



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON™

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE NEST PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sponsor: Luca Romero, Chair, Programs Assessment Committee

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by ASI Board of Directors, sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, the ASI Programs Assessment Committee is a designated standing committee of the ASI Board of Directors and is tasked with the assessment of existing ASI programs and services and consideration of new programs to be established; and

WHEREAS, during its first meeting of the academic year, the ASI Programs Assessment Committee selects established ASI programs for annual assessment, with findings to be presented by the Program Director; and

WHEREAS, the Infant Classroom, known as The Nest, was selected to be assessed and reviewed during the 2025-2026 academic term with findings shared and discussed by the Committee; and

WHEREAS, Lydia Palacios, Children's Center Director, reviewed classroom history, usage and satisfaction data and financial and other considerations with the ASI Programs Assessment Committee to share strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, the ASI Board of Directors accepts the report provided to the ASI Programs Assessment Committee and approves continuation of The Nest program; and let it be further

RESOLVED, the ASI Board of Directors encourages ASI management to consider the impact of discontinuing service to children from three months through seventeen months.

RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to the ASI Executive Director and applicable departments and staff for appropriate action.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on the twenty-eighth day of April in the year two thousand and twenty-six.



Joe Morales
2026-05-05 05:46 UTC

Chair, Board of Directors



Luca Romero
2026-05-05 19:27 UTC

Secretary, Board of Directors

The ASI Nest Report

Programs Assessment Committee

I. Children’s Center Director Recommendations

The Nest Classroom remains provides childcare to children from three months of age to seventeen months of age for California State University Fullerton parenting students. Childcare of infants support the holistic well-being of our students by providing resources instrumental to persistence to graduation. We recommend that The Nest continues to operate at its current capacity and hours. Reduction of this service would change childcare services available to student parents to begin at eighteen months a full fifteen months later than the current age of three months.

II. Program Overview

The Nest program provides eighteen childcare spaces to currently enrolled CSUF parenting students, CSUF faculty, staff and the local community. The operation is available 5 days per week, with the following operating hours:

- Monday 7:45 AM– 5:45 PM
- Tuesday 7:45 AM– 5:45 PM
- Wednesday 7:45 AM– 5:45 PM
- Thursday 7:45 AM– 5:45 PM
- Friday 7:45 AM– 5:45 PM

CSUF parenting students are given priority to childcare spaces in the Nest. Grant funding and pay for service slots are available to provide infant care. The Nest provides care for children beginning at three months of age.

The Nest is a young infant classroom program, with supplemental funding provided by ASI, and California Department of Social Services CCTR grant programs. The care is provided for students to attend classes, study, perform any instructionally related activity and work. The program is also provided for tuition paying families to enroll infants for part day or full day care.

The infant classroom also provided valuable work experience and internship opportunities for those CSUF students that are interested in gaining experience working with young infants in an educational classroom setting.

The program is managed by the Associate Director of Student Programs, CC Director, CC Assistant Director and Professional Infant Teacher, with one (1) permitted student lead teacher and approximately nineteen (19) students and eleven (11) CSUF interns. The student staff and interns assist with classroom operations, lesson planning, curriculum planning, child developmental assessments, parent education, and customer service.

Historical Highlights:

- 1979– On campus Infant Care began being provided at the Children’s Center.
- 2011 – New childcare facility opened and infant care was expanded from twelve childcare spaces to eighteen spaces.
- 2019 – Infant childcare services were discontinued during the campus pandemic closure of 2020-2021.
- 2021 – Infant care resumed with a smaller operational group of 12 infants.
- 2026 – Infant classroom need increases and classroom is enrolled to full capacity of eighteen (18) infants.

III. The Nest – Programs and Engagement Overview

33 infants were enrolled between July 1st, and June 30th, 2026, with 25,531.25 hours of care provided. Percentage usage for total center enrollment varied from 1.37% to 17.17% in Spring 2025.

The classroom is licensed to provide care for up to 18 infants at one time. Typically, there are 22-26 total infants enrolled in the classroom. The classroom provides care to infants beginning at three months of age. The classroom is designed to have two groups of 9 children served in the classroom. This enables children from three months of age to twenty months to be served in the classroom. Each classroom is able to be designed with developmentally appropriate materials for the age range of the children.

IV. Participant Satisfaction

We conduct parent surveys annually. Surveys are constructed to gather customer satisfaction details, to collect utilization data, and to measure The Nest’s effectiveness as a resource for parents. All parents who completed the survey believe their child is safe and happy in the program.

The feedback from students has been positive with the following themes identified:

- One parent stated “The Nest has been instrumental in supporting their child’s development and increasing socialization with other children”.
- Parents did note the need for more at home learning resources.
- Parents are grateful for all items being provided for attending children.
- Helps parents ensure children are meeting developmental milestones.
- Provides infants opportunities to accredited indoor and outdoor learning classroom spaces.
- Specialized curriculum plans to meet the needs of currently enrolled infants.
- Ensure parenting students can return to CSUF when a child turns three months of age. No need to delay return to educational studies. Persistence to graduation is supported fifteen months earlier than toddler care which begins at eighteen months.

V. Financial Considerations

The Nest primary revenue sources are grants, parent fees, and ASI subsidy.

Infant grant reimbursement is \$139.52 per day for a full-time infant. In comparison the toddler reimbursement is \$ 104.37 and preschooler is \$60.42.

The primary expenses for Nest are for wages and formula, diapers and infant food.

In 2025 there was a 1% decline in birth rates from 2024. In Orange county there has been a decrease of .5% of people living in the county since 2021.

CHS a childcare referral agency, determined in 2024-25 84,892 childcare spaces were available. Of those spaces only 6% (5093) of those spaces were to serve infants.

VI. SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- Provides quicker opportunity for parenting students to return to class.
- Grant reimbursement is highest for infants.
- Employment and internship opportunities with infants are provided.
- One of the few programs in area offering infant care.

Weaknesses:

- Riskiest of care due to age and abilities of children.
- Staff recruiting for classroom can be difficult.
- Enrollment limits due to age span challenges.
- Projecting costs is difficult due to declining birthrates and high cost of infant tuition for families.

Opportunities:

- Secure alternate funding sources to assist with high cost of service.
- Provide integral service in a wide-open market where demand significantly outweighs supply.
- Partnerships and community integration.
- Premium and Niche Service potential.

Threats:

- Strict regulations and liability risks.
- Staffing burnout and health concerns
- Competition from lower costing programs. Nannies, faith-based programs and in-home childcare facilities.
- Parent delays in returning to school or work due to lack of quality and affordable infant care in the local community.

VII. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Nest is an established and effective program that supports student success and belonging through the provision of infant childcare beginning at three months of age. Staffing and present logistical state concerning enrollment and physical resources is sufficient to sustain The Nest at its current level of programming.

To allow for continued support of parenting students, ASI management recommends the following steps be taken:

1. **Maintain the program as it currently is. This will:**
 - **Ensure parenting students have the option to return to school with minimal lapse.**
 - **Support parenting students and their persistence to graduation.**
2. **Providing infant care demonstrates a commitment to whole family support, early learning and long-term child success and support of non-traditional students.**