. Because the IUB centers employ the best early childhood educators in the community, their cost of care is higher.*

12. **Do parent fees pay the true cost of care?** *The IUB centers do not charge the actual cost of what it takes to care for the children. This is only possible because of the financial support from the university.*
13. **Do the IUB child care centers have security systems?** *Each IUB center has an access control security system that requires families to enter a code to enter the center. Visitors must be buzzed in by the center office.*
14. **Do the IUB child care centers provide food for the children?** *The three licensed centers provide nutritious daily snacks and hot lunches for the children. At the parent cooperatives, families provide food for their own child.*

### Families

1. **Is there financial support available to help parents pay for child care?** *Assistance with child care fees is available for eligible student and employee families through the federally funded Child Care Development Fund voucher program. Call 1-800-886-3952 or go to <http://www.casyonline.org/CCDF.html> for more information about eligibility. The 3 licensed IUB centers also provide fee discounts for income eligible student families.*
2. **Do families pay for days their child is not in attendance?** *With the exception of annual planned closings during the winter break, parents pay by the week regardless of attendance.*
3. **What kind of diversity is represented at the IUB centers?** *The IUB centers, like the university, serve a very diverse population of families from all over the world. Over 30% of the children at the IUB centers are from international families.*

### Curriculum

1. **What kind of curriculum is used at the IUB child care centers?** *The curriculum at all IUB centers is child centered, developmentally appropriate and environmentally based. Children learn through their exploration of the learning materials and through their interactions with other children and adults in the classroom. This curriculum promotes academic success through the use of a wide range of appealing, hands-on learning materials and group activities. Activities are planned by teachers in response to their observation of the children.*
2. **How does the curriculum prepare my child for elementary school?** *Children at the IUB centers become life-long learners, independent thinkers and problem solvers. They leave the IUB centers with a love for learning and experience academic success throughout their school career.*
3. **Will my child learn his ABCs and numbers?** *The children at the IUB centers experience significant advances in their literacy and numeracy skills as well as expand their vocabulary and language comprehension skills.*
4. **How do children learn to read at the IUB child care centers?** *The IUB centers encourage literacy development by providing numerous daily opportunities for children to read and write. Children are read to and they read to others. Classrooms are well stocked with books and other literacy materials. Children are encouraged to write and all attempts are celebrated.*

### Program Staff

1. **How are the centers staffed?** *Each of the licensed centers has a center director, program assistant, classroom teachers and classroom aides. Each classroom has two co-teachers with the staffing being supplemented by hourly teacher aides. The two parent cooperatives are staffed by parents and student employees.*
2. **What are the required educational credentials for full time child care staff?** *Center directors are required to have a master's degree in early childhood education. Co-teachers have a*

*bachelor's degree in a child related field – many have master's degrees. Co-teachers and directors are all academic appointments.*

**Budgets/Financial**

1. **What in-kind and financial support does the campus provide the child care centers?** *The child care centers receive in-kind support of rent-free facilities, utilities, maintenance and liability insurance. In addition, the campus provides substantial amount in annual cash support. This allows the centers to charge parents less than it actually takes to care for the children.*
2. **Do the IUB centers receive student support?** *Students at IUB support child care through the Day Care Support Account which is funded from student activity fees. Currently, the Day Care Support Account receives 41 cents from each activity fee, among the lowest allocations on campus. This allocation produces approximately \$30,000 per year and is used to provide fee discounts for student families at the three licensed centers and is used by the parent cooperatives to fund projects and purchases not included in their operating budgets.*
3. **What percentage of center income is derived from parent fees? How does the budget break down?** *The budget break down for both income and expenses is:*

<i>Income</i>	<i>Parent Fees</i>	<i>74%</i>
	<i>Campus Support</i>	<i>24%</i>
	<i>Other</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Salaries/Benefits</i>	<i>81%</i>
	<i>Supplies/Expenses</i>	<i>17%</i>
	<i>Other</i>	<i>2%</i>