

kids count

child care



P.G. Chambers School

Discovering the unique potential
within every child

kids count child care

Committed to providing a safe, loving, and nurturing program that stimulates your child's physical, intellectual, and social growth



Discovering the unique potential
within every child

The importance of child care

Millions of families struggle to find high-quality, safe, and affordable care.

- 62 percent of families need child care for children under the age of 6
- Every state reports shortages in child care for infants and young children
- Families report finding quality care for children with disabilities is even more difficult
- Families are concerned about locating safe, quality child care

Child care experts agree that

- the first years of life are critical to a child's brain development
- environment and social experience have a decisive, long-lasting impact on a child's well-being and ability to learn



“Good caregiving results in more and stronger connections in the infant’s brain—connections that last a lifetime. And by connecting with warm, caring adults at the start of life, babies also begin developing the ability to connect with others throughout life.”

- NAEYC, The National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2016



What is Kids Count?

At **Kids Count Child Care**, we recognize the powerful impact we can have on children and their families. The child-centered, teacher-guided program creates an environment where children, 6 weeks to 5 years of age, develop creativity, imagination, and self-worth—to become independent, well-rounded individuals.

A child’s day includes pre-literacy activities, counting and mathematical concepts, creative art and music activities, practicing independence and social skills, and problem solving. The small staff-child ratio enables teachers to develop a relationship that builds trust and confidence.

Kids Count is a uniquely positioned, inclusive child care program, open to both typically developing young children and those with disabilities and developmental delays.

Kids Count is licensed by the State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families, and in 2014 was selected to participate as a pilot site in the program, *Grow NJ Kids*. This state-wide quality improvement rating system is designed to create universal standards of quality for all early care and education programs throughout New Jersey.



What are the unique features of Kids Count?

The most compelling features of Kids Count are the teachers and assistants who welcome each child to the program and the secure environment that they provide.





The staff

- learn about each child as an individual
- provide activities that are developmentally appropriate
- establish a foundation for building trust and a sense of well-being

Creative curriculum

- promotes growth in gross and fine motor abilities, cognition, communication, and social interaction
- provides an educational framework and experiential, hands-on activities
- prepares children for increasing challenges and kindergarten
- ensures that every child is making progress through ongoing assessment

Understanding “inclusive” care

Everyone benefits from inclusion when young children:

- have opportunities to learn from and share experiences with each other

- have positive models for learning, communication, and behaviors
- feel a sense of belonging
- learn to appreciate diversity in others

When everyone participates, children have opportunities to be creative, resourceful, and cooperative. As providers, a policy of inclusion demonstrates flexibility, respect, and understanding. Parents, and entire families, benefit from the experience, which leads to understanding differences and similarities in others. Inclusion provides your child with expanded opportunities for learning and for teaching other children.



Kids Count is open from 7:30 am – 5:30 pm
 Monday through Friday. A child may be enrolled
 for 2, 3, 4, or 5 days a week

An Overview of Kids Count

| Groups | Approximate Age Range | Developmental Focus | Kids Count Child Care Experience | Staff to Child Ratio |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| Infant Program | 6 weeks to 18 months | Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe enclosed space • Consistent caregivers • Flexible schedule based on individual needs • Activities that stimulate the infant’s growing curiosity about things she sees, hears, touches, and experiences | 1:4 |
| Toddler Program | 18 months to 3 years | Autonomy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cubbies for toddlers to store their things; “a place of their own” • Introduction of routines • Activities structured to support the toddler’s growing need for independence, while recognizing a continuing need for nurturing and safe experiences that build trust | 1:6 |
| Preschool Program | 3 years to 4 years | Initiative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child’s day is balanced by routines and free play to encourage making choices and playing independently • Lessons in introductory mathematics and language arts, science, and social studies • Materials and equipment that encourage problem-solving, making choices, and completing projects are provided, building creativity, resourcefulness, and enterprise | 1:10 |
| Pre-Kindergarten Program | 4 years to 5+ years | Industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-K day includes academics: letter recognition, spelling one’s name, simple mathematics, science, geography, and basic computer skills, combined with unstructured time for play, exploration, and building social skills • Activities, materials, and equipment that encourage diligence and productiveness are greatly enjoyed in pre-K, giving the child a sense of accomplishment and building great confidence | 1:12 |





Is Kids Count the program for your child?

While it can be difficult to select a child care program, your answers to the following statements may help:

I work outside of my home and need care for my child between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm.

- Yes No

The most important thing for my infant or young child is a regular routine and consistent staff.

- Yes No

I place a great degree of value on my child being developmentally ready for school when he or she is five years old.

- Yes No

I want my child to accept and understand others who may be different from him or her.

- Yes No

If you answered the majority of statements “Yes”, Kids Count may be the program for your child.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know how my child is doing each day?

Each day, your child’s teacher will complete “The Daily Record” that will give you information about what/ how much your child ate at snack and lunchtime, diaper changes, naps/ how long he slept, and generally what kind of day he had, his mood or disposition.

What do I need to bring and what does Kids Count supply?

Each child brings a lunch, bottles, and formula (for infants). You will also need to supply diapers and wipes, diaper creams, and sunscreen. Your teacher will let you know when your supplies are low. Kids Count prepares morning and afternoon snacks and families are asked to contribute snack supplies one time each month.



What happens if my child is ill or becomes ill at Kids Count?

