

Located at 9930 Highway 603, our early childhood program provides comprehensive child care services that serve working families whose incomes fall below the 85% percentile of the state median income. At our center we believe that learning begins at birth with the first five years of life being the most crucial in the development of a child. The center provides a very flexible and busy schedule designed to meet the needs of each child. Planned curriculum/activities help develop the social, emotional, physical and intellectual abilities of each child. The center is open Monday thru Friday from 7:00 AM until 5:30 PM. **Please call Bliss Acker, Program Director at 228-467-8050, ext. 11 or cell 228-344-0113, for more information.**

Private Care slots are also available.

**E-Mail – Bliss Acker, Program Director – Blissacker@gmail.com**

### **History:**

The Hancock County Child Development Center began in 1977 as a one year pilot project to help AFDC (now TANF) families return to work by providing child care services. The program was sponsored by the South Mississippi Human Resources Agency underneath the South Mississippi Planning and Development District and funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (then Department of Public Welfare).

In 1986, sponsors changed when the Hancock County Board of Supervisors and the cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland created the Hancock County Human Resources Agency. The Hancock County Human Resources Agency currently administers the Hancock County Senior Citizens Center and Home Delivered Meals Program, and the Hancock County Youth Development as well. For the past 30 years services have been provided to low-income working families and other priority populations as determined by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Office for Children and Youth. Supportive services such as early intervention services, parenting classes, informal counseling, etc. have also been provided by the center for many years.

Staff Child Ratios do not exceed licensing requirements in any area. They are lower than the licensing requirements:

Category	
Staff / Child	
Infants	1/5
1 Year Old	

1/9
2 Year Old
1/10
3-5 Year Old
1/12