
From: Luhn, Amy
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 6:42 AM
Cc: Hoelscher, Steve E; Henry, Tania; Moberg, Erika Jean
Subject: Beaver Beginnings Update – OSU Plan to Self-Operate Center
Attachments: FRC ECE Centers Family Handbook Sept 2025 final.pdf

Hello OSU families,

Over the last couple weeks, many of you have been in touch with us via in-person meetings and email outreach with your questions about OSU self-operated early care and education. Thank you for the questions you have provided and please continue posing your questions via email, phone, or in-person outreach to me – they help our team attend to all elements of this fast moving and high-pressure situation.

I'm reaching out to share with you that we have updated the [FAQ page](#) on our website, in large part informed by your questions as well as the emergence of operational and iterative planning details. If after reviewing the updated FAQs you have additional questions, please be in touch with me directly.

In 2022, OSU embarked on self-operating its first licensed early care and education (ECE) program in the Dixon Recreation Center, followed by expanded OSU ECE programming in Azalea House in 2024. That consistent, proven, and sustainable OSU model of ECE is the model of ECE that OSU will operate in the Beaver Beginnings facility following KinderCare's departure.

This model of care, including the previously communicated elements of staff compensation and benefits, hours of operations, food program, pricing approach, OSU subsidy support, curriculum, and professional development and related closures is grounded in institutional financial realities/constraints and ECE best practices. It is a highly intentional model.

Oregon State University heavily underwrites campus based ECE and that institutional subsidy is essential for all OSU ECE operations and is finite in the face of OSU current financial headwinds. While we would love to provide additional ECE services at less costs – or even no costs - to OSU families, we do not have the corresponding societal, federal, state, local, or unlimited OSU subsidies to do so.

We know the operational changes from an OSU-subsidized KinderCare corporate model to an OSU self-operated model represent substantial changes for some of you and that this may necessitate a significant adjustment in your own personal ECE plans. We know this model of care may not work for all of you, but do not have the financial resources to alter/expand this model at this time. Operating this kind of center is very different from the KinderCare model, we want each of you and your children to benefit from the OSU model, and we respect that it may not meet the needs of all Beaver Beginnings families.

With the above as context, if this model will or may work for your family, we strongly encourage you to complete the [enrollment interest form](#) by May 15. The form's resulting number of families, and corresponding child count, will inform our staffing needs and urgent hiring plans. We have attached the

current Azalea ECE Center handbook as a reference if you have additional questions about the OSU ECE model.

Our state and country are in an ECE crisis - a crisis of quality capacity, affordability, and ECE workforce. Many [campuses](#) are choosing to shutter their centers. KinderCare chose to close Beaver Beginnings on June 26, but OSU has committed to reopening a licensed, high-quality, and self-operated center so that existing families would have an available on-campus option for their ECE needs. Through the Family Resource Center, OSU provides not only high-quality, campus-based ECE but also extends its ECE engagement to state and federal advocacy in support of increased public funding into this sector.

Should you have questions about our campus model of early care and education and/or the state and federal ECE advocacy we are engaged in, please reach out to me and we can find a time to meet.

~take care,
Amy

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