



About Montclair State University

Since its founding in 1908, Montclair State University has had a rich history of innovation, distinction, and growth. Montclair State, a vital educational force, is ranked as one of the top universities in the region. Graduates from Montclair State University are well equipped with the skills needed to respond to today's dynamic environment, as well as future challenges and opportunities.

About the College of Education and Human Services

With more than a 100-year tradition of excellence and educational leadership, the College of Education and Human Services offers several advantages for those pursuing a graduate or undergraduate education:

- Outstanding and innovative programs in the education and human services fields with nationally-recognized faculty and accreditation;
- Program faculty and staff dedicated to meeting the unique needs of our student population;
- Flexible study for both full-time students and working professionals, including weekend, accelerated, and Web-enhanced course options;
- Facilities that are on the cutting edge of learning and technology, including University Hall, the College's home, and the largest and most sophisticated building in the University's history.



**MONTCLAIR STATE**
UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Services
Ben Samuels Children's Center
1 Normal Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

Ben Samuels Children's Center



Providing a model of
excellence in inclusive
early care and education
for children



College of Education and Human Services

The mission of the Ben Samuels Children's Center at Montclair State University is to provide a model of excellence in inclusive early care and education for children from birth through five years. To do this, the Center continuously examines and implements best practices of teaching and learning in a nurturing environment where all children learn, play, and grow together. The center is accredited by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young children).

In support of the mission, we have created a community where:

- Children of differing abilities, needs, cultures, ethnicities, means, and family structures benefit from developmentally appropriate activities and services, and families, staff, and University students understand and embrace the value of diversity as an essential component of high quality education.
- Future generations of professionals are educated through research, observation, and hands-on experience of best practice in early education.
- Faculty and students observe, reflect, and continually learn about child development, early education, inclusive learning, and other areas.
- Families of children are welcomed, provided with resources and, if necessary, with support and assistance related to the care and education of their children.

Our Children and Families

The children in our Center are strong individuals who are developing their abilities to construct their learning, and they engage in social interaction, and negotiate with all that the environment brings them.

We believe that early childhood care and education go hand in hand as we strive to challenge the individual child in his/her developmental growth. We have four classrooms of infants starting at 12 weeks old and going up to approximately 18 months, four classrooms of toddlers ages 18 months through age three, and four classrooms of preschoolers ages three to five.

Each family member is an important and essential member of our community and is welcome to participate in ways that make sense for all.

Our Facility

Constructed in 2005, our Spanish-style building with its red tile roof and white stucco walls has ample space for children and adults. The 21,547 square foot building contains two classroom wings, each having classrooms for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and a small gym.

At the same time, the world of a very young child is a small world, so everything in the facility is child-sized and friendly. As you walk into the classrooms, you will recognize the accessibility of the low self-activating sinks, child-sized toilets, and paper towels within reach. In designing the Center, a great deal of attention was given to promoting a child's independence. Our beautiful outdoor playgrounds provide several areas for children to run, climb, jump, and play, while addressing their physical and social development. The outdoor areas also serve as additional classrooms, for exploring nature, reading stories, or partaking in a picnic lunch.

Adult needs are equally well met. Each infant room has a private, quiet area for feeding, and parents are welcome and encouraged to visit throughout the day. A large learning center provides resource materials, as well as a place to hold meetings and social gatherings. We also host classes from the University that want to meet at our site, tour the facility, and conduct observations.

Our Staff

The staff of the Center is committed to providing children and families with the highest quality inclusive early care and education. Our directors are highly experienced in both the early childhood education and inclusion fields and hold master's degrees. Teachers and teaching assistants are certified, credentialed as early childhood teachers, or enrolled in college for these credentials.

In addition, our special services and early intervention components include a school psychologist, physical therapists, speech and language specialists, an occupational therapist, special educators, child development specialists, a music therapist, and an interactive storyteller. The Center also employs graduate assistants, student teachers, students, and volunteers, and is committed to providing a caring environment and an excellent teacher/child ratio for you and your child.

Adults work with children as guides, mentors, partners, and resources. We create safe, stimulating environments to promote active exploration and provide children with challenging experiences. Through observation, reflection, questions, and demonstrations we help children learn. Children are allowed to learn independently when they are able, and, when they need help, by building emotional and intellectual "scaffolds" to help them reach higher.

Hours

The Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and with just a few exceptions, is open when the University is open and closed when it is closed.

Support Programs

Demonstration Program

The Demonstration Program is a NJ Public-College-Operated Program for the Disabled (NJ Administrative Code 6a: 14-7.1(a)). This is a unique special education program for preschool-aged children with pervasive development delays that is guided by a framework that is responsive to individual differences, stresses affective development, independence, and interdependence, and is consistent with quality early childhood educational practice.

Early Intervention Program

The Jeffrey Dworkin Early Intervention Program serves children from infancy through age three who have a wide variety of special developmental needs. The program is approved by the New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) of the New Jersey Division of Family Health Services. The Division implements the statewide system of services for infants and toddlers, from birth to age three, with developmental delays or disabilities, and their families.

Through this program, interventionists currently work with more than 150 families to deliver individualized at-home and in-community care. Together, they make a genuine difference in the lives of young children and their families. Among these are about thirty children who also receive support and services in the Center's inclusive infant and toddler classrooms. Classrooms are supported by early intervention special educators, speech language specialists, occupational and physical therapists, child development assistants, and a nurse.

Contact

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