



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool. Enclosed is an application for admission. Please return the application at your earliest convenience so that your child may be considered for the next available opening. The purpose of this letter is to explain the application process as well as to provide some information about this clinical program. If you have further questions, please contact me at 573.882.8538 (director's office).

The enclosed application should be completed and returned by mail to the MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool, Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, 301 Lewis Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 or emailed to HullG@health.missouri.edu. Some scholarships are available through the Scottish Rite's RiteCare philanthropic organization and through the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. Please indicate on your application if you would like to be considered for a scholarship. If the clinical program in which you are interested (preschool group/toddler group) is full, we will invite you to be placed on our waiting list.

A Brief History and Statement of Purpose

The Robert G. Combs Language Preschool was opened in 1999 as a joint effort between the local chapter of the Scottish Rite and the MU Department of Communication Science and Disorders (now Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences). The main philanthropy of the Scottish Rite is to support the provision of high-quality clinical services for children with a range of speech and language needs. Initially, we provided services to preschool-age children, ages 3-5, with communication weaknesses. In 2014, we expanded to develop a clinical program for toddlers, as well. Our philosophy, supported by several decades of research, is that young children with speech and language needs learn most effectively when communication skills are presented in the context of a socially- and linguistically-rich setting. We seek to provide an intensive, structured, language-rich environment in a small, fun group setting, enabling language growth for all participants.

Our Student Clinicians

Faculty of the MU Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences teach and train students in the field of speech-language pathology. These students are required to obtain 25 observation hours and 375 clinical clock hours before graduation. Senior level and graduate students in our department participate in the program as clinicians-in-training. These MU students have clinical responsibilities commensurate with their stage of development and clinical knowledge. MU students are supervised by certified and licensed professionals throughout their training. Generally our ratio of clinicians to preschoolers is 1:1 or 1:2.

Our Program

We base clinical activities each week around one or two related books. These books are read at least four times during the course of the week, and all clinical activities relate to the books' theme. Research has shown that a balance of child-directed and teacher-directed learning opportunities is effective for facilitating growth in speech and language skills. In addition, we use clinical techniques that incorporate repetition, intensity of exposure, and explicit teaching to introduce new vocabulary and concepts. Since all activities revolve around a book theme, vocabulary and new concepts are repeated many times throughout the sessions. We work on how to understand and how to talk about the words and concepts targeted each week. We have been providing these clinical services for more than a decade. The clinical model of our preschool is based on similar programs at the University of Kansas and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Many participants in our clinical preschool also take advantage of individual speech-language therapy or occupational therapy offered within our department and the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Session Times and Costs

Toddler group meets on Tuesday/Thursday from 9am-11am. Preschool group meets on Monday/Wednesday from 9am-11am or Tuesday/Thursday from 1 pm-3pm. Our semesters are based on the University of Missouri academic calendar, opening a week after MU starts and closing a week before final exams. Therefore, the semester consists of 12 weeks in the fall and spring semesters and 6 weeks in the summer. The clinical fee for fall and spring is \$300 per semester; the fee for the summer session is \$150. Cost for individual therapy, as an add-on to group services, is \$850 per semester and \$425 for summer. With the generous support of the Scottish Rite and other clinic donors, scholarships are available to those who qualify. If you are interested in individual speech-language therapy, please contact Leanna Lawrence, MU Speech & Hearing Clinic Director, at 573.882.5496. If you are interested in occupational therapy, please contact Lea Ann Lowery, Occupational Clinic Supervisor, at 573.884.2139.

Overall Policies and General Information

Attendance is an important part of our program. Children should not attend if they are sick; however, as with any clinical service, it is imperative that children attend regularly to experience the full benefit of the speech and language therapy.

Children are transported to sessions by parents and other caregivers. We provide a hangtag so that families may park in the lot closest to our building without additional cost. We are located at the corner of Rollins and Providence Roads on the west side of the University of Missouri campus in 124 Clark Hall (next to Adult Day Connection).

Parents are expected to remain on-site for the duration of Language Preschool. An observation area is available, as well as several waiting areas within the School of Health Professions.

In closing, again thank you for your interest in our clinical language preschool. If you have any remaining questions, do not hesitate to contact me at the above phone numbers or via e-mail (HullG@health.missouri.edu). Additional information about our clinical programs can also be accessed on the web (<https://healthprofessions.missouri.edu/speech-language-and-hearing-sciences/clinics-and-service/>).

Sincerely,

Greta

Greta Hull, MHS, CCC-SLP
Assistant Clinical Professor
Director, MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool
Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
School of Health Professions
University of Missouri
HullG@health.missouri.edu
573.882.8538



MU Robert G. Combs Language Preschool Application

Child's Name: _____

Birth date: _____ Male Female

Mother's Name: _____ Home Phone _____

Father's Name: _____ Home Phone _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mother's Work and/or Cell Phone : _____

Mother's Employer and Work Address: _____

Mother's E-mail address: _____

Father's Work and/or Cell Phone: _____

Father's Employer and Work Address: _____

Father's E-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Language(s) spoken in the home: _____

School your child will attend for kindergarten: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies and Medical Concerns for your child: _____

Has your child been diagnosed with a speech or language problem? If so, please explain. Include information about past or current services. _____

How did you hear about our preschool? _____