



Oregon State University **Family Resource Center**

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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Azalea Center Transition

Azalea Center Hours

The Azalea hours will be 8:00 am to 4:30 pm beginning July 1, 2024. The shift from a 47.5 hours/week operation to a 42.5 hours/week is driven by the current early care and education (ECE) workforce crisis. The well-being of our ECE center team is an ongoing priority and is necessary to provide your children with a quality care and learning experience. Retention of high-quality staff, including a sustainable workload, is the foundation of high-quality ECE care. In light of this reality, the change in operational hours cannot be deferred until all current families have transitioned on to Kindergarten.

Azalea staffing

Given the shortage of qualified ECE professionals, we are prioritizing the wellbeing of the team who provide care for your children. We are unable to increase staffing to provide care more than 42.5 hours/week. We will continue to assess staffing options that balance workforce availability, ECE costs and needs of OSU's employees.

Beaver Beginnings Center Hours

Beaver Beginnings, operated by our vendor partner KinderCare, currently opens at 7:30 am and closes at 5:30 pm and we anticipate these hours continuing. At the same time, the ECE crisis of equitable access and affordability of quality ECE, and the ECE workforce crisis could potentially impact future operations, including center hours.

Summer Session at Child Development Center

One option with the second-floor renovation was to close both the center and the operations; this approach would have resulted in no Azalea ECE for three months. Instead, our team is relocating the early care and education operation to minimize impact on Azalea families. The two-week closures on either end of summer operations are necessary to address the physical move to the Child Development Center in June and then back to Azalea in September, and to ensure staff have a short break before they onboard and train as new OSU employees.

Summer Friday Hours

Throughout the academic year, ECE trainings and family events create long days for ECE professionals on top of their full-time ECE responsibilities. Early closure on eight summer Fridays provides flexibility and rest opportunities for our team, consistent with the university's intent for flexible Fridays. Regular full-time staff will of course be compensated for the full day. We intentionally close at 12:00 pm so that children's naptime is not disrupted or postponed. We piloted a 1:00 pm mid-day Friday closure at Dixon Kits ECE Center. Parent feedback at Dixon Kits let us know that a 1:00 pm closure was not ideal and that 12:00 pm would be better. Our ECE team continues working from 12:00-1:00 pm, using the time for training, planning and team meetings.

OSU Employee work schedules and ECE center hours

Employees at OSU work a variety of schedules, many of which are not Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. For example, many custodial employees begin their workdays as early as 4:00 am and many dining staff work every weekend throughout the year. Our new operating hours balance core service availability with long-term sustainability for our ECE team and centers.