



# ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

**Title:** Children's Center Annual Board Report

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# Children's Center

## Annual Board Report

September 2020

The Children's Center has well-trained staff that use current, innovative and effective early childhood educational practices to teach children, while supporting faculty, staff, and student success on campus. We have strived to maintain a strong and positive presence on campus and in the community for the past forty-four years by providing a safe, interactive, stimulating, and pleasant learning environment for young children. Preschool and childcare are provided for:

- Part and full-time students at Western
- Western faculty and staff
- Students learning English as a second language
- Students seeking their High School Equivalency Certificate (HSET)
- University of Wyoming Outreach students
- Students of other accredited online programs

We support Western Wyoming Community College in the following ways:

- Contribute to student success by providing high quality, affordable childcare and preschool on campus.
- Provide high quality, affordable childcare and preschool to the children of faculty and staff.
- Provide field, practicum, and observation experience for education, nursing, and psychology students, and other departments on campus.
- Provide preschool teacher observation experience for Rock Springs High School, Black Butte High School, and Rock Springs Jr. High School.
- Welcome local school children to visit, read to, or perform for our children.

### **Children's Center Staff**

The Children's Center consists of one full-time director, sixteen part-time employees, and three student workers.

#### Children's Center Director

- Susie Bessey Rawlings- Director: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Utah State University; Master of Science in Family and Consumer Science- Human Development, University of Wyoming; 17 years early childhood experience, including six years as Turtles teacher in the Children's Center

#### Part-Time Professional Faculty:

- Jessica Bertagnolli- Turtles Teacher: Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in Professional Child Development, University of Wyoming; ten years early childhood experience
- Marlene Neff- Bears Teacher (New): Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Western Governors University; two years of early childhood experience
- Jennifer Haygood- Bunnies Teacher (New): Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Western Wyoming Community College; Bachelor of Science in Psychology, University of Wyoming; eight years early childhood experience

#### Part-Time Benefitted:

- Ramona Fausto- Teacher's Aide: 30 years of early childhood experience
- Jodi Gutierrez- Teacher's Aide: 17 years of early childhood experience

#### Part-time Non-Benefitted:

- Yocasta Marius-Teodoro- Teacher's Aide: Associate of Arts in Elementary Education, with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, Western Wyoming Community College; four years of early childhood experience
- Brenna Laws-Teacher's Aide: Associate of Arts in Elementary Education, Western Wyoming Community College; three years of early childhood experience
- Amanda Ziegler- Front Desk Aide and Substitute Teacher: Associate of Arts Degree, Eastern Arizona University; three years of early childhood experience
- Janine Culver- Teacher's Aide: sixteen years early childhood experience
- Jennifer Wiberg (New)- Teacher's Aide: Master of Science in Education, Human Resource Training and Development, Idaho State University; Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, Idaho State University; six years teaching experience in early childhood education
- Michelle Byers (New)- Teacher's Aide: Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, Grand Canyon University, Associate of Arts, Western Wyoming Community College; eight years early childhood experience
- Brianna Sishc (New)- Teacher's Aide: Bachelor of Science in Accounting, University of Wyoming; six years of experience teaching preschool dance
- Shanda Schultz (New)- Teacher's Aide: two years of experience in early childhood care
- Callie Talbott- Substitute Teacher: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, University of Wyoming; seven years teaching experience in early childhood education
- Nikita Eckhardt- Substitute Teacher: Currently seeking an Education degree at Western Wyoming Community College
- Jacqui Thomas- Substitute Teacher: Associate of Arts, Western Wyoming Community College; six years early childhood experience

## **Enrollment**

**Fall 2019**-75 children enrolled

- 53% Students
- 39% Faculty/Staff
- 8% ESL/HISET

**Spring 2020**- 70 children enrolled

- 46% Students
- 50% Faculty/Staff
- 4% ESL/HISET

**Summer 2020**- 0 children enrolled due to COVID-19 Closure

**Fall 2020**- 44 children enrolled

- 41% Students
- 45% Faculty
- 14% ESL

## **Ongoing**

- Emergency Evacuation Drills
- Biannual teacher and teacher's aide evaluations to maintain and improve teacher quality, accountability, and effectiveness
- Emergency training for teachers including CPR, First Aid, Blood Borne Pathogens, Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Reporting
- Free on-site screening of all enrolled children through Sweetwater County Child Developmental Center Outreach. Provide CDC services on-campus to help parents remain on campus during the day
- Child Care Education Institute Online training program implemented in 2019 to provide early childhood training in the following areas:
  - Health and Safety
  - Professionalism
  - Curriculum and Assessment
  - Child Development and Learning
  - Family and Community Engagement
  - Diversity and Inclusion
  - Classroom Management

- Parent Surveys
  - 100% of student respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the availability and utilization of the Children's Center contributed to their academic success.
  - 96.67% of parents said they were extremely satisfied with the educational activities provided by the Children's Center.
  - 100% of parents indicated they would recommend the Children's Center to others looking for quality care for their children.

### **Moving Forward**

Considering enrolling community members at a community rate after our students and faculty have been enrolled. This would help boost our income, as well as provide a much needed service in a community that has a shortage of quality childcare options.