The child care director and/or nurses will check for fever, rashes, or any injury a child may have sustained and will call you or your emergency contact person. Children cannot stay in child care when a fever reaches 101.5 degrees, or when a child has an undiagnosed rash, diarrhea, or vomiting. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to Kids Count.

Does Kids Count have a nurse?

Our three full-time nurses are in the school and will consult with the director of child care when a child is ill. Access to the nursing staff is available from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Will my child be able to play outside?

There are many opportunities for outdoor play on our campus. Immediately adjacent to Kids Count is our beautiful 25,000 square foot learning park. Child care has full access to the park, where there are expansive grassy areas and sidewalks for riding toys and tricycles. The shaded pavilion is an ideal spot for activities and Kids Count uses the park as an outdoor classroom for exploring nature, water play, and free movement. The park is completely fenced, safe, and protected.

In addition, the facility has two interior courtyards, one equipped with swings, slides, and other large

muscle play equipment and a second fitted with playhouses, climbing gyms, and equipment for infants and toddlers.

Is there unstructured time in the day?

We believe strongly in unstructured time for children during the day. Free time provides opportunities for making choices, practicing independence, and developing social relationships.

What technology is available?

Kids Count follows the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics that children under two years of age should have no screen time at all. After two, we include guided use of technology as a tool for learning. Technology available includes SMART Boards™, iPads, and iPods.



Is there a library that my child can visit?

We believe that children from an early age need to handle books, listen to stories, and visit the library as part of their experience. Kids Count preschool and pre-K classes visit the school library, which houses hundreds of books. Pre-K children can borrow a book to take home for the week.

Do all of the children play in the same room?

The infant room is an enclosed space with half-walls and glass partitions that keep the space separate from the noise and bustle of the older children. Children are grouped according to age, with toddler, preschool, and pre-K spaces separated by half-walls. This open floor plan allows easy access to all children, the opportunity to separate groups to match



children's developmental needs, and the flexibility to enlarge or reduce space depending on the number of children in the group. There is a lavatory with child-sized toilets for the older children and changing stations for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

What are the benefits of Kids Count being in a school for children with disabilities?

Grouping typically-developing children and children with disabilities provides opportunities for all children to have more meaningful child care experiences. Through inclusion, genuine friendships develop between children. Children with disabilities have increased motivation in learning environments with nondisabled children, and children without disabilities learn to appreciate and accept individual differences and the abilities and strengths of their friends with disabilities.

For more information on the benefits of an inclusive setting please visit www.chambersschool.org and click on child care.

Enrollment Process (steps)

- Schedule visit
- Complete forms
- Schedule visit with child
- Begin program

There are nine full-time child care staff, including the director and two certified teachers. Other teachers and caregivers hold CDA (Child Development Associate credentials), NJ State Certification as group teachers, or additional early childhood credentials.



Here's what families are saying about Kids Count

"I cannot express how much it has meant to me that both of my children feel comfortable and safe in their daily routines. Both children have gained so much knowledge, experience, intelligence, and wonder through attending Kids Count. The director's and staff's compassion and devotion to our children have really touched our family in so many ways."

"Thank you for showing Spencer that he is special in so many ways that cerebral palsy doesn't even make the list. We simply cannot thank you enough for what you have done for Spencer and through him, for all of us. The team of amazing women that you have assembled and led has had a profound impact upon us all. The loving, nurturing environment at Kids Count, in contrast to Spencer's previous experience, has laid the foundation for what we hope will be a life-long love of learning for Spencer."





“Thank you for helping to shape our grandchildren into the fine people they are becoming. They loved coming to “school” and we loved seeing them nurtured in the finest way!”

“As Maya’s graduation draws near, we are anticipating a “bittersweet” celebration. Now that both she and Jacob have become “graduates”, we leave Kids Count, you, and your wonderful staff.”

“I feel so thankful and lucky to have had Mya in Kids Count. Your child care program is one-of-a-kind and a very, very special one. The wonderful and caring staff is always available to speak with me about Mya. They go above and beyond in looking for and preparing unique and beneficial activities for the children. Thank you for making Mya the special, happy, and caring child that she is.”

P.G. Chambers School is a 501 (c) (3) organization that provides education and therapy services for children with complex, multiple disabilities, or those at risk for disabilities and developmental delays, and child care for children with and without disabilities. The school’s mission statement is **“Discovering the unique potential within every child.”** At P.G. Chambers School, “discovering potential” inspires us to provide the best, most comprehensive early childhood education for children with and without disabilities, and special education and therapy programs for children with disabilities and developmental delays. Since 1954, P.G. Chambers School has been changing the lives of children by helping them to develop a love of learning, to strive for independence, and most importantly, to develop unshakeable self-confidence.

Each year, P.G. Chambers School (PGCS), located in Morris County, NJ, provides services for more than 800 children and their families in Morris County and nine other surrounding counties in northern New Jersey. The school’s programs reach children of all ages including typically developing infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and infants at-risk for developmental disabilities; school-age children eligible for special education services; and children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, seizure disorders, autism, and communication disabilities. Services are provided both on-site at the school’s state-of-the-art facility in Cedar Knolls, and off-site in schools, homes, and child care centers throughout the region. Important partnerships with local school districts and community organizations help support PGCS students in their own communities. The school is accredited as an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities and an Approved Clinic and Agency by the State of New Jersey, Department of Education.



“We knew from that first picture
the first day, that we had found a
special place.”

- P.G. Chambers School
Kids Count Parent



**For more information, contact
the director of Kids Count
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or call 973.829.8484.**



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