

## ***Gambier Child Care Center***

The Gambier Child Care Center (GCCC) is owned by Kenyon College and licensed/operated by Knox County Head Start (KCHS). The center provides full day, full year educational child care for infants, toddlers and preschool aged children, and before and after school care and summer camp for school aged children from kindergarten through fifth grade.

**Contact information:** Call 740-427-2519 or email: Danielle Tedrow-Moffat, Center Manager of GCCC at [dmoffat@knoxheadstart.org](mailto:dmoffat@knoxheadstart.org) . You may also contact Peg Tazewell, Executive Director of KCHS at 740-393-6972 or [ptazewell@knoxheadstart.org](mailto:ptazewell@knoxheadstart.org) .

GCCC is open 49 to 50 weeks per year and remains open during Kenyon's academic calendar on those federal and local holidays other KCHS centers are closed, including Labor Day, Martin Luther King Jr Day, President's Day and a Spring Holiday. GCCC is closed between Christmas and New Year's and may extend the winter break period to make up for the holidays during which the center remained open. GCCC closes for one week in the Spring or early Summer for deep cleaning of the center, training, and to give teaching teams the opportunity to work together and plan activities. There may be two other one-day closures for staff training, and bi-monthly early closings (4:30 p.m.) for team meetings.

KCHS operates the center under child care licensing from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. KCHS, founded in 1965, operates six centers in Knox County providing the range of Head Start Birth to Five services, contracts with three family child care homes, and provides child care, parenting education and home visiting services. Learn more about KCHS here: <http://www.knoxheadstart.org/>

Kenyon College employees receive priority for enrollment but are not guaranteed immediate enrollment as the center has limited slots available. There is a waiting list, and Kenyon College employees are always offered a slot prior to KCHS employees and/or community members.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

***How do I enroll my child?*** Complete a preliminary application at the following link: <http://www.knoxheadstart.org/enroll-now-2/> and under "Location Preferences" select "Private Pay ChildCare Only" under program and #3. Gambier Child Care Center as 1<sup>st</sup> location preference.

After completing the online application, you will be contacted to schedule an application appointment, which will last approximately 30 minutes and include a tour of the facility and completion of state licensing forms and other documentation. To facilitate the process, call or email Danielle Tedrow-Moffat at the contact information above once you have submitted your application. Please bring the following to your appointment:

- A Kenyon identification card or verification of employment;
- Requested schedule for your child (full time, or part time Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday)
- Child's immunization record and health insurance card
- Custody papers if applicable
- Registration fee of \$50

***To be considered a complete application and to be placed on the wait list, all paperwork and the registration fee must be submitted.***

***Are Kenyon Employees guaranteed a slot?*** Kenyon employees receive priority for enrollment, but there is no guarantee for immediate enrollment availability due to limited slots in the facility. When a vacancy arises, parents of children on the waiting list are contacted in order of their date of completed application, with Kenyon parents contacted first. For financial stability, slots must be filled quickly. If a slot is available and the parent does not choose to take it immediately, the center will move down the list to contact the next person willing to enroll their child.

***How many slots are available?*** There are 12 infant and toddler slots (ages six weeks up to age three); 19 preschool slots, and approximately 20 school aged slots (outside of reserved Head Start slots detailed below). There is some limited opportunity to share slots through part-time enrollment, either M-W-F or T-Th. During summer camp, due to space on the school bus for field trips, only 18 children are enrolled.

***How is the waiting list administered?*** The waiting list operates on a first come, first served basis according to the date by which the application is completed, in the following order: Kenyon employees, KCHS employees, community members. Again, to be placed on the waiting list, an application must be completed, and the registration fee must be paid.

***How are Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) children incorporated into the facility?*** KCHS reserves six EHS slots for infants/toddlers and 13 HS slots for preschoolers from income-qualifying homes. These slots are established in the annual KCHS federal grant process. EHS and HS children are generally funded through federal grants and state child care subsidy. The partnership provides enhanced education of teachers, professional development, and family engagement opportunities not typically found in child care. Grants support staffing, operations, training and equipment/supplies at GCCC. A recent analysis showed that tuition rates could rise between 30% and 35% if KCHS removed Head Start and Early Head Start funded slots from the facility. Our partnership with Head Start requires us to provide meal service for all enrolled children under the Child and Adult Care Food Program, funded by the USDA. This requirement adds bureaucratic administrative and program rules and limitations to meal service.

***The cost of care seems high compared to other local centers. Why?*** Most child care centers in central Ohio either do not provide benefits to employees or provide limited benefits. At KCHS we recognize that the health and well-being of the caregivers of your children is critically important to maintain a high-quality program. KCHS benefitted employees at GCCC receive health insurance, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, vacation, sick and personal leave, a discount on child care services, and 14-paid holidays annually. Employees may purchase dental, vision and long-term disability insurance.

***Tell me about the educational opportunities I can expect.*** The Head Start program believes that parents are each child's first and most important teacher, and we work in partnership with parents and children to support healthy development. The foundation of the classroom environment is based in the philosophy of Conscious Discipline, focused on creating a School Family in which each child's needs are addressed in the context of a classroom community. Learn more about Conscious Discipline:

<https://consciousdiscipline.com/> . Classrooms utilize *The Creative Curriculum* as the primary classroom curriculum, which is integrated into Teaching Strategies GOLD, an online observation and assessment system that enables teachers to create lesson plans and craft small and large group activities that support children's strengths and provide opportunities to promote learning in areas of need. Learn more here:

<https://teachingstrategies.com/> . Parents will be offered the opportunity for additional health, developmental and social emotional screenings, but may also refuse permission for screenings and assessments.