The Rollins College Child Development & Student Research Center (CDC) is a laboratory preschool and community outreach program of the Psychology Department. Over its history, the CDC has provided an active, hands-on teaching and learning experience to Psychology majors, a site for research, and a service to Rollins staff, students and alumni through its preschool program.

This year, the CDC will have a 5 day per week preschool program, open from 9-3:00. Students from classes in English, Education, and Psychology come to collect observational data, and we host tour groups from Experience Rollins, early childhood education programs, and area high schools.

Our Priorities at the CDC. The CDC is committed to excellence and innovation throughout its programs. We provide a state-of-the-art laboratory preschool to college staff, faculty and alumni. We provide rigorous training in principles of research, child development and education in a caring and responsive environment through programs that are interdisciplinary and collaborative. We advance the art of teaching through demonstration of best practices and through active, hands-on learning experiences for undergraduate students. We place a priority on supporting diversity among students, attending children, and research projects.

Admissions Policy. The Rollins College CDC admits children who are at least 2 years of age in August and not yet 5. The classroom is a “family grouping” model, with all children in one large group. The center is licensed for 18 children at any one time; we generally admit 16--18 (depending on the number of 2’s or children with disabilities). We are closed during all Rollins holidays and during the summer. Parents are required to complete a variety of surveys, and are frequently asked to participate in student research projects. In addition, each family hosts students for one home visit and interview each term.

The Rollins College CDC is, first and foremost, a laboratory of the Psychology Department. The first criterion for enrolling children is the educational value of the lab for the students at Rollins College. Therefore, we do not use a strictly numerical “wait list” policy. Children with unusual family or child backgrounds, children with disabilities, children who add to the diversity of the group, families who provide excellent interview or research opportunities for students, or a mix of children that fits a particular research project, receive top priority. We also strive for a beneficial balance of 2, 3 and 4 year old children, to present the broadest possible field for study for our undergraduates.

Next, we try to accommodate children of Rollins faculty, students, staff and alumni, giving equal priority to staff and faculty. Within this priority, we consider the needs of the child and family for the care provided, and the special needs of the child.

Finally, we attempt to include younger children in a family if an older sibling is attending. This is a family friendly policy, although it results in fewer families in attendance over time. We cannot always adhere to this.

Any vacancies during the school year are filled according to these policies as well.

As we do not use a strictly numerical “wait list” policy, we make admission decisions as early in the spring as possible, usually in early March. This gives parents a chance to have the whole summer to find other preschool opportunities.
We hope you will agree that the CDC does its best to accommodate the large population of people who want high quality preschool experiences for their children. Unfortunately, given the small number of spaces available, we cannot accommodate them all. We continue to advocate at Rollins for a larger CDC. We also provide a brochure, entitled “Know Your Child’s Center,” to assist parents who ask for help in making other preschool choices. We cannot recommend other centers, by CDC policy.

To place your name on the CDC list, complete the WAIT LIST application on our website and call 646-2515 and arrange for a tour of our center. With its bustling atmosphere and many student activities, the CDC does not appeal to all families, so we want you to see our site before making your decision to apply. After your tour, we will place your name on the CDC wait list and notify you in early April of admissions for the following fall.

All in the Rollins community are welcome to visit the CDC and take a peek via the one-way mirrors at any time, but please make an appointment for a tour or a talk.

Thanks for your interest in the CDC!

Sharon Carnahan, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Executive & Faculty Director, Rollins College Child Development & Student Research Center

Diane Terorde Doyle, M.A.
Director & Early Childhood Specialist

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CHILD DEVELOPMENT & STUDENT RESEARCH CENTER