

***Why only until 4:00 PM on Mondays?***

We have not expanded our program until five on Mondays for a number of reasons. When surveyed, parents have not requested expanded hours on Monday but more programming on no school days is if additional funds and capacity were available that would be a place to expand our program hours. Our community center has three programming spaces, the After School program is the only program that uses every space. The center has a long tradition of hosting a very well attended Monday night food pantry and expanding the after school program would alter this successful program. Finally, an additional hour of programming would increase program costs and we currently do not have the funds for this type of expansion.

***How is the program working to support emotional skills of at risk children?  
What specific strategies are being implemented?***

The After School Program is working to support emotional skills of at risk children by providing high quality child care and enriching programming that engages children, builds a sense of belonging and explicitly targets emotional skills. Our program includes focused discussions, books and activities that target emotional skill development. Staff members build strong relationships with each child and design activities to reflect the particular needs. For example, when a child has trouble initiating play with other children staff members may facilitate group games or role play with that child about how to ask to join a game, staff members may introduce books and tell stories about characters that included someone different. Staff members may engage children in different leadership roles such as assisting with snack, reading to others and helping with an activity. Staff also assist children with words and pictures to put words to their feeling and work with their peers to solve problems and resolve conflicts. The program provides sustained relationships, predictable routines, and a safe and supportive program environment which all support emotional skills development. . As needed our program accesses outside support system and creates individual behavior plans for children as needed

***Why increase in staffing costs?***

The current program is divided into three age-appropriate program rooms (K-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, and a drop-in program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.) The program is staffed by two part-time assistant teachers 2 x 0.23 FTE and one program coordinator 1 x 0.4 FTE. In order to provide needed staffing for the program, provide low staff to children ratios, and keep small group sizes we are requesting an additional assistant teacher 0.23 FTE. This will allow each assistant to be assigned a program room and the coordinate to supervise, support and assist each program room. Also the community center is planning on contributing a larger percentage of the cost of family health insurance in 2011 (from 30% to 60%) in order to retain and attract excellent employees.

***What is the parent's role in child's program / services?***

Same as the Early Childhood Program

Ways in which families contribute varies greatly. Parents are always welcome to observe and visit the program, in the past some parents have become trained regular volunteers and assisted with the program, other parents have been trained and worked as substitute teachers.

Parents are often asked to contribute materials for projects and artifacts from home to enrich the classroom space. Parents and other family members have acted as special presenters and shared a craft, art or musical talent with the program. Parents have provided tours of home gardens, connections to area adults in different professional fields that have done presentations (fire fighter, construction workers, and cooks). Parents have assisted in chaperoning field trips and special events. Parents contribute food for special events and community potlucks. Parents attend community and program events throughout the year. Parents complete a community survey and a variety of tools that help our agency to measure our outcomes and assess community needs and assets.

***What is parent's responsibility for portion of the program fees?***

The program is free, no fees are charged. In 2008, the Board of Directors began requiring participants in the Early Childhood Program to apply for Wisconsin Shares with the plan to expand the policy to the After School Program if it was successful. In 2009, the staff spent a lot of time working with families to assist with the county process and received less than \$500 in county tuition, the Board of Directors has not expanded the policy to participants in the After School Program.