

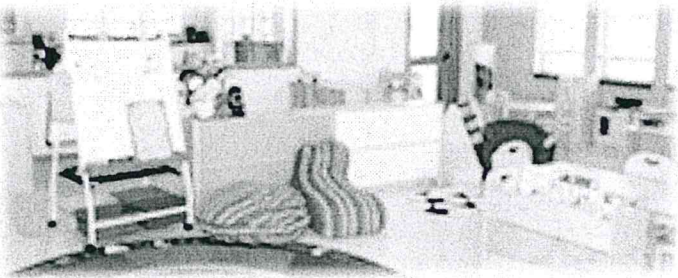
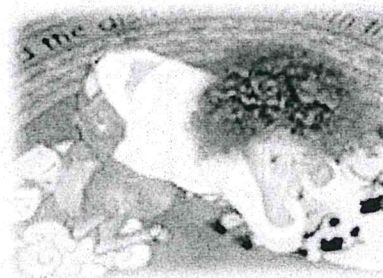
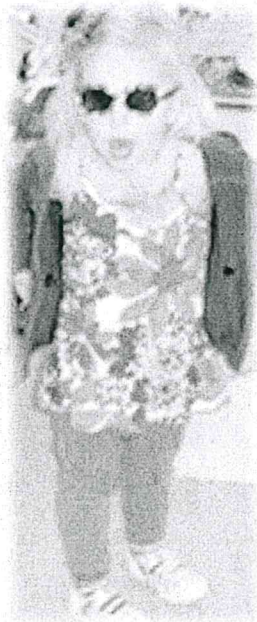


[Home](#) | [Overview](#) | [News](#) | [Childcare Program](#) | [Foundation and Giving](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact](#)

[Home](#) > Overview

Center hours

**Center is open M-F
7AM to 6PM**



Improve the Lives of Children

Many children in South Carolina begin life with limited chances for success. In a state with low academic achievement, underemployment, and poverty, Francis Marion University has a vision for building a better future through services for early childhood.

The Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child at Francis Marion University is prepared to meet that challenge by serving as a regional and state model for the dissemination of best practices in early childhood education, evaluation, and intervention.

A MISSION TO SERVE

Recent research has shown that from the crib to the classroom, healthy child development and achieving school readiness require nurturing children's mental and physical health, social and emotional skills, language, and cognition. Within the university community, the talents, skills, and knowledge of faculty in the Psychology Department and the School of Education along with other departments such as Nursing, will be available to the center, working jointly to improve lives. Through university classes, students will also get firsthand experience in working with the nearly one hundred young children the center will serve.

Another integral part of this undertaking is child-care service for children of students, faculty, staff, and community members. Therefore, the center will have a joint mission to develop and disseminate best practices for working with children and to provide quality, direct services for children.

The Center for the Child's Functions reflect its Mission

The functions of the Center for the Child reflect the mission to improve the condition and educational and economic potential of the children in our state, and will:

- Identify and disseminate best practices for optimizing early childhood development;
- Conduct and support research by faculty, scholars, and visiting professors to develop strategies of optimizing early childhood development, as well as to assist schools, agencies, and communities in conducting research, needs assessments, and program evaluations;
- Train professionals and paraprofessionals in evaluation, prevention, and early intervention through continuing education, workshops, conferences, distance delivery, and formal post-secondary experiences;

- Assist schools, agencies, and communities throughout the state with implementing best practices for early childhood services;
- Develop a database related to early childhood issues to assist decision makers in developing public policy related to the critical needs of children in the state;
- Provide state-of-the-art child care designed to develop and enhance literacy skills through developmentally appropriate practices and to enhance social and emotional development;
- Establish a child development clinic, the functions of which will include evaluation, intervention, prevention, and family services.



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