

Certified by  8/23/10
(expedited certification)

UCC 0163 10S

Page 1 of 3

University of Houston Child Care Center (UHCCC) Resolution

In Support of a Name Change and Mission Alignment to Support Educating Young Children

WHEREAS, UHCCC is located on the University of Houston campus and aligns itself with the University's mission to discover and disseminate knowledge through education (# 1); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC exhibits a commitment to excellence in early childhood education by being accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* and the *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)*; and certified by *Texas Early Education Model* as Texas School Ready!™ based on a demonstrated ability to prepare children for kindergarten (# 3, # 5 & # 7); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC teaching staff's job descriptions outline children's learning outcomes which teachers are observed and evaluated on (# 1); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC teaching staff are required to obtain professional development in the field of early childhood education and teachers are either college degreed or have a minimum of a Child Development Associates and are working on an associates or higher degree in early childhood education, child development-family studies, early childhood special education, or elementary education with a concentration in early childhood education or the equivalent (# 3, & # 6); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC teachers prepare lesson plans with a curriculum supported by research and an emphasis on learning domains such as gross motor, fine motor, cognitive, language (including vocabulary development, phonological awareness and print knowledge), self-help, social emotional, prewriting and pre-math, (including numeracy, sorting, patterning) (# 2); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC classroom arrangements incorporate children's learning centers to provide opportunities that support the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each child (# 2); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC teaching staff use handheld PDA applications to conduct children's learning assessments that guide the learning and holistic development of young children and are used to make referrals to outside agencies when a developmental delay is detected (# 2); and

WHEREAS, UHCCC teaching staff have dedicated themselves to support children's learning experiences and belong to numerous professional educational organizations whose core values are based on current knowledge of child development and the concepts of how children grow, develop and learn (# 3, & # 4); and

WHEREAS, the name *Child Care Center* historically implies only care-giving which typically employs only care-givers and the name *Children's Learning Center* implies

RECEIVED JUN 24 2010

education and would typically employ early childhood educators who are teachers that work with young children in a classroom setting with a purpose to promote school readiness and improved learning outcomes of children; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that University of Houston holds to Strategic Principle 7, PK – 16 Partnerships and acknowledges UHCCC as an early childhood learning center, with curriculum designed to build a basis for future learners, which could be critical in increasing college-going rates (# 1); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the University of Houston champions the use of early childhood educators to provide cognitive readiness instruction to young children using research-based curriculum and reaffirms that UHCCC employs teachers, not just child care providers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the University of Houston applauds early childhood professional development and training that will help teachers boost young children's school readiness and improve the professional standing of the state's early education workforce and that UHCCC receives representation, recognition, and support as such; and be it further; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the University of Houston declares and confirms a name change for UHCCC to the *University of Houston – Children's Learning Center (UH-CLC)* to align with the *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/ ADVANC ED* mission of "advancing excellence in education worldwide" and to reflect our mission as follows:

"Our mission at UH-CLC is to provide exemplary early childhood education, for the children of students, staff and faculty at the University of Houston, by offering a model early childhood learning program tailored to ensure the quality of a child's daily experiences."

References:

1. www.uh.edu
2. www.uh.edu/ccs
3. www.naeyc.org
4. www.naccp.org; www.campuschildren.org
5. www.childrenslearninginstitute.org/knowledge-base/sb76.pdf
6. www.txdfps.org
7. www.advanc-ed.org/accreditation/

The situation that the resolution addresses:

The situation is that the name Child Care Center historically implies that a facility only cares for children and employs only care-givers not educators or teachers. UHCCC opened in 1975 and through the years early childhood education has taken many forms depending on the theoretical and educational beliefs of the educator or parent. The current situation is that it is noticeable the number of times that we have to step in and clarify our mission, philosophy and core values over this issue and then further define and uphold who we are in today's world. When a parent views teachers as care-givers only, it undermines our core values; thus, potentially damaging the organizational structure, philosophical foundation and staff morale. This limited vision of child care work can overlook the principles of early childhood education, current research and our purpose to promote school readiness and improved learning outcomes for young children.

The origin of the situation:

The origin of the situation comes with the name "child care center" and the belief that a child care facility only cares for children by employing care-givers whose job is to primarily care for children. The current situation originated over time and has become an increasing source of confusion as more evidence and research in the field of early childhood education has evolved. Today, the purpose of early childhood education is to facilitate a variety of learning experiences to meet the needs of children in the various domains of development.

The extent of the situation:

The extent of the current situation has resulted in UHCCC staff and the Child Care Advisory Board recommending a name change and then to proceed to educate all customers and potential users on whom we are in relation to children's learning outcomes.

How the proposed resolution will aid in alleviating the situation:

The proposed resolution will began the process to alleviate the situation by starting with a new name for the facility that includes the word learning; a revised mission statement that outlines the commitment to early childhood education; and support from the University of Houston to continue to fulfill our purpose of educating young children.

We are requesting specific action from the University of Houston as outlined in the attached resolution.

We are calling on the University of Houston and the representatives from Faculty Senate, Staff Council, Student Government, and the Women's Commission to join hands in establishing once and for all the purpose of a campus-based early childhood program.