

D. Scott Hudgens, Jr. Early Education Center

WEBSITE: www.Gwinnetttech.edu

Brief description (short background-history-philosophy-best practices):

A unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, Gwinnett Technical College's mission is to anticipate and exceed the workforce needs of our community. To address an ever increasing need for trained early childhood teachers, Gwinnett Tech began offering an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECE) Associate of Applied Technology degree in 2003. One element that was lacking with this program was a training facility that exemplified the art of teaching in a quality environment. In 2006, the College opened the D. Scott Hudgens, Jr. Early Education Center which can accommodate up to 208 children- age six weeks to 8 years – and that provides a learning lab for approximately 250 Early Childhood Care and Education students annually. The Center was constructed in less than eleven months with private funds and the partnership of Smart Start, the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation and Early Learning Property Management. Currently, the Center offers full-time programs for infants and toddlers; a preschool program; as well as a state-funded Pre-K program; and an extended learning program. During the summer, the Center also provides a 'Summer Camp' program for children ages 5-8.

Specific curricula used:

Twelve of the classrooms, including two Georgia lottery funded Pre-K classes, utilize the Creative Curriculum®. The third GA lottery funded Pre-K and one private class implement the Montessori method. The Center made a conscious decision to implement different teaching curriculum/methods so the ECE students would have exposure to different models they may be hired to teach.

Classrooms by age group: Infant Toddler Threes Fours
Fives School-age Mixed ages

Classrooms by type: Pre-K Head Start Early Head Start Other: _____

Other Services (available to children and/or families):

The Center is an inclusive environment and welcomes those with special needs. In partnership with Gwinnett County Public School, one GA lottery funded Pre-K classroom is dedicated as inclusive with additional teachers to provide the best learning environments for children with special needs.

Parent involvement program / parent requirements (if any):

Family nights are offered two times a year where children and parents enjoy an activity together. There are two center family picnics a year with all center staff attending. Pre-K parents are required to attend 2 parent-teacher conferences per year. All other parents are encouraged to sign up for and attend 2 parent-teacher conferences.

Teacher qualifications:

Teachers

Assistants

Teachers: Preferred minimum of Associate Degree in ECE or Child Development with at least 2 years of related experience. GA Pre-K requires BA/BS plus current certification.

Assistant Teachers: Preferred Minimum of CDA or Associate Degree in ECE or Child Development but MUST have at least 2 years of related experience.

We are working toward having a requirement for all Lead Teachers to have a minimum of an AS but preferred BS and at least 5 years experience. Assistant Teachers will have a minimum of a CDA and preferred AS with 5 years experience.

Funding sources and percentages:

Tuition 83% Federal 0% State 12% Foundation grants 5%
Fund raising /specify type/events: 0%
Other: 0%