

Mission Statement

“To meet the needs of the community by providing quality child care that encourages individual development in a safe, nurturing environment.”

Foreword

Recent brain research points to the increasing importance of the years between birth and four years of age. These early years form the basis for the learning for the rest of our life. The developmental levels your child receives at this tender age are crucial to success and happiness during their teen and adult life. Realizing this importance, The Children’s Center continuously strives to offer a well-rounded program that offers growth in all areas... cognitive, social, emotional, and physical. The Children’s Center boasts of a safe, secure, healthy environment for your child and all others entrusted to our care. Components of our programs, such as a pre-school curriculum, USDA food program, field trips and special events make for a tremendous experience.

The Children’s Center is an independent, not for profit organization. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of a variety of occupations and backgrounds. Our staff is professionally trained and fulfills annual staff development requirements. We are a very professional organization providing a professional service... quality child care and education to young children. By making a commitment to families and children, we in turn make commitments to our staff and vendors. We appreciate the teamwork and rapport our families show the Center. Without you, many elements of our community would be affected... employers, families and professionals.

We believe that our mission and our philosophy speak for themselves. We are an organization dedicated to children and families. Communication is also a vital part of our operation. Please be sure to talk and meet often with your child’s teacher and other administrative staff. We have an open door policy and provide families with newsletters, daily and weekly posting of curriculum, and semi-annual conferences. On behalf of the Board of Directors, professional staff, and many volunteers, we hope the experience your child gains with us will offer both personal attention and a strong educational and social experience.

Philosophy

The Children’s Center believes each child is a very special and unique person. The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by doing. Learning isn’t just repeating what someone else says; it requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work and to learn firsthand about the world in which we live.

History

In the fall of 1969, a dream was realized when The Albert Lea Community Child Care Center, Inc. opened its doors for 20 children. A concerned group of volunteers noted the need for child care. In response to a survey conducted at the Skyline Mall in February 1969, 62% interviewed stated they would use a child care center. The community based Board of Directors then founded

the Center. The Albert Lea Community Child Care Center opened its doors at Christ Episcopal Church on September 2, 1969.

The Albert Lea Community Child Care Center is now called The Children's Center at 2 separate locations in Albert Lea. An idea sparked over four decades ago, is now a successful and very unique reality for nearly 200 children in our community every year. Dedicated staff, Board members and volunteers are *responsible* for the Center's on-going viability. Children are our *reason*.