



## Early Enrichment *at Idlewild*

### **Parent Information**

The Early Enrichment Center (EEC) at Idlewild is a program of Children and Family Enrichment (CAFE) at Idlewild, a non-profit formed to provide children and families tools for life-long resilience.

#### **Operations Details**

1. First and foremost, EEC staff will love your child and make EEC a home away from home.
2. Hours for the EEC will be 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
3. The EEC will serve children 6 weeks - 4 years.
  - a. January 7, 2019, will be the opening day for children 6 weeks - 26 months.
  - b. August of 2019, the preschool program will begin, accommodating children up to age 4.
4. Applications are to be made online at [earlyenrichment.org](http://earlyenrichment.org).
5. The EEC uses a rolling admissions procedure and graduates children to the next class based on developmental readiness.
6. EEC classrooms will all be located on the first floor of the Jones Building of Idlewild Presbyterian Church. This will be a newly renovated space, designed according to national standards.
7. The EEC will provide snacks for all children who eat solid foods. For an extra fee, the EEC will provide healthy meals. Otherwise, parents may choose to pack meals for their child. The EEC will be a peanut-free center.

#### **Core Values of the EEC**

1. Earliest brain development is crucial to lifelong health and learning. Eighty percent of a child's brain development occurs in the first 3 years of life.
2. Social-emotional learning is foundational to all other learning.
3. Diversity of race, background, family composition, socioeconomic status, and faith within an encouraging community of respect fosters healthy relationships that shape the child's view of the world and wider community.
4. Healthy families are part of a community that grows together with intention and commitment. EEC teachers and parents act as a team to provide care for children.

5. Providing parents, teachers, and children ways to self-regulate and to make healthy decisions is crucial to a healthy community. Tools for resilience give all people the ability to face and bounce back from challenges and adversity.
6. Studies show that resilience prevents dis-regulation, health problems, educational shame, addiction, and acting out.

### **Terminology**

1. The EEC is founded on the belief that young children need enriched learning that involves "talk, touch, read, and play."
2. The EEC is not a "child care center." Too often this term is interpreted as babysitting.
3. The 6 weeks - 26 months EEC program is not a "preschool." Educational experts say that pushing "school" as a concept for infants and children under 2 years is detrimental in developing the play and creativity of infancy.
4. Thus, this new center will be an "enrichment center" of care, learning, creativity, play, and development for your child.

### **Curriculum**

The EEC is working with educational leaders in the city and nation to expand earliest brain development curriculum that focuses on resilience and self-regulation. Children will develop social-emotional skills alongside physical and intellectual skills. In his book [How Children Succeed](#), Paul Tough defines well what EEC curriculum is about:

*"What matters most in a child's development is not how much information we can stuff into her brain in the first few years. What matters instead, is whether we are able to help her develop a very different set of qualities, a list that includes persistence, self-control, curiosity, conscientiousness, grit, and self-confidence."*