

CHECK OUT ONE HOPE UNITED, AURORA'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

— Sandy Conrad
sconrad@fvshopper.com

The Early Learning Center (One Hope United), located at 525 College Avenue in Aurora, 60505 (630/256-7700) occupies a 22,000 square foot, state of the art, environmentally sound building which features spacious classrooms with windows that let in lots of natural light.

It is part of a large group of Early Learning Centers that date back to their establishment in 1895. For over 120 years, these child care facilities are all accredited or undergoing the same by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a distinction held by only a small percentage of such providers in the country.

Additionally, the Early Learning Center has received an Illinois Excellent Rate Gold Circle for Quality Designation, the LEED Silver Certificate from the US Green Building Council, and is recognized by the Council on Accreditation and the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS).

Services are available for Infants, Toddlers, Twos and Preschool and School Age Children. The Teacher to Children ratios are as follows: 1:4 (infants); 1:5 (toddlers); 1:8 (2 year olds); 1:10 (3-5 year olds); 1:15 (school age children).

The Healthy Life Styles Curriculum allows children to develop healthy routines and activities with an emphasis on proper nutrition, daily exercise and learning about protecting the environment by recycling, reducing and reusing. All meal

preparation of healthy foods is done onsite at each center with impressive consideration always afforded to children's preferences.

Each site has a garden where children can plant and care for flowers and harvest vegetables.

The staff joins with parents on an individual basis to create learning goals for each child to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond and daily activities are planned based on these specific goals.

Through the CCAP program, families may receive child care services at a reduced rate at the Early Learning Center, depending on income and additional information. Ask for specifics.

There are twice yearly parent teacher conferences and frequent fun and educational family nights. Free Museum passes may be available and exercise classes are often held. Each center has a Family Resource Room with computer and Meetings are held for parents to learn about child development and parenting.

Kindergarten begins at 11:30AM; first grade and older children meet beginning at 2:30 PM. Center hours are 6:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.



If this is the type of program you desire for the care and education of your children, call to meet with the director and staff and tour the facility.