Family Center at Penn
Mission

The Family Center is a hub for information, resources, activities and advocacy for students and post-docs with children. The Family Center provides a forum for student parents to connect and develop supportive networks, and offers a welcoming environment for Penn students, post-docs, caregivers, and children.
Who We Are

Staff
Jessica Bolker, Director
Kendra Hypolite, Assistant Director
MaryAgnes Brown Operations Manager

Graduate Fellows

Based out of the Office of the Provost /Vice Provost for Education
Who We Serve

1,300+ Students and Post Docs with Children

500+ Active Family Center Members

3615 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA
Student Parent’s Unique Needs

• Flexibility and support
• Access to affordable
  - Healthcare
  - Dependent health insurance
  - Childcare
• Access to family friendly space on campus and convenient lactation rooms
• Family friendly policies
Our Facilities

3615 Locust Walk, Lower Level
Monday-Friday 9am-6pm

- Family common room with play area
- Reading room with children’s book library and games
- Two private lactation rooms with Medela pumps
- Event space
- Nap room
Programs for Families

• **Education**
  • Weekly English classes

• **Parental Support**
  • Breastfeed discussion workshop
  • CPR Training
  • Healthy Development and nutrition workshops

• **Child Development**
  • Sensory Play Group
  • Baby sign language workshop

• **Family Fun**
  • Family Movie Nights
  • Family Dance and Yoga Classes

• Discount Ticket Sales to Local Attractions and Events; *Museums, Shows, Special Exhibits*
Resources and Benefits for Students and Postdocs with children

Grants for PhD students

Family Grant Program

• Annual grants, up to $5,000 per child
• Help offset the cost of having a family.
• Designed to assist PhD students with children to continue in the academic pipeline.

Dependent Health Insurance Grant

• Annual grants up to $1,000 per dependent
• Helps to offset the cost of dependent health insurance for PhD students with children and/or spouses.
Resources and Benefits for Students and postdocs with children

Childcare Benefits

Care.com Memberships

- Free Premium Memberships to Care.com Web Services.
- The Care.com Membership includes:
  - Ongoing, occasional or last-minute care
  - Babysitters, nannies, senior care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers & more

Emergency Backup Child Care Program

- Emergency backup care is provided in the student or post-doc’s home or in an approved daycare center.
- 5 days of backup child care, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- $5/hour copay for students and postdocs
Advocacy

Penn Family Friendly Policies for PhD Students

• **Childbirth and Adoption**, eligible for time off of eight weeks paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child.

• **Family Leave of Absence Policy**, unpaid semester long leave of absence for the birth or adoption of a child, child care, or care of an immediate family member (spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent) with a serious health condition.

Pregnant and Parenting Student Accommodations

Lactation Resources
Current Research and Resources

• The Institute for Women’s Policy Research: Childcare for Parents in College: A State-by-State Assessment
• Endicott College: Family Friendly Campus Toolkit
• http://www.thepregnantscholar.org/: an online toolkit for university students, faculty and administrators on pregnancy and parenting
• Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower by Mary Ann Mason, Nicholas Wolfinger, and Marc Goulden (Rutgers University Press, 2013)
• http://www.toolsforchangeinstem.org/, a site dedicated to showcasing research by Professors Mary Ann Mason and Joan C. Williams on how implicit bias and a lack of family-friendly policies contribute to women dropping out of the academic STEM pipeline
• Inside Higher Ed has published a number of first person student and faculty experiences re. being a grad student with children. These include:
  • Birthing Both a Baby and PhD as a Woman of Color
  • Creating Space for Academic Babies
  • Parenting in Grad School
  • 4 Tips for Balancing Parenting and PhD
  • Parenting in Public

• University and Parental Leave Laws are Difficult for Grad Students and Postdocs to Navigate from Chemical and Engineering News, v95., issue 1, January 2, 2017
Social Media

- Follow us to find out about our events
- Learn about local opportunities and activities
- Get parenting articles
- Interact with other parents
Thank You!

Any questions?

Facebook: Family Resource Center at Penn
Instagram: pennfamilycenter
Twitter: FRCPenn