

## **Cradlerock Children's Center -- Fast Facts**

### **Enrollment**

	Enrolled	Capacity	Openings
Children	61		
Inf/Toddlers	15	9	0
2 Yrs	13	12	0
3&4 Yrs	19	2	
4&5 Yrs	20	6	

### **Scholarships**

Total 17

We currently have 7 DSS children, 4 staff children (2 full time @50%, 1 full time @ 10%, and 1 part time @ 10%) and 6 scholarships (3 full time and 3 part time).

### **Highlights**

Foundation – Our program is built on three foundational elements:

- Quality Program
- Living wage for our staff
- Support for disadvantaged children

Our values dictate that this is the only way we can operate a center in an environment where these elements are in such demand and are rarely found. Our business model is built on attracting middle income families who will pay a competitive tuition compared to the best centers in the county. Grants and donations allow us to break even and support disadvantaged children.

Diversity – Our children cover an amazing cross section of our community. We have a healthy mix of rich and poor children from many cultures and races. It is where you would want your child to be.

Scholarships – We have offered scholarships from Day 1, at substantial cost, when we were losing money.

Food Program – We began serving all meals and snacks. We serve hot meals cooked from scratch. We have a part time cook. Children and teachers eat lunch together off of real “china”, say words, learn table manners. Key nutritional ingredient for many children.

MSDE Accrediation – We are on track for accreditation this spring. This is huge. We are told that many centers don't get accredited until they are operating for 10 years. Our center is singled out by local and county experts as a model for child development. We recently had a tour by the MD state director of Early Childhood accreditation. They were impressed.

Infant program – We have a waiting list of about 12 infants. Ours is probably the best in the area. This is a great community service as other centers forego this because of the expense.

Staff – Our average salary for staff is \$13/hour. We pay \$11 for teacher assistants and up to \$15.50 /hr for teachers. Plus we add 15% for benefits including health care. For profit centers pay \$8/hr. We also provide tuition support for education of \$500/yr for each staff.

Partnerships – We work closely with the Cradlerock School, the Judy Center and the Child Care Resource Center. They provide specialized skills such as expert on learning disabilities who will visit the center to help our teachers diagnose children who need early intervention.

After School Program – We started up with an after school program but dropped it after the first year because we could not deliver these services well. We are now prepared to start this up again, hopefully next fall. After school programs fit well. They allow us to support families with

mixed aged children at one location. They also allow us to provide additional support to children with tutoring and recreation. Room 115/116 are available from the 2:30 – 6:00 pm period with no impact on OBIC rentals. After school programs also have a better return for resources expended. Stay tuned.