

Why did Steamboat Ski Resort Corporation (SSRC) 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 was 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).

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. 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.

What is Nature-Based Learning (NBL)?

Nature-based learning (NBL) is an educational approach that engages children with the natural environment and natural elements as a pathway for learning. Although NBL often occurs in natural settings, it can also occur in built environments where natural elements are added to promote learning and skill development. NBL includes learning about the natural world, but extends to engagement in any subject, skill, or area and is often implemented in interdisciplinary ways. (childrenandnature.org)

SCCC is a nature focused school starting in the infant class. Infants get out daily for walks and older babies play on the playground (weather permitting). Toddlers spend a majority of their morning outside and frequently go on "trips" (walks in strollers and on foot) to facilitate authentic, spontaneous learning experiences outdoors. The preschool and pre-k programs facilitate learning in the natural environment and with natural materials, with a focus on seasons and sustainability while preparing students academically and social-emotionally for kindergarten.

What curriculum and assessment tools does SCCC use?

As a Nature Based center, SCCC allows nature to lead our learning, with seasonal themes and authentic, spontaneous lessons. Alongside nature, SCCC follows the evidence-based Pyramid Model for social-emotional learning and development, will 100% of the full and part-time staff trained in the Pyramid

Approach. SCCC also used the Creative Curriculum in all of the classes for supplemental lessons and activities. All learning at SCCC is assessed using Teaching Strategies Gold, a Colorado Department of Early Childhood and Rout County First Impressions supported, evidence-based tool. Assessments are conducted 3 times per year and parent-teacher conferences are held

What ages 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 if space permits.

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. Our annual calendar can be found [ONLINE](#).

Who can register at SCCC?

Steamboat Child Care Center is an Employer-Based child care center and its priority is serving the families of Steamboat Ski Resort. If space is available, spots will open for community families. **Anyone can register at SCCC during open enrollment periods twice a year. New employees can register (for the waitlist) on a rolling basis as they are hired; enrollment is not guaranteed and is determined after open enrollment based on priority.**

How does priority admission work for the center?

As an Employer-Based child care center, SCCC will have preference for Steamboat Ski Resort staff members first. Employees receive priority based on their employment status: Full Time Year-Round, Full Time Seasonal, Part-Time Year-Round, Part-Time Seasonal. ALTERRA EMPLOYEES The next tier of priority is children who have a sibling who is already attending the SCCC followed by community members who are already on the waitlist and who want care 5 days/week and have flexible days. **New employees are not guaranteed a spot at time of hire but will be given priority on the waitlist and a spot in a classroom as soon as one is available. During open-enrollment, employees on the waitlist will be given enrollment priority for the new season. We encourage hiring managers to reach out to SCCC admin when they have potential new employees who need child care as early as possible in the hiring process.**

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

SCCC accepts both CCAP and First Impressions tuition assistance. More information can be found on their websites: [CCAP](#) and [First Impressions](#). SCCC also participates in Colorado UPK program, offering a credit to children in their PreK year of early childhood education (the year before kindergarten). SSRC and Alterra Mountain Company employees also receive an employee discount.

How much does SSRC make on the child care center?

SSRC does not profit on the child care center. SSRC subsidizes approximately 40% of the costs of operating a child care facility, over \$200,000 annually. Child care is an investment in SSRC employees and the Steamboat community.