

Steamboat Child Care Center



Why did Steamboat open a child care center?

When we began the process of opening an employer child care facility, we identified two issues in our community regarding child care - accessibility and affordability. Overwhelmingly we heard from our staff and the community that accessibility was the number one issue. Parents were not able to find space for their child(ren) and after space became available, affordability is the next hurdle. SSRC saw the opportunity to offer a solution for the child care crisis in Steamboat by tackling the first issue (accessibility) and matching the community in the second issue (affordability). There are several sources of funding available to help offset the cost of child care at the State and local level and while these funding sources can provide amazing benefits, they cannot be fulfilled unless there is space for the child in a facility. Specifically in Routt County, there is a critical need for infant care and the Steamboat Child Care Center proudly offers high-quality care for children 3 months – PreK. Our goal is to provide access for our staff members and their families, especially staff who are new parents who want to return to work and young team members/families who want to consider growing.

What is the Steamboat Child Care Center (SCCC) mission?

The purpose of the Steamboat Child Care Center is to provide high-quality relationship-based care for children of Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation employees. It is one way in which we invest in our team and support our community. Our mission is to celebrate, care for, protect and encourage a vibrant and resilient community. We strive to create an inclusive environment where all families are valued and respected. Here at the Steamboat Child Care Center, we provide a safe, fun, and secure environment for young children to meet their physical, cognitive, and social-emotional needs. Our BIG RULES: be SAFE, be KIND, and be RESPECTFUL.

What is the SCCC philosophy?

We believe that children learn best when they are actively engaged in their environment and outside playing in nature. Our infant and toddler programs focus on relationship-based care where children stay with the same caregiver for up to 3 years. We offer a nature-based preschool focusing on outdoor play, environmental education, and a love of the outdoor, mountain lifestyle. We are committed to teaching children environmental sustainability, and we support Steamboat Ski Resort's environmental initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint, preserve natural resources, and improve water and air quality. It is in our nature to protect nature. In addition to treating the planet well, we believe in treating our people and community well. And along the way, contribute to those who share our vision and our passion for Doing Good.

Who does SCCC serve?

The SCCC serves children 3 months – PreK. Employee infants can start at 8 weeks. All children may attend through the summer before they enter kindergarten.

The SCCC only provides year-round care for families. We are NOT a drop-in center.

When does SCCC operate?

The toddler, preschool, and PreK classrooms are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. The infant classroom is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5pm.

Who can register at SCCC?

Steamboat Child Care Center is an employer-based child care center, and our first priority is serving the families of Steamboat Ski Resort. If space is available, spots will open for community families.

How does priority admission work for the center?

Open enrollment for new families will take place in September for the ski season (November) and in March for the summer (June.) Registration will NOT be first-come, first-serve. Registration for new families will be prioritized based on the following SSRC employment tiers and criteria:

1. Full Time Year Round
2. Flex Year Round
3. Season-to-Season
4. Seasonal
5. Community members with a sibling who is already attending the Steamboat Child Care Center and who want 5 days/week or have flexible days.
6. Community members who are already on the waiting list, have signed the waitlist agreement, and have paid the waitlist fee.
7. New community members who want 5 days/week and have flexible days.

How do I get on the waitlist?

In order to join the Steamboat Child Care Center waitlist, you must register during one of our biannual enrollment periods, sign the waitlist agreement, and pay the \$100 nonrefundable waitlist fee. Approximately 2 weeks after registration closes, you will receive a waitlist confirmation letter via email. Then you will receive the waitlist agreement and the waitlist fee via Brightweel.

Is my spot guaranteed?

From the beginning the Steamboat Childcare Center has prioritized serving as a benefit for SSRC employees. As we enter our second summer, an increasing number of SSRC parents are taking advantage of this benefit, resulting in community members being placed lower on the priority list for admission. It's important to note our priority status which places SSRC employees first, followed by current community families who require care five days a week, and then siblings of current families. We understand this shift will impact families that previously had care and we appreciate everyone understanding the childcare center's mission to prioritize SSRC employees.

How can I get assistance with the cost of child care?

Child care assistance is available through 2 public funding sources, regardless of your employment status at SSRC. For more information and to see if you're eligible for assistance please first check [CCAP](#) and if you are not eligible for CCAP, please check [First Impressions](#). Families in Routt County currently receiving CCAP at another program are eligible to transfer their authorization to ours with approval from RCDHS. Families receiving First Impression are "most likely" able to transfer their tuition assistance to ours if they maintain the same number of days (or more) with approval from First Impressions.

How much will SSRC make on the child care center?

SSRC will not make ANY money on the child care center. We will lose money, with our expected loss to be around \$200,000 annually as we subsidize approximately 40% of the costs of operating a child care facility.