

Things You Should Know Before You Enroll Your Child at the MU Child Development Lab

Photographs and Video- or Audio-Recordings. I understand that the CDL is a lab school and that CDL children may be video- or audio-recorded or photographed for educational or research purposes. I give the CDL permission to make and use recordings of my child for educational and research purposes. I also understand that CDL employees and partners will from time to time use photography or videography for the purpose of chronicling CDL activities that are positive and of interest to the University of Missouri and local communities, and that these recordings may be used in materials to promote the CDL, the University's Human Development and Family Science degree programs, or the proposed Center for Contemporary Families project; posted to University social media accounts; or submitted to news media for possible publication. I give the CDL permission to make and use recordings of my child for promotional purposes without compensation. Children pictured in promotional materials will not be identified or will be identified by first name only unless parents have provided advance written permission.

- The Child Development Lab is a teacher-training laboratory school. The reason we are here, on campus, is to provide teacher training and support research. Through those missions, we are able to provide childcare services to approximately 75 families.
- The CDL opens at 7:30 and closes at 5:30. This is a ten-hour day and there is no extended day option.
- Unlike most laboratory schools, which only operate during the semesters, the CDL is open 48 weeks a year, minus state holidays and emergency closures.
- The University is closed one week in December for Winter Recess. All University employees receive this time off (paid) to be with their families.
- The CDL elects to close over Spring Break and additional days over the Winter Recess. During these times, the CDL teachers use their Paid Time Off (PTO).
- The CDL closes the week after summer school ends so that we can clean our classrooms and receive training and professional development. The CDL teachers are responsible for mentoring college students, which is why it is essential that we stay on top of the latest research and trends in early childhood education. We value this time together and use the time as efficiently as possible.
- The CDL closes early four times a year for quarterly lab staff meetings. The only time we can all (15 plus) get together for group discussions and meetings is when we are closed.
- For liability reasons, the University has started to close more often and cancel classes more frequently than ever before due to inclement weather. When the University is closed, the CDL is closed. When the University cancels classes due to weather, the CDL is closed. If the University delays opening until roads, steps, and pathways are clear, the CDL will delay opening as well.

- The CDL follows the Columbia Public School schedule for weather related decisions. If the CPS is closed or has a delayed start, we will open at 8:30 a.m. instead of 7:30 a.m. This delayed start, still allows for a nine-hour day. Most of the CDL teachers have children in the public schools and we often need to provide extra time for teachers to get to work on these days and to ensure that we have enough teachers able to work so we can meet ratio and operate our program.
- The CDL teachers are University employees, which means they earn sick days, vacation days, and four personal days a year. If for whatever reason adult-to-child ratios cannot be met, the CDL will close.
- The CDL teachers receive fair (not good) but fair compensation, including an excellent benefits package and retirement plan. This is one reason we have such a low turnover rate. Many teachers in community programs receive low wages and no or few benefits. As a result, community programs are often less expensive and open longer hours. In many cases, when those teachers miss work, they do not receive any compensation.
- The CDL incurs all staff salaries and other fixed costs even during days closed for inclement weather or other emergencies and cannot refund fees for the rare days it closes for these reasons.

Signature of Acknowledgment: _____

Date: _____