



FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

TREFFERT CENTER 1 - 2 - 3

Three Second

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Thirty Second

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Three Minute

The Treffert Center is a place that celebrates, supports, and studies individual strengths and unique talents. The center offers strength-based multidisciplinary education, evaluation, treatment and research services providing hope, help and advocacy across the lifespan. At the Treffert Academy, we teach self-regulation, social-emotional skills and empathy to all children, in a movement and play-based integrated setting. At the Treffert Clinic, we provide multidisciplinary evaluations of and treatment for a variety of developmental and behavioral difficulties focusing on strengths. Our services include: medication management, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, psychotherapy, and autism-specific programming and treatment. The Treffert Library features the lifeworks of Darold Treffert, MD, helping to foster research and knowledge across the autism and savant syndrome spectrum and other forms of exceptional brain performance. In summary, the Treffert Center invites individuals, families and communities worldwide to explore the potential of the human mind.

TREFFERT ACADEMY

Do I have to pay for child care on days my child does not attend?

Once we set a schedule for your child, you will be billed for those days regardless of your child's actual attendance. If your child is normally scheduled to attend on Monday, for example, and s/he is sick that day, then YES, you will still be billed. Each child is given five vacation days per calendar year in which they are not responsible to make tuition payments. These days may also be used on days the Academy is closed.

Do you offer drop-in care?

Parents sometimes call and inquire about the availability of child care for a day when they are not typically scheduled. We are open to this possibility and ask that you call as soon as you know you may need additional care so that we can check if there is space for additional children. We also provide care for school-age children on non-school days.

Do you offer transportation to the Academy?

The Treffert Academy provides transportation. If families are interested, Treffert Academy will provide additional information.

Does my child have to take a nap?

All children who are in attendance during the time designated for nap must rest quietly on a cot. During this rest time, the teachers may read a story to a child and rub his/her back. Soothing music is also played during this time. Children who are awake close to waking time may go outside to play or to the large motor room while the other children continue to nap. We make every effort to accommodate children who truly need a nap as well as those who do not. All children, however, can benefit from a "rest time."

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How do I register my child with special needs?

All children are welcome at the academy and all children benefit from an inclusive environment. In an April 2016 brief, *Preschool Inclusion: Key Findings from Research and Implications for Policy* (http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_1154.html), highlights research on preschool inclusion and the benefits for all children. Provide information on the registration form indicating your child's needs. If your child is currently receiving services, list type of services and agency involved.

I heard that Agnesian HealthCare is getting into day care again?

The Treffert Center is a multiuse facility that does include an Academy for children ages 2.5 to 12 that teaches specific skills that are supported by research to lead to health and life success, social-emotional skills, self-regulation and empathy. These skills benefit all children, and are taught in a play and movement based curriculum focusing on positive relationships. Agnesian HealthCare has expertise in wellness, and knows that teaching children at a very young age social-emotional and self-regulation skills leads to lifelong learning, health and relationship success. The prior day care was run by a different organization and closed due to financial reasons. In its commitment to the community, Agnesian HealthCare recognizes the need for high quality child care. All of the staff of the Treffert Center, including the Treffert Academy staff, are Agnesian HealthCare associates, and benefit from the exceptional training and expertise from across all aspects of Agnesian HealthCare.

Is your program a "preschool" or "day care"?

We are not a "preschool" in the technical sense because we are open for a full day rather than just a few hours, nor do we simply provide "day care." To best describe it, we are a child care center with a preschool component. You get the best of both worlds: full-time or part-time child care with snacks, lunch and nap time, along with a developmentally appropriate learning environment. The teachers (who have either a bachelor's or associate's degree in early childhood) plan the curriculum by setting up various interest centers in the classroom (science table, dramatic play, blocks, puzzles, art, large motor, etc.). The children are free to explore and play within a structured, yet flexible, environment. It is our belief that children learn through play by becoming actively involved within their environment.

We are working with the Fond du Lac School District for a 4k program in the fall of 2017. We currently provide 4k wrap around care for children attending a.m./p.m. 4k at a local school.

What does the programming look like for school-age children?

The Academy environment allows school-age children to unwind, relax, socialize with peers and be themselves after a day in school. They have a quiet place to study and assistance from teachers if needed.

School-age children are given the tools and encouragement to help plan and organize their environment by allowing them to have input on activities, clubs and materials they find appealing. They also have access to developmentally age appropriate materials and activities, and have ample time for large muscle activities.

