



From the Director

As we reflect on another successful year, we are especially proud to celebrate **35 years of caring for and educating young children and supporting families in our community.** For three and a half decades, our center has remained committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our teachers and staff, the trust of the families we serve, and the strong relationships we have built throughout the years. As we look toward the future, we are grateful for our history and excited about the opportunities ahead. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey and helped make 35 years of memories, learning, and growth possible.

— Holle Brambrick
Director, Lakewood Child Care Center

What We Stand For

The mission of Lakewood Child Care Center is to provide exceptional, age-appropriate child care services to meet the needs of the families and children of Lakewood and surrounding cities, and to provide affordable, high-quality care in a nurturing, stable and secure environment that fosters a child's social, creative, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Our Team is Our Greatest Asset

For our exceptional teachers and staff, there is nothing more important than teaching and caring for our children in a stable, nurturing environment. That's why we are grateful that our team is like family, with our administrators and lead teachers boasting a combined 145 years of service. We invest in our teachers and give them the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in the profession and grow their careers at LCCC. This year, our teachers completed 670 hours of training or continuing education, and consistently exceed state requirements for training.

Staff Spotlight: Tara Kane

For 30 years, Tara has been helping children learn, grow, and discover the world around them at Lakewood Child Care Center. Since joining LCCC in September 1996, she has built a career fueled by her lifelong love of working with young children, which began as a neighborhood babysitter and evolved into a passion for early childhood education.

Tara finds the greatest joy in watching children's excitement as they master new skills, whether it's writing their name, counting, creating artwork, or building friendships in the classroom. She especially enjoys seeing their creativity and curiosity shine through play, exploration, and self-expression.

Her journey at LCCC has included many roles and classrooms. She began as a part-time assistant teacher in the toddler room, gradually expanded her responsibilities, and eventually became a lead toddler teacher. When she discovered a new passion for working with older children, she transitioned to the Pre-K classroom, where she served as an assistant teacher before becoming Lead Pre-K Teacher, a role she continues to hold today.

Committed to her own professional growth, Tara earned an Associate Degree from Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and later completed her Bachelor's Degree through the University of Cincinnati while continuing to work with children full-time.

Looking back on her career, Tara is grateful for the opportunities, relationships, and experiences that have shaped her nearly three decades at LCCC. Her dedication to nurturing young learners and creating meaningful classroom experiences continues to leave a lasting impact on the children and families she serves.

Staff Spotlight: Natalie Manco

For 25 years, Natalie has helped shape young learners' earliest experiences at Lakewood Child Care Center. She joined LCCC in 2001 as a toddler teacher after seeking a place where she could continue to grow professionally and make a lasting impact. Drawn by the center's reputation for excellence, she took a chance on a new opportunity and found a career that continues to inspire her every day.

Natalie's favorite part of working with children is witnessing their growth and development. From supporting their first discoveries to celebrating their "aha!" moments, she treasures being part of each child's learning journey. She especially enjoys seeing children's curiosity come to life as they ask questions, explore new ideas, and proudly demonstrate what they have learned.

Committed to lifelong learning herself, Natalie earned both her Associate Degree (2007) and Bachelor's Degree (2012) in Early Childhood Education from the University of Cincinnati while working full-time. Throughout her career at LCCC, she advanced from the toddler classroom to preschool assistant teacher in 2011 before being promoted to Lead Preschool Teacher in 2014.

Reflecting on her journey, Natalie credits the mentors and colleagues who encouraged her growth along the way. "This life in early childhood is not just the children learning and growing," she shares, "I am also still learning and growing." Her dedication to children, families, and continuous professional development exemplifies the heart of Lakewood Child Care Center.



Early Childhood Education is an Investment in the Future

The National Education Association –along with researchers and universities across the world – agree that providing a high-quality education for children before they turn five yields significant medium- and long-term benefits for students.

Children in early childhood education programs are:

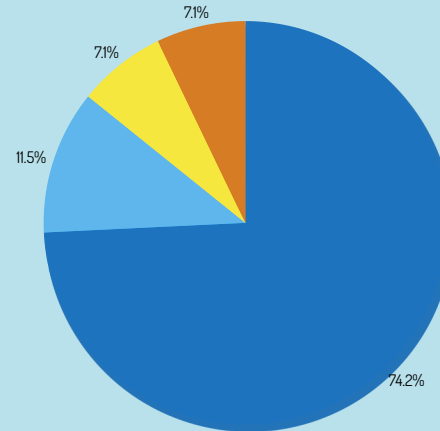
- Less likely to repeat a grade
- More prepared academically for later grades
- More likely to graduate from high school
- Higher earners in the workforce

[Source: National Education Association]

“We feel good dropping him off everyday with people who feel truly invested in his well-being and are happy to see him. They are warm, communicative, and it really feels like you've joined an extended family.”

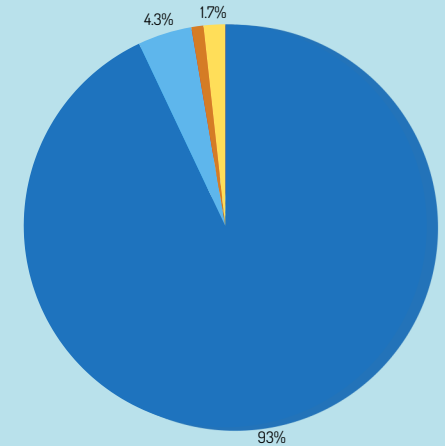
– Maggie, LCCC parent

Expenditures



- Payroll
teacher/staff/admin salary, training and benefits
- Facility, Equipment and Improvements
- Administrative and Contractor Expenses
includes fundraising costs
- Program Services
including food, fieldtrips, classroom supplies

Revenue



- Tuition and Fees
- Government Programs
- Business/personal contributions and fundraising/fall festival
- Interest



**122 children &
3,300 families served**



35 years
in the Lakewood community



18 years
average experience
of our teachers

Recognition of Our Efforts



For 33 years, we have proudly maintained NAEYC accreditation, and for 21 years, we have earned Ohio's highest Step Up To Quality rating. These achievements reflect our ongoing commitment to exceeding quality, health, safety, and educational standards. Through continued investment in our staff and programs, we ensure every child receives exceptional care and learning opportunities.



Celebrating 35 Years

