

Pre-School & Pre-K

UCP's Pre-School and Pre-K Programs & Hours:

School Day: 8:30 a.m - 2:30 p.m with early dismissal on Wednesdays

Full Day: Hours vary- between 7 and 7:30 a.m - 5:30 p.m based on location

VPK: Morning only during school year 8:30 a.m - 11:30 a.m

Curriculum

In their early years, children explore the world around them by using all their senses (touching, tasting, listening, smelling, and looking). By using real materials such as blocks and trying out their ideas, children learn about sizes, shapes, and colors, and they notice relationships between things.

In time, they learn to use one object to stand for another. This is the beginning of symbolic thinking. For example, they might pretend a stick is an airplane or a block is a hamburger. These early symbols – the stick and the block – are similar in shape to the objects they represent. Gradually children become more and more able to use abstract symbols like words to describe their thoughts and feelings. They learn to “read” pictures which are symbols of real people, places and things. This exciting development in symbolic thinking takes place during the pre-school years as children play. Play provides the foundation for academic or “school” learning. It is the preparation children need before they learn highly abstract symbols such as letters (which are symbols for sounds) and numbers (which are symbols for number concepts). Play enables us to achieve the key goals of our early childhood curriculum. Play is the work of young children. The most important goal of our Pre-School and PreK program is to help children become enthusiastic learners. This means encouraging children to be active and creative explorers who are not afraid to try out their ideas and to think their own thoughts. Our goal is to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive learners. We are teaching them how to learn, not just in preschool, but all through their lives. We are allowing them to learn at their own pace and in the ways that are best for them. They are learning good habits and attitudes, particularly a positive sense of themselves, which will make a difference throughout their lives.

The activities we plan for children, the way we organize the environment, select toys and materials, plan the daily schedule, and talk with children, are all designed to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give your child a successful start in school.

UCP uses Beyond Centers and Circle Time© and conscious Discipline© in our preschool and pre-k classrooms. The Beyond Centers & Circle Time© theme series is designed to provide developmentally appropriate learning experiences for three and four-year-old children. These experiences are based on 35 years of research conducted at the Creative Pre-School located in Tallahassee, Florida as well as research and theory that has been used to guide best early childhood practice.

The curriculum provides children with emergent literacy experiences within well planned and implemented play opportunities that use cooking, dramatic play, fluid and structured construction and fine and gross motor opportunities to meet the individual and cultural needs of each child, while providing them opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in all domains.

When young children are provided with opportunities to learn in safe, loving and exciting environments they will develop the ability to persist at tasks, as well as an eagerness and curiosity about their world. When they can manipulate and experiment with materials and objects they will develop inventiveness and creativity. When children play with other children and adults who encourage their ideas they will learn to plan and reflect on their activities. Research shows that children's success is based on how they approach learning situations. Children who are resilient, keep trying and are confident in their own abilities will be successful.

Conscious Discipline® is the Social and Emotional curriculum used at UCP. Conscious Discipline® is a comprehensive classroom management program and a social-emotional curriculum. It is based on current brain research, child development information, and developmentally appropriate practices. Conscious Discipline is a way of organizing schools and classrooms around the concept of a School Family. Each member of the family—both adult and child—learns the skills needed to successfully manage life tasks such as learning, forming relationships, communicating effectively, being sensitive to others’ needs and getting along with others.

Ratios and Group Sizes:

(Note: Ratios and class size may vary based on the individual needs of the students)

Age of Child	Group Size (Maximum)	Child to Staff Ratio (Minimum)
36 Months - 48 Months (Pre-School Classroom)	14 Children - 15 Children	Five Children to one staff (5:1)
48 Months - 60 Months (Pre-K Classroom)	16 Children - 17 Children	Five/six Children to one staff (5/6:1)

Minimum Staff Qualifications

Classroom Type	Teacher	Lead Teacher Assistant	Teacher Assistant
Pre-School Classroom Pre-K Classroom	Bachelors Degree (Early childhood or related field) Certified in Pre-K and Exceptional Student Education by State of Florida Department of Education	Associative Degree or Child Development Associate (CDA)	High School Diploma Experience working with young children

Eligibility

- The Pre-School/Pre-K program serves children ages 3-5 years with and without disabilities

Program Costs

- Children with Individual Education Plan (IEP) with “Classroom as an eligible service - FREE Tuition School Day (before/after school is an additional charge)
- Children without IEP/Private Pay - Rates vary by campus
- Before care/After care available
- UCP also accepts 4C Subsidized childcare vouchers and Voluntary Pre-School (VPK) funding

Locations

- **Downtown Orlando/Holloway Campus**

(Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
4680 Lake Underhill Road
Orlando, FL 32807

- **Pine Hills Campus**

(Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
5800 Golf Club Way
Orlando, FL 32808

- **Lake Mary/Seminole Campus**

(Kindergarten - 3rd Grade)
756 N. Sun Drive
Lake Mary, FL 32746

- **Winter Garden/West Orange**

(Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
1297 Winter Garden Vineland Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787

- **East Orange/UCF/Bailes Campus**

(Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
12702 Science Dr.,
Orlando, FL 32826

- **Osceola/Kissimmee Campus**

(Kindergarten - 3rd Grade)
1820 Armstrong Bld.
Kissimmee, FL 34741

How to Enroll:

To begin the enrollment process for the UCP's Pre-School or Pre-K Programs, complete the initial inquiry form on the UCP website at www.ucpcf.org