

Stephen F. Austin State University

Early Childhood Laboratory

Tour Policy

The SFA Early Childhood Laboratory (ECHL/Lab) is a public childcare center for infants 2 months of age through pre-kindergarten. It is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and Texas Rising Star and licensed by the State of Texas. The ECHL embraces the constructivist approach to learning and provides children opportunities to develop at their own rates in their own time.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to those interested in touring the Early Childhood Laboratory (ECHL) facility for the purpose of learning more about the constructivist program, to appreciate an accredited childcare center, and experience quality childcare.

INFORMATION

Contact to Schedule Tour

Lori Harkness, lharkness@sfasu.edu, 936 468 4006.

Professional Development Tours and Observational Opportunities

We successfully implement numerous highly effective practices in the following **areas of focus**:

- academic choice
- assessment of young children
- autonomy
- child guidance and discipline
- classroom management
- cognitive, social emotional, & physical development
- learning centers
- learning environment

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOURS

In an effort for professional development tours to be truly effective, the following procedures and options are in place:

Scheduling and Fees

- **All visits must be scheduled**, follow approved procedures, and complete an approved background check
- **Guided by an observation facilitator** and/or **classroom teacher**
- **Limited to one group per month**
- **Blackout dates**
 - first and last three weeks of the school year
 - weeks surrounding holidays
 - during testing windows
 - accreditation visit windows
- **Tours are held between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm**
- **\$500 for 2-hour block** of professional development (includes preview [approx. 20 minutes], observation [approx. 1 hour], and review [approx. 40 minutes])
- **\$500** for additional 2-hour block fee

Tours

- **10 persons maximum** group size (minimum group size is 1)
- Designed with three components: **preview**, **observation**, and **review**
- **Materials** related to the requested areas of focus included
- Visits matched to classrooms that offer the most expertise in the requested areas of focus

OBSERVATIONAL VISITS

Scheduling and Fees

- Visits must be scheduled, follow approved procedures, and complete an approved background check
- Requires Elementary Education faculty member facilitator
- Limited to one group per week
- **Blackout dates**
 - first and last three weeks of the school year
 - weeks surrounding holidays
 - during testing windows
 - accreditation visit windows

- Tours are held between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm
- 1-hour block free of charge

Tours

- **20 persons maximum** group size (minimum group size is 1)
- Observations are **limited to observation booths only**
- **No access to a classroom teacher**
- **One page information sheet**, no other materials are included
- Visits matched to classrooms which offer the most expertise in the area requested