

Campus Spotlight

USF Preschool for Creative Learning

In conjunction with the College of Education, the University of South Florida's Preschool for Creative Learning (PCL) provides unique opportunities to improve not only the education of the children but their teachers as well. Director Robin Pentz joined the PCL family in May 2013. Since then, she has been working diligently towards achieving the highest accreditation for early childhood programs, the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Due to Robin Pentz's almost 20 year employment with United Way and previous employment with Hillsborough Community College's Ybor Child Development Center, she is fully aware of community partnerships and is able to connect the PCL with the community.

The PCL serves USF students, faculty, and their families. Recently, the program began accepting Hillsborough County School Readiness Vouchers (formally known as Title XX) in which many university students may be eligible. The hours of operation are from Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:00pm and it is located conveniently on campus across from the Sun Dome. Discount tuition for USF students and tours are available. As a Florida State Food Program, the PCL provides breakfast and afternoon snacks, which follows the USDA Healthy Food requirement.

The PCL offers several programs such as Voluntary Pre-K and pre-school summer camp, and School-Age Summer Camp. Re-introduced just last year, the on-campus summer camp is now available for five - eight year olds. Within the four classrooms, each respective classroom is equipped with learning centers and school readiness lessons to meet the developmental needs and interests of the children. The PCL also has partnerships throughout the campus of USF, not limiting itself to the College of Education. The PCL also has partnerships with Department of Communication Science and Disorders, College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, and the Center on the Social Emotional Foundation for Early Learning (CSEFEL).

Parents are constantly up-to-date with a once-a-month newsletter. The newsletter is critical in informing parents of community visitors. At least once a month, many visitors from the community visit, such as St. Joseph's Child Advocacy Program, Tampa General Hospital Poison Prevention Program, Bess the Book Bus, and Hillsborough County children's librarians. Community visitors provide distinctive learning opportunities to the children. They also provide resources for the children as well. The community partnership and collaboration with the

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) offers developmental screens which may result in providing onsite speech therapy at the preschool. The Parent Association also supports the school in a variety of ways by conducting fundraising efforts to offer financial support for supplies and activities, such as the fall and spring festivals.

For more information, please contact:

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