The Edna A. Hill Child Development Center provides preschool programs for children, with and without disabilities, who are 12 months to 6 years old. These children and their families receive the benefits of participating in enriched early intervention programs that utilize empirically sound and effective procedures and instructional techniques.

A primary function of the Center is to provide an academic setting for the instruction of undergraduate and graduate students in the Department.

The Center also provides classroom settings where research on the development of best practices in early intervention and education is conducted by faculty and graduate students with undergraduate student assistants. Projects are designed to develop and evaluate the most effective procedures for teaching children appropriate skills and reducing inappropriate behavior.

Edna A. Hill Child Development Center
Kansas Early Autism Program
1000 Sunnyside Avenue
4001 Dole Center
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045

Ashley Kingsley
Program Administrator
Edna A. Hill Child Development Center
(785) 864-3498
keap@ku.edu
http://www.cdc.ku.edu/keap/index.shtml
Our Program

KEAP is part of the Edna A. Hill Child Development Center in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science at the University of Kansas.

We serve children 12 months to 6 years old who have a diagnosis of autism or a diagnosis of one of the other disorders on the autism spectrum (such as pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified and Asperger’s Disorder).

KEAP provides intensive teaching services based on the principles of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). These principles utilize our current understanding of learning and motivation and have been empirically evaluated with many young children with autism and other developmental disorders.

Our hours of operation:
8:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday during the times that the University of Kansas is in session.

Typically, each child with autism whom we serve attends KEAP about 36 to 38 hours each week.

Missions

Our first mission is to teach young children with autism the skills that they will need to live in the community as normally as possible. The selection of skills to be taught is based on the needs of the child and as agreed upon by the parents and the staff. The most common skills that we teach are:

- Communication skills (such as imitation, learning how to make requests of other people, and initial speech).
- Social behavior (such as following instructions, interacting appropriately with adults, and playing with peers).
- Self-help skills (such as eating, using the bathroom appropriately, and brushing their teeth).

Our second mission is to teach our undergraduate students how to teach young children with autism.

Our third mission is to conduct research to discover the best ways of teaching children with autism.

Tuition

KEAP is in session during the fall, spring and summer semesters (for a total of 10 months per year). The tuition for KEAP is $1000 each month (or $10,000 for an entire year).

Our Staff

The teachers of the children are undergraduate students who have completed a number of courses in Applied Behavioral Science. These teachers are directly supervised by graduate students in the Ph.D. program in Behavioral Psychology in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science. All of the graduate student supervisors have extensive experience in teaching children with autism. They are: Ariana Boutain, Nikki Call, and Todd Merritt. The faculty supervisor is James A. Sherman, Ph.D., BCBA-D.