



# TRINITY CHILDREN'S CENTER



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## MISSION

We are committed to providing the highest quality of care and education for young children ages 3 to kindergarten entry. Priority for openings at TCC is given to UVM employees and students. Enrollment is also offered to families outside the UVM community and will always include children with special needs and those with a broad range of socioeconomic and culturally diverse backgrounds. It is our intent to nurture the healthy development of young children and to strengthen and support the families from which they come.

## WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

Trinity has been an early education program for over 40 years. In that time, we have rooted ourselves so deeply in being an inclusive, diverse, and collaborative program. Each classroom is a representation of the world; varying levels of development, styles of learning, family cultures, languages, and interests. We believe that true kindergarten readiness is attained through social/emotional intelligence and a love of learning. TCC was the first Head Start collaborative, as well as the first Howard Center collaborative in the state of Vermont.

## ENROLLMENT

TCC uses the method of "intentional enrollment". As a result, it is not solely based on the date that a family submits their waitlist application. Slots are first held for our UVM faculty/student families. From there, we give priority to Howard Center and BSD EEE clients that are in need of an inclusive, high quality setting that can meet their needs. Classrooms are designed with typically developing ratios based on age, developmental needs, English language acquisition, and gender.

TCC accepts waitlist applications throughout the year. As we approach our Spring Open House, TCC will send out invitations to all waitlisted families with age eligible children. This Open House is a great opportunity to meet faculty, learn more about the program and materials, and take a virtual tour of the program. From there, families can sign-up for a private tour. If a family is given an enrollment slot, all paperwork will be sent out in June for a September start.

## **HOURS**

Academic Year: Begins the Tuesday following Labor Day until the second Friday in June. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Wednesdays are early dismissals, open from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Summer Program: Begins 2 weeks following the last day of the academic year. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Wednesdays are early dismissals, open from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.

\*\*Trinity is closed the week of holiday break. In addition, TCC is closed for two weeks at the beginning of the summer and two weeks at the end of summer – these weeks do not require tuition. Trinity also has additional days closed for in-service training and parent/teacher conferences – see online TCC Calendar for dates.

## **TUITION**

Tuition may increase annually, depending on the budget of our non-profit organization. The 2021-2022 full time tuition rate is \$260/week, or \$60/day. This tuition rate is after Act 166 funds are applied based on our True Cost of Care. Act 166 Pre-K registration must be completed prior to enrollment to receive this tuition rate.

TCC accepts all subsidized tuition rates. If a family is eligible for 100% subsidized tuition, TCC does not charge the co-payment amount between the state's rate and TCC's rate of tuition. Scholarship contributions may be available to families in need.

Payments may be made by cash or check at the beginning of the week. Monthly, weekly, or bi-weekly payment arrangements are accepted.

## **CURRICULUM**

Curriculum at TCC is developed within the spirit of our philosophy: the child is developing a sense of self with the guidance of his or her parents/guardians. The teacher enters into a relationship with the child and the parents/guardians as an active researcher to support and encourage this growth of self.

Our curriculum is child-centered - it grows and changes with the interests and needs of the children, the families and the teachers. Teachers are facilitators in supporting the diverse and extraordinary potential of each child. The teachers are researchers who develop their own environment and the materials in it. They promote relationships within the classroom, center, families and the community.

TCC uses the Vermont Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum, and Second Step (social/emotional curriculum) to guide and facilitate meaningful learning opportunities. All children are assessed using Teaching Strategies to track growth.

## **FACULTY/RATIOS**

Each classroom has 14 students, 2 Co-Lead teachers, a teaching assistant, and most often a fourth support staff (work study student, local early education student). The Co-Lead teachers hold their VT State Teaching License in Early Education, and many also have their endorsement or Master's Degree in Early Education Special Education.

These Lead Teachers participate in TCC committees, mentoring programs with Champlain College and UVM, as well as other early education advocacy agencies. Teaching Assistants are on the path to receiving these credentials, with years of experience in the field.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

Trinity's inclusive and equitable mission is made possible by our strong collaborations and partnerships. Through these, TCC is able to provide wrap-a-round services to all of our children and families. The following is a partial list of some of these agencies:

- All School Districts
- Burlington School District – EEE Program
- HowardCenter (mental health agency)
- Visiting Nurses Association
- CIS
- COTS
- Refugee Resettlement Program
- AALV (Association for Africans Living in Vermont)
- UVM, CCV, Champlain College, St. Michael's College
- Mercy Connections
- Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf

## **ACCREDITATION**

### NAEYC:

TCC is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The Academy recognizes early childhood programs which meet national standards of quality. Accredited centers have voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study and external professional review to verify compliance with the Academy's criteria for high quality programs. The Academy is a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators.

### STARS (STep Ahead Recognition System):

TCC is recognized as a 5 STAR Early Care and Education Licensed Center in the state of Vermont. STARS is Vermont's quality recognition system for child care, preschool, and afterschool programs. Programs that participate in STARS are stepping ahead – going above and beyond state regulations to provide professional services that meet the needs of children and families. TCC has received the 5 STAR rating through a rigorous application process that scores the areas of Regulatory History, Staff Qualifications, Families and Communities, Program Practices, and Program Administration.

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Please contact us if you are interested in a collaboration, volunteering, or being on our enrollment waitlist!

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