Early Childhood Center

The LifeWise STL Early Childhood Center provides high quality childcare and preschool education for 94 children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years of age. The center is open year-round.

The center primarily benefits low-income families who need childcare because they are employed, in school or in training. The majority of the families enrolled are headed by a single parent. LifeWise STL is a partner site of the YWCA's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The majority of families have their childcare paid through the Head Start/Early Head Start contracts or state subsidies, while others pay according to a sliding scale fee structure.

Health screenings are conducted throughout the year. Screenings include lead and hemoglobin testing; growth assessments; and vision, hearing, blood pressure and dental. Children are screened using the development tools ASQ:SE-2, ASQ-3 and DIAL 4 and assessed using the educational tool Teaching Strategies GOLD. Extra resources are provided as needed.

The center is accredited under the Missouri Accreditation of Programs for Children and Youth.

Suggested Donations

- diapers* (sizes 3,4,5)
- pull-ups
- wipes (unscented)
- child-sized toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- crayons (jumbo size)
- markers
- blue ink pens
- paper clips
- sticky notes
- rubber bands
- colored yarn
- bibs
- dish soap
- brooms
- dustpans
- permanent markers
- tricycles, scooters, big wheels
- water color paints
- washable paints
- band-aids (non-medicated)
- storage bags (qt/gal)
- white glue & glue sticks
- staples and staplers
- adult & child scissors
- child-sized paint brushes
- batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)
- masking tape
- children's CDs
- sidewalk chalk
- playground balls (rubber, soccer, basketball)
- heavy duty cars/tractors/truck

*Diapers are our highest need items.