



Department of Communication Science
and Disorders
School of Health Professions

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University of Missouri-Columbia



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool. Enclosed is an application for admission. Please return the application to the above address or email it to fritzd@health.missouri.edu at your earliest convenience so that your child may be considered for the next available opening. The purpose of this letter is to explain the application process as well as to provide some information about our preschool. If you have further questions, please contact us at 573.882.8538 (preschool office) or 573.882.3873 (department office).

The enclosed application should be completed and returned to the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool, Department of Communication Science and Disorders, 303 Lewis Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. Some scholarships are available through the Scottish Rite's *RiteCare* philanthropic organization. Please write on your application if you would like to be considered for a full or partial scholarship. Other paperwork to complete that process can be done if an opening in the preschool becomes available.

A Brief History and Statement of Purpose

This preschool was opened in 1999 as a joint effort between the local chapter of the Scottish Rite and the MU Department of Communication Science and Disorders. The main philanthropy of the Scottish Rite is to improve and provide services to children with speech and language difficulties. We have served 12-16 children aged 3-5 years each semester since opening. Most of these children have been diagnosed with a mild to moderate speech or language problem. Some are children speaking English as a second language and others are peer models for the group. We seek to provide an intensive, structured, language-rich environment in a small, fun preschool setting.

Who Works Here

The MU Department of Communication Science and Disorders teaches and trains students in the field of speech-language pathology. These students are required to obtain 25 observation hours and 350 clinical clock hours before graduation. Seniors and first-year graduate students in our department are the clinicians in the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool. They are supervised by certified and licensed professionals throughout their training. Generally our ratio of clinicians to preschoolers is 1:2 or 1:3. The Occupational Therapy (OT) Department opened a clinic under the supervision of Lea Ann Lowery (884.2139). Several of the children attending our preschool also receive services before or after preschool in the OT clinic.

Our Program

We base each preschool week around one or two related books. These books are read at least

four times during the course of the week and all daily activities relate to the books' theme. We have been shown, through research around the world, that a balance of child-directed and teacher-directed learning opportunities is effective. Also, repetition is important in sealing in new vocabulary and concepts. Since our daily activities (even snack time) revolve around a book theme, we know we are repeating related vocabulary many times in the course of our mornings together, working on how to understand as well as how to talk about the words and concepts integral in our week's books. We have incorporated information gained from the well-established and long-running language preschools at Kansas University and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Preschool Day and Costs

Children are in classes either on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from 9am-11am. Our semesters are based on the University of Missouri calendar, opening a week after Mizzou starts and closing a week before finals. This generally amounts to 12 weeks per fall and winter semesters and 6 weeks in the summer. Tuition for fall and winter is \$275 per semester and \$137.50 for summer. Individual therapy is also offered in the MU Speech and Hearing Clinic in coordination with the preschool schedule. Cost for individual therapy is \$660 per semester and \$330 for summer. If you choose to seek both preschool and individual therapy services, the cost is \$800 per semester and \$400 for summer. With the generous support of the Scottish Rite, scholarships are available to those who qualify. If you are interested in individual speech-language therapy, please contact Barbara Brinkman, MU Speech & Hearing Clinic director, at 573.882.5469.

Overall Policies and General Information

Attendance is an important part of our program. Children should not attend if they are sick, however, given the dual educational nature of our preschool, it is imperative that children attend regularly for our program to run well, for the children to get the most from our language-rich environment, and for the college students to obtain the amount of training they require.

We ask that all families provide records of their child's vaccinations within the first week of attendance. We do not have diaper changing facilities in our preschool, so children must be in pull-ups or potty-trained to attend.

Transportation is provided to our preschool by parents, other relatives or friends. We provide a hangtag so that families are able to park in the lot closest to our building without additional cost. We are located at the corner of Rollins and Providence Roads on the west side of the University of Missouri campus in 124 Clark Hall (next to Eldercare).

In closing, again thank you for your interest in our language preschool. If you have any remaining questions do not hesitate to contact us at the above phone numbers or via e-mail (fritzd@health.missouri.edu). Information about our preschool and clinic can also be accessed on the web (<http://shp.missouri.edu/csd/>).

Sincerely,

Dana Rissler Fritz, PhD CCC-SLP
Clinical Assistant Professor
MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool
Preschool Director



MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool Application

Child's Name _____

Birth date: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Mother's Name _____ Home Phone _____

Father's Name _____ Home Phone _____
(if different from above)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mother's Work and/or Cell Phone _____

Mother's Employer and Work Address _____

Mother's E-mail address _____

Father's Work and/or Cell Phone _____

Father's Employer and Work Address _____

Father's E-mail address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____
(for AM hours)

Language(s) spoken in the home _____

School your child will attend for kindergarten _____

Family Doctor _____ Phone Number _____

Allergies and Medical Concerns for your child _____

Has your child been diagnosed with a speech or language problem? If so, please explain.
Include information about past or current services. _____

How did you hear about our preschool? _____