



LEELANAU
CHILDREN'S
CENTER

A Nurturing, Play-based Community Preschool

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION • SINCE 1976

WELCOME TO THE LEELANAU CHILDREN'S CENTER

LCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides high-quality, early childhood education and advocates for children, parents and families. Since its beginning in 1976, LCC has grown into a model community-based preschool program, participating in Michigan's Great Start to Quality program and rated as "Demonstrating the Highest Level of Quality."

LCC provides care and education for preschoolers, with an emphasis on early relationships, early experiences, child initiated play-based learning, and community partnerships.

As a community supported organization, LCC is sustained by volunteerism and monetary donations. With continued commitment from our supporters, our community reach is strengthened, we develop meaningful relationships and ensure a sustainable future for LCC.

- **OUR MISSION:**

To nurture and empower young children and families.

- **OUR VISION:**

A caring community where all children belong and are inspired to become engaged learners and compassionate citizens through meaningful family partnerships, a play-based curriculum and an experienced early childhood education staff.

We welcome you to the LCC family and encourage you to ask any questions or schedule a tour:

(231) 256-7841 | info@leelanauchildrencenter.org



FACTS, FIGURES AND TIDBITS

AVERAGE TEACHER
EXPERIENCE IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION



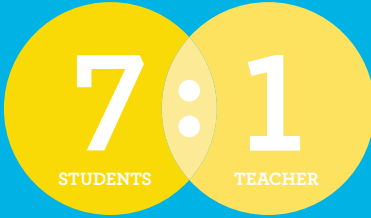
20 YEARS

PERCENTAGE
OF STUDENTS

100%

WHO RECEIVE
SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO



ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIPS



\$80,000



COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED

FREE



4-YEAR-OLD

PRE-SCHOOL
AVAILABLE



03

FAMILY-STYLE MEALS
SERVED DAILY

THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR PROGRAM

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS LCC is rooted in the belief that positive relationships are the most important aspect of any care and education setting. LCC staff are committed to nurturing warm, safe, consistent, and meaningful relationships with the children and families in our program.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF Our staff are experienced and passionate about teaching and caring for young children. Their specialized knowledge about child development and instruction is particularly important. LCC teachers hold higher education degrees in early childhood education and participate in ongoing professional development and training.

PLAY-BASED LEARNING LCC uses a play-based approach with a focus on hands-on learning. We provide open ended opportunities and an enriching environment for children to engage in uninterrupted play—play that the children design and control. Fully engaging with peers during social play helps support development and encourages children to better regulate emotions and solve problems. The topics children and teachers explore together will emerge from children’s questions, interests, and reoccurring play themes. Our teachers carefully observe and understand the developmental strengths and needs of each child and join in children’s play to scaffold learning, help children plan, encourage critical thinking, and model language skills.

SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT The health and safety of the children in our care is our foremost concern. We maintain a low teacher-student ratio of 1:7. We prepare healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches in our kitchen and children eat meals family-style with their teachers. We recognize and value the importance of physical movement for preschool children and provide daily indoor and outdoor opportunities for big movement. Children’s sense of security is also supported through a predictable environment, consistent routine, and steady relationships.

FOCUS ON SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT We believe that social and emotional development is the foundation upon which all other development rests. Teaching and facilitating pro-social interactions and practicing co-regulation is at the core of each day at LCC. We help children with the skills and behaviors used to play and learn with others, help children understand their feelings and those of others, and support their growing independence in solving personal and social dilemmas.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY Building community-minded and inclusive citizens begins early! We start each day with rituals and activities that connect children to their teachers and to each other in order to create a sense of belonging for everyone. We find opportunities for children to work towards common goals during planned activities and free play times and design curriculum that help children get to know how we are all alike and different.

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES A positive, trusting family partnership is essential at LCC and each child’s best interest is our shared concern. We invite and encourage families to join us in many ways. Staff maintain regular contact with families through regular conversations, news posts, classroom events, and conferences. There are many ways for our families to engage, volunteer, and connect with others in our LCC community.



TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD

Children who are 30-months-old are eligible to join our preschool classrooms. "Readiness", however, has more to do with an individual child's development than it does with age. Your child should be able to take care of a few basic needs such as washing hands, eating with little assistance, dressing themselves, and using the bathroom independently.

The registration process at LCC is personally directed. We look forward to guiding you through the steps to enroll your child.

Step 1: We want to get to know you and your family! Get to know us by visiting our website, www.leelanauchildrenscenter.org, and scheduling a tour.

Step 2: Once your intent to register your child is confirmed, you'll receive instructions on how to complete the enrollment process and prepare for your child's first day at the Leelanau Children's Center.

"The comfort and confidence that I have as a parent knowing that my children are receiving a world-class level of emotional, social, and life education cannot be understated. The Leelanau Children's center helps create the foundation for our community to grow and will forever be an important rock of the Leelanau Community."

—Taylor Simpson,
Co-Owner, Director of Sales and Marketing of Simpson Family Estates



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