



## The Falls Church–McLean Children's Center

uses innovative teaching methods to help 70 children ages **two to five years old** grow and develop alongside peers from many countries representing a variety of ethnicities. Operating from **7:30 am to 6 pm** to accommodate working families, the Center provides **comprehensive services** for all its students, including on-site assessment for developmental disabilities and referrals to support services. Sixty percent of the Center's children come from working families that receive **tuition assistance**. Forty percent of families pay full tuition for enrollment at the Center. More than half of the children enrolled at the Center arrive speaking only their native languages, and **leave fluent in English and ready to thrive in kindergarten**.

[www.fcmlcc.org](http://www.fcmlcc.org)



## High-Quality, Affordable Preschool is Essential for All Families

Research shows that a child's first years are critical to development. Solid grounding in social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills is essential for children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and reach their full potential. The Center has developed and implemented *Successful Start*, a program designed to enhance the ability of each child



to enter kindergarten with age-appropriate developmental skills. The Center provides comprehensive services including speech and language therapy; dental, hearing, and vision screening; occupational therapy; play and socialization skill groups to help children develop positive relationships with peers; and psychological consultation to help children enter kindergarten ready to

succeed. A Fairfax County Public Schools specialist comes to the Children's Center several times a week to conduct assessments and arrange placements and referrals for children who have special needs.

The Center provides support services to parents in both English and Spanish. Parents can participate in parenting classes, use the parent resource library, and receive referrals to appropriate medical and social services professionals. The Center also offers discussion sessions for parents where they can talk with professionals about child development and behavioral and parenting concerns.

Parents can download an application on our website [www.fcmlcc.org](http://www.fcmlcc.org). Anyone can apply. No residency, income, or other requirements exist for families paying full tuition.



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### Fees

- Two-year-olds (not toilet trained) – \$255/week
- Three-to-five-year-olds – \$225/week

Fees are subject to increase each September.

Enrollment at the Falls Church–McLean Children's Center includes breakfast, two snacks, and a hot lunch. The fee also includes field trips; vision, hearing, and dental screenings; and the services of our speech and occupational therapists and two counselors. All workshops and parenting classes are free. These comprehensive services for families paying full tuition are unique in Northern Virginia.

### The Center is Housed in a Beautiful New School

Thanks to a partnership with Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools and the support of the community, the Center—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—moved to a permanent location in Lemon Road School in August 2003. The Center's staff helped design its space to ensure that classrooms were built with the needs of young children and their teachers in mind. The Center includes five classrooms, a multi-purpose room for occupational therapy and indoor play, and a playground with equipment for two-year-olds and three- to five-year-olds.

### Dedicated Staff Are Experienced and Trained

All Center teachers have degrees in early childhood education or child development associate certification. While most early childhood education centers experience high staff turnover, our staff members have an average tenure of 10 years. All Center staff members are members of the National and Northern Virginia Associations for the Education of Young Children and are trained in first aid and CPR.



Teachers, who receive at least 20 hours of continuing education each year, are given funds and time off to attend workshops and classes at local colleges, the Fairfax County Office for Children, and other facilities.

### The Community Recognizes the Center's Importance and Excellence

The Falls Church–McLean Children's Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1968 by representatives of 20 local faith-based groups. The founders created a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood program designed to give all young children, regardless of their family's economic resources, a strong foundation on which to build the rest of their lives.

The Center has been honored by the Virginia General Assembly, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and the Fairfax County Public Schools for outstanding service. Temple Rodef Shalom presented the Center with the year Rabbi Richard Sternberger Award for Social Justice, and the *Catalogue for Philanthropy* chose the Center as one of the finest small charities in Greater Washington. Visit [www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org](http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org) to learn more.





## How You Can Help

The Center gratefully appreciates the financial, in-kind, and energetic support of its donors and volunteers. In order to enable children from low-income families to attend, the Center must raise more than \$150,000 in scholarship funds each year. To become a contributor to the Center, contact executive director Elizabeth Page at 703-534-4907. The Center also welcomes donations for the classroom and volunteers to help work with children and keep the Center in great condition.

To learn more about the Center's needs, visit [www.fcmlcc.org/needs.htm](http://www.fcmlcc.org/needs.htm).

**The Falls Church-McLean Children's Center**  
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