

## Curriculum Description

Mercy Co-worker Children's Center follows the curricular framework known as Project Construct. Project Construct was developed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1986 and is designed to be used with children birth through age seven. Project Construct is derived from constructivism – the theoretical view that learners construct knowledge through interactions with the physical and social environments. Project Construct is based on the theory that children learn most readily when they are actively and directly involved in experiences that are meaningful to them. Thus, it is our teachers' responsibility to create a learning environment in which children can pursue their interests and come up with a variety of ideas.

In our classrooms, teachers plan for experiences based on the children's interests that address social/emotional skills, language and literacy, cognition, math, science, creative expression, dramatic play, art, music, physical development, technology, health and safety. We encourage critical thinking skills and trial and error activities, encouraging children to find answers through experiences. Rather than provide answers for them, we ask thought provoking questions to encourage their exploration, such as...."What happens if we try this?" or "What do you think we should do differently this time?" "Why do you think your structure fell?"

### Project Construct classrooms

- Use students' interests to motivate and engage them in learning
- Encourage children to collaborate and work together
- Allow children to take initiative, express opinions, and make choices
- View children's errors as learning opportunities
- Assess children's thinking, as well as their work, in order to teach more effectively

Excerpt taken from 2000 Project Construct National Center

Our teachers work to challenge the children to make predictions about their world, to learn through trial and error, and to rethink their predictions in light of new evidence.

Please feel free to schedule a tour and see this amazing curriculum in action!