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## General Information

### *Success in Learning—Success in Life*

St. Mary's Child Center is a not-for-profit agency that offers two early childhood initiatives to positively impact the futures of young children: **The Preschool Program and the Educational Outreach Program.**

St. Mary's is headed by an Executive Director who works closely with a Board of Directors. The Board provides direction, carries out the strategic plan and is responsible for raising revenue to provide financial support.

St. Mary's Child Center was founded in 1961. Funding for the program is received from United Way, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, donations from individuals, corporate and endowment/foundation grants, program fees and special events.

All revenue directly supports the children in the Preschool Program and the efforts of the Educational Outreach Program.

Every person involved—from full time staff to volunteers to Board Members— is passionately committed to providing the best possible education for ALL of the children we serve that will result in school and lifelong success.



## Preschool Program

- St. Mary's has provided essential services to children for over 50 years.
- We welcome 3-5 year old children of any race, color, religion, national origin or socioeconomic background.
- The children are involved in the highest quality early learning experiences. Our work facilitates cognitive, social, emotional, physical and creative development. The children are ready for Kindergarten when they complete our program.
- Our children learn in beautiful environments with highly qualified and dedicated educators. Educators from St. Mary's have studied in Reggio Emilia, Italy and collaborated with educators around the world.
- We offer small class sizes with a 7:1 child to adult ratio.
- Snacks and lunch are provided to all children while at school. Social services are provided to those who qualify.
- Our program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, licensed by the State of Indiana, and ranked a Level 4 on the Paths to Quality scale.
- Over 93% of the children served at St. Mary's Child Center live in poverty.
- St. Mary's Child Center has never denied a child services because their family cannot pay. We offer a sliding fee scale. While the annual cost for half day services provided is \$5,000, most families receiving scholarship support pay \$5 per week.
- St. Mary's partners with the College of Education at Butler University as members of the Indianapolis Reggio Collaborative.
- Topics of interest are explored through investigations and projects. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving and on the arts as a form of self-expression used to demonstrate learning.
- The high quality early childhood experiences at our schools prepare our children for success in learning and success in life.

## Educational Outreach Program

The Educational Outreach Program provides a series of opportunities to support the educator's understanding of high quality practices. This includes sharing our work as we study and develop the teaching philosophy that children are competent, capable, strong and important citizens of the world.

St. Mary's will partner with educators to improve the quality of community early education programs, resulting in significant positive outcomes for all children. The target audience is Early Childhood Educators working with low income children. Space permitting, we are happy to include all Early Childhood Educators in the community.

Professional Development Offerings:

- Seminars
- Tours
- Visitation Days
- Presentations
- Summer Institute

