
Our Purpose: Creating a Childcare Village

Raising toddlers is challenging, and no parent should have to go it alone. We are creating a supportive childcare village where neighbors can help one another, fostering a stronger community and providing much-needed breaks for parents.

The West Village Community Drop-In offers essential respite care for families who need it most. We provide a rich, play-based learning environment where toddlers can thrive.

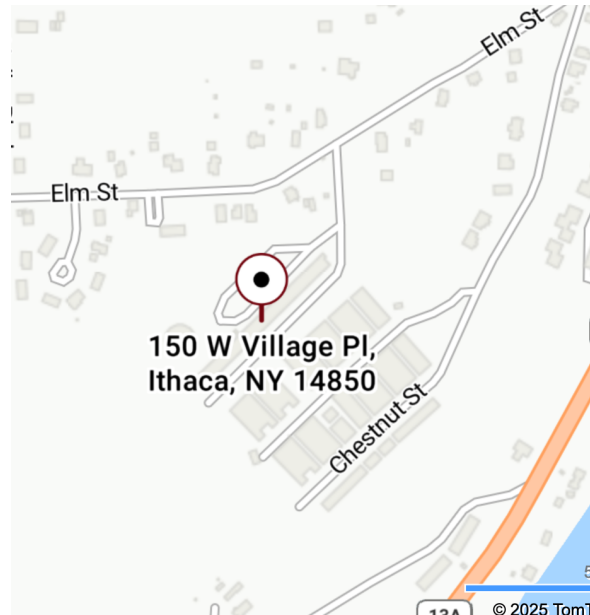
Join our community and play a part!

Our Philosophy

At the West Village Community Drop-In, we believe that play is a child's work, and our teachers' dynamic play based approach will promote learning and development in social, emotional, physical, language, cognitive, and critical thinking skills. Our childcare philosophy is strongly tied to responsive caregiving, and values secure attachment. We view caregiving as a partnership between the parent, the teacher, and the child.

You are Here. We Are Here Too

What's better than having childcare at a stone's throw away? We are here, right next to you at the West Village Community Center. We are located on the first floor. You can't miss us!



150 West Village Place, Room 328
Ithaca, NY

The West Village Community Drop-In



A Mutual Aid Parent Cooperative

Hours: 9am-12pm

Days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Location: The West Village Community
Center

What Do We Do?

The West Village Community Drop-In provides a safe, fun, nurturing, and educational setting for toddlers.

How Does It Work?

Children: The program is designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years.

Parents/Caregivers: Parents or caregivers need to register with the program by filling out a contact card.

Volunteer Requirement: The program relies on parents or caregivers to volunteer their time on a rotating schedule (typically once a month) to help maintain a high child-to-adult ratio and to build a strong sense of community.

Capacity: The West Village Community Drop-In has a maximum capacity of 14 children per day.

Schedule: The Drop In is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9-12, and follows the ICSD calendar.

Our Mission

The Ithaca Care Collective is dedicated to building strong connections among parents of children who are not enrolled in formal childcare. Our goal is to create inclusive and welcoming spaces where families can share experiences, support one another, and navigate the challenges and joys of early parenthood together.

At the heart of our work is the spirit of *ubuntu* — the understanding that our humanity is bound together through care, compassion, and community. Ubuntu reminds us that every child's growth is nurtured not only by their family but by all who surround them.



The West Village Community Drop-In is a Collaboration Between The Ithaca Care Collective & No Más Lagrimas/No More Tears.



What Will I See at the West Village Community Drop-In?

You will see play! Play is a child's work. Through play, children learn problem solving skills, develop language, practice fine and gross motor skills, and learn important social skills. Here is how our days flow:

Daily Schedule

9:30-10:30am - Free Play and Table Activity (small group instruction through crafts games/investigations/cooking)

10:30-10:40 - Clean Up

10:40-10:50 - Circle Time

10:50-11:00 - Snack with Read Aloud

11:00-12:00 - Free Play

Parents/caregivers are welcome to stay, or may leave the premises. We enjoy having you around, but understand if you could use a break.