School-age children may have the opportunity to participate in intergenerational activities as well as peer-modeling activities. Activities to promote independence, leadership skills and self-help (such as meal preparation, laundry and budgeting) are offered.

What is the Academy waitlist process?

Families are welcome to contact the Treffert Academy periodically by phone or e-mail to inquire about their child's placement on the waiting list. Although it is our policy not to provide detailed information about waiting list placement, we are happy to share general updates to help you determine the likelihood of availability, as well as whether/when to seek alternative child care options to serve your immediate or longer term needs.

What is the difference between a day care and the Treffert Academy?

The staff and resources available at the Treffert Academy make it a unique learning environment that is dedicated to each child's success. Agnesian HealthCare's expertise in wellness and Dr. Treffert's commitment to finding the unique strengths in us all makes the Treffert Academy a very special place to learn and grow for all children.

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Who attends the Academy?

All children benefit from an environment where they can play, move and discover the joy of learning and their own unique talents. The ratio of neuro typical children and spectrum or special needs children is similar to that in public schools. Our student to teacher ratio however is smaller. Because of our skills and training, at the Treffert Center we are better equip to address needs and adjust curriculum based on a child's talents and needs. Social - emotional development and self-regulations skills are a key focus. Research has shown that these skills are the best predictors for future success. All children should have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential, at their own pace.

What is the teacher/children ratio for each room?

2.5 years	1:8
4 years	1:10
6 years +up	1:14

Our ratios are designed to have fewer children per teacher to improve opportunities for one-on-one interactions. In addition, a total of five children enrolled in Agnesian Beyond Boundaries of Autism (ABBA) will be able to receive center-based autism services throughout the day. These children and their Line Behavior Technicians therapists may participate in classroom activities throughout the day. The number of students in each classroom has purposefully been kept below the maximum allowed by the state to create a successful inclusive environment for all children.

Is the staff trained in specific curriculum?

Yes, we use the "Creative Curriculum," which balances both teacher-directed and child-initiated learning, with an emphasis on responding to children's learning styles, and building on their strengths and interests.

What times is the center open?

Our hours are 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

What kind of meals do you provide?

We provide a morning and afternoon snack and a lunch is provided by Agnesian HealthCare's Food Service department.

Do I have to schedule an appointment to visit the center?

Although parents of enrolled children are welcome to visit the center at any time, prospective parents should call first to schedule an appointment. This way you can be sure that someone will be available to talk with you and show you around the center.

TREFFERT CLINIC

How do I refer a patient or arrange an appointment for my child?

Center-based care is available, including medication management, occupational therapy and speech-language therapy. To arrange an appointment or make a referral, call the Treffert Clinic at (920) 907-3980. The Treffert Clinic provides state-of-the-art comprehensive, multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment for a variety of behavior and communication disorders, including autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children and adults. For individuals already diagnosed with autism, you may contact ABBA directly at (920) 907-8201. ABBA offers intensive in home autism treatment, as well center-based services located at the Treffert Center.

What if my child or family also needs counseling?

Agnesian HealthCare's Doll & Associates is a state-certified outpatient mental health clinic, with a satellite office located at the Treffert Center. Appointments for either location can be arranged by calling Doll & Associates at (920) 907-8201.

What resources do you use within the center involving Agnesian HealthCare?

All of the resources of Agnesian HealthCare are available to assist with the care provided at the Treffert Center. Some of the many resources include a nutritionist, wellness programs, educational programming, and partnering with the St. Francis Home for intergenerational activities.

TREFFERT LIBRARY

Can I check out books?

We invite all visitors to make full in-house use of Dr. Treffert's personal library and other collections. Agnesian HealthCare associates may check out items from our growing collection of resources on autism, savant syndrome, hyperlexia and related topics. Future plans include making available digital collections as well as dissemination of free resources created at the Treffert Center for parents, professionals and the general public.

What services are offered at the Library?

The Treffert Library makes available an international treasure of books, videos, documentaries, journals, artworks and periodicals on autism, savant syndrome (developmental and acquired), hyperlexia (early reading) and other types of exceptional brain performance, promoting and carrying out further research on these conditions along with dissemination of reliable information about these conditions for parents, professionals, students, media and the general public. You will also find Dr. Treffert's office, parent education classes, support groups, research opportunities and access to Dr. Treffert's studies at the library.