



United Way of the  
Mohawk Valley

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## Utica ESPRI & Academics First FAQs

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*How will the childcare center's operation be affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic regulations? What safety precautions does the center take to ensure the health of the staff and clients?*

Childcare is currently considered an essential service. The need for childcare for our essential workers is greater than ever. The center will follow any regulations and safety protocol set forth. A safety plan including, temperature testing, sanitation and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is strictly followed to ensure the health and safety of staff and clients.

*When will the childcare center start to operate extended hours and days?*

The timeline for extending operating hours and days will be contingent on employment and enrollment. To obtain a license to operate at a level of extended days and hours the center must have the appropriate staffing levels. Currently we are working to hire those employees but felt the need for childcare for our community was high and decided that we would rather open than wait, even if it meant scaled back operation days and hours.

*How many children will the childcare center be able to assist?*

The number of children the childcare center can assist will depend on staffing and licensing regulations. We expect about 100 children to be cared for per day. Enrollment of different age groups and time slots may vary.

*What is the childcare center's age range?*

The childcare center will care for children ranging from 6 weeks to 12 years old.

*When can I start enrolling my child(ren)?*

Enrollment for children is now open. To sign up to enroll a child visit Academics First's website at [acedemicsfirstutica.org](http://acedemicsfirstutica.org) or by call 315-624-0272.

*Is there a fee to enroll my child(ren)?*

The childcare center works directly with DSS to assist families with childcare fees through multiple programs, allowing for the opportunity for income constrained families to obtain safe and reliable childcare.

*What requirements are needed to become an employee?*

There is a range of positions available, each with different requirements. Anyone interested in learning more about positions available may inquire about employment opportunities by visiting Academics First's website at [acedemicsfirstutica.org](http://acedemicsfirstutica.org) or by calling 315-624-0272.

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