

The Family Center was established in the fall of 2007 as an activity of the Christian Homeschool Connection. It is the mission of the Family Centers coordination team to support moms and dads that would like to offer classes at the Center as an alternative of offering them in their homes. We are a "central hub" that organizes the space and a "people mover" so that the maximum people can be blessed by our parents' gifts and talents. We support the families that offer the classes at the Center by working side by side with the teachers and our host Church to organize the Center's many classes into hours, appropriate sized classrooms and finally signing up other general members. The Family Center is for school aged children and their families (5 years of age by Sept 1 of the school year we are in). Thus we do have Toddler and Preschool classes to support the School age classes that are offered. A main mission is also to connect new to the area homeschool families to our existing group of families at the Center. We know how difficult it is to homeschool on your own. We need to connect to get support and encouragement. The Center is hopefully a place where this encouragement can be found.

The Family Center is a Christian co-op for registered CHC members. A separate and additional registration is necessary for participation in the Center. Separate fees also apply for participation in the Family Center. Above a nominal building and administration fee per family per semester, each class may have a fee attached to it usually ranging between \$2.00 and \$25.00. We do not pay teachers, fees cover supplies for the classes and ledgers are kept. Fees are set by teachers; ledgers are overseen by the coordinators of the Family Center. A pay event is held every semester after registration where fees are paid in full and in cash. (Payment plans can be arranged for families in need)

A parent is required to be at the Center at all times. All of our parents are helpers in classrooms for all of the hours that their children are in classes. Many of our classroom teachers will assign jobs for the parents to do throughout the semester such as taking pictures, collecting crafts supplies, getting library books etc. You do not need to help in your children's classes; you do need to help at the Center when your children are at the Center.

We have a two tier faith statement at the Center. Our general faith statement is for all Family Center families and must be agreed upon by all that attend the Center before you can sign up for classes: We believe Jesus is the Son of God - through Him salvation and reconciliation with God is possible. We will genuinely and authentically follow the teachings of the Bible; especially to love to Lord our God with all our heart, our entire mind, all our soul, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Doctrinal differences may exist, but mutual support and affirmation of our common faith in Jesus Christ should testify to our love for each other as Disciples of Christ.

For those who wish to take on leadership and teaching positions at the Family Center we have a more extensive faith statement that must be signed. Please feel free to approach any of the coordination team to get a copy of this statement if this is something that you would be interested in pursuing. We encourage all participants to attend at least one if not two semesters before teaching a class so that they may experience the spirit of the Center and just relax and make friends.

We meet from the first Thursday in September to the Thursday right before Thanksgiving in November with no breaks. The spring semester starts the first Thursday in February and runs through the end of April with one week off for spring break. Spring break will coincide with the U of I. Both semesters run for 11-12 weeks depending on the calendar year. At the end of each semester we have a presentation night when our classes are invited, but not required to present something that they did during the semester with the children in their class. This evening is held the last Thursday of each semester. All the dates for Family Center are listed on the CHC members calendar, including any special events and registration dates and deadlines.

Welcome to the Center! Gods Blessings.