

Discovery Child Development Center College of the Siskiyous

What is a Laboratory School?

Discovery Child Development Center, serves two important functions. We are a collaboration with ***Siskiyou Child Care Center***, an early education program operated by Siskiyou Childcare Council. SCCC is staffed by fully qualified early educators, it serves children and families the surrounding community. As a living laboratory of child development, it serves the students and faculty of College of the Siskiyous' Early Education and Child Development Program, as well as the students in our Nursing Program.

As a fundamental component of their study of child development and early education, our students serve as student workers and practicum students supervised while they assist in the classroom. Other students act as observers as they apply the theory presented in our classes to their observations in the classroom. All practicum students are supervised by a Mentor Teacher who has been assessed through the California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher and Director Program.

The presence of early education students enriches physical and social environment for the children's learning activities and offers the children additional individual attention. Students doing this work at DCDC are collecting "data" in the sense of observing the children as they learn and grow in an environment which illustrates the *Developmental Interactionist Philosophy* taught in our Program.

As the semester progresses students, as well as others who come for a shorter time to the DCDC, as part of their course work, may carry out observations or interview studies on various aspects of child development. These projects are always developed with their ECE@COS instructors, approved (and sometimes modified) by their Mentor Teacher, the ECE@COS Program Coordinator and SCCC Staff Experiences are presented to the children as part of their daily activity. Student activities are developmentally appropriate and add to the creativity and pedagogy of our program.

All student interactions and observations are supervised and confidential.

A College lab school is a model of educational practice and benefits the entire community. Discovery Child Development Center is in the process of reaccreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Professional visitors from the community observe at DCDC to see how our school implements the Developmental Interactionist Philosophy.

We help the visitors to behave unobtrusively and the children to accept these observers comfortably—often a child offers to show a visitor what is going on, but most frequently the newcomers are taken for granted as life in the classroom proceeds.

As part of the College of the Siskiyous community, our children and their parents provide a valuable service to a range of students, faculty, and community members.