

Ellen Brewer Infant/Toddler Lab Home
Policy Statement

The Ellen Brewer House was designed to serve as a model program where undergraduate students at Meredith College can observe the development of very young children in an environment that is developmentally appropriate. Students also have the opportunity to plan curriculum and to teach while at EBH.

Research has demonstrated that one of the key indicators of quality for young children is a low child-teacher ratio. A ratio of 4:1 is maintained at all times, and often there is a ratio of 3:1 or better. An additional indicator of high quality programs is having adult-child interactions that are warm, nurturing, and responsive to children's cues. EBH faculty and staff are committed to providing interactions that are patient, affectionate and encouraging so as to create an environment that fosters trust, security, and independence. With this foundation, children at EBH are able to move into further levels of mastery and competence—all integral pieces of creating a child's positive sense of self.

The children's space at EBH is designed to be safe, attractive and warm. Young children learn by experiencing their environment through their senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. They learn by exploring, by interacting with other children and adults and by being helped to interpret their experiences. Therefore, cozy spaces are available for quiet play; bright and exciting places for exploration and sensory experiences, story-telling and make-believe, dance and music; and outside space for gross-motor activities, such as running and climbing.

There is a balance of free play and planned activities appropriate for the children's developmental level. Materials, books and toys are provided that enhance the children's experiences and reflect the diversity of the children and their families. "Teachable moments" are taken advantage of daily and the curriculum is constructed by following and expanding upon the children's interests.

Families can go to their jobs confident that their children are cared for in a community where individual differences are respected. Family values and participation are important to a program that strives to provide the best care possible for children.