



New Family Orientation Notes
9/28/22

History

PIC has a long history...44 years old

PIC was opened in 1978 by UPenn for infants and toddlers because they didn't serve the younger children. One year later they decided to close and a group of parents got together to create an independent non profit child care program.

In 2007, long time Executive Director Marni Sweet passed away after an illness. Under Marni, PIC expanded with the goal of making PIC more socio-economically diverse, something that was very important to her.

Upon Marni's death, the \$1M Sweet Dreams capital campaign was launched to expand further to meet the growing needs for child care in the neighborhood. The Sweet Building (on the left as you walk down the driveway) was renovated to create 6 new classrooms, increasing the program by 30% (50 new children)

In 2013 we redid the Nature Playground where we connect children with nature in as many ways as possible. Areas were created for playing in sand and dirt, building with loose parts and jumping among logs, playing with big blocks and big sticks and doing outside art. The Nature Playground has been an important part of staying open during the pandemic.

In 2017 PIC expanded again to increase socio-economic diversity further. We added two new classrooms with approximately 42 new preschool slots (with 50% dedicated to low-income families).

COVID

PIC closed for four months during COVID. We were fortunate to have parent physicians who volunteered their time to be a part of our COVID TASK force, bringing strong medical guidance to our re-opening. Since that time, guidelines have changed and they continue to do so. We are grateful for the partnership we have with families as we navigate COVID.

Board of Directors

PIC is a non-profit and thus governed by a Board of Directors that has fiduciary responsibility for the Center. The Board is made up of current and alumni families, and community members. They help set tuition.

Consider becoming a Board member or serving on a Committee such as Community Connections, Finance, Governance, Sustainability, and DEI.

By the Numbers

350 children during the school year

- 4 infants/young toddler classrooms
- 3 two years old classrooms
- 8 preschool classrooms
- 4 after school classrooms
- 100 children in Summer Camp

Staff - 80 staff members

High quality staff. Many with higher education or working toward a degree. PIC supports teacher's Early Childhood Education journey.

Administration

11 people on the administrative team. See contact information on the website

Mission: PIC works to provide and increase access to high-quality early childhood education and school-age programs that:

- give children opportunities to learn through play.
- are led by valued, professional educators.
- and actively engage and support parents and families.

Values: PIC's commitment to high quality early education and child care is best expressed in the values that we embrace. These values inform all aspects of the work we do with young children and their families.

COMMUNITY as the basis for child, family, and educator growth, development, and learning

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY as our foundational approach

NATURE as a home for children's play and learning

BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES based on solid research in the fields of education and child development

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION in classrooms and on educator and leadership teams.
Learning about holidays

EQUITY through practice and advocacy, in education access and educator compensation

PROFESSIONALISM of our educators

Quality:

Keystone stars is the PA quality initiative for childcare centers. PIC is a Star 4, the highest ranking one can achieve.

NAEYC is national accreditation that is regarded as the mark of highest quality. Only 10 - 13 % centers are accredited across the country. Our last reaccreditation was last year and we are reaccredited every 5 years

Questions/Comments

DEI: The fact of valuing everyone equally is felt once you enter the campus

Family Involvement: What is the status of family involvement?

Pandemic limited opportunities for families to get involved. We are in a state of wait and see. We started with potlucks, which brought families together. We will hold ArtStart where we provide child care so there is a time for families to just be grownups.

What about getting families back to the classroom?

We are not there yet. Families used to come in to read or do an activity. Can be arranged to do outside...talk to teachers. Unfortunately we are not able to do Grandparents Days this fall. We hope for the spring.

Sibling discount: There is no sibling discount, however there is a Scholarship Fund (money raised by ArtStart) that may award a small amount to help with expenses.

Artstart: The biggest fundraiser of the year and raises money for the Scholarship Fund. Seeking donations for the Parent Infant Center. Contact Development Manager Karen Stachelek at kstachelek@parentinfantcenter.org for help soliciting donations or other questions.

Getting a tour PIC: Contact Enrollment Coordinator Morgan Jimenez at mjimenez@parentinfantcenter.org, or Deb Green at dgreen@parentinfantcenter.org.

Food program: PIC serves warm lunches provided by Smart Lunches. Program is overseen by the federal government and food meets all guidelines. For children old enough, food is served family style. Children use scoops and pass the bowl to their neighbor. Favorites: macaroni and cheese and chicken nuggets.

Friday is pizza day. It's a longtime tradition and children love it.