Aloha Parents,

Welcome to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Children’s Center, the Big House in the neighborhood, where children play and families gather. The process of getting your child enrolled at the Children’s Center starts with filling out forms. But as soon as the forms are done, the most important part starts—the relationships.

Our Big House philosophy is based upon the belief that positive relationships with children and families are the foundation of a quality early childhood program. As we get to know you and your child we are better able to support your family and become an extension of your home.

Shortly before your child is to start at the Center, your child’s teacher will contact you to schedule a family visit. This is an opportunity for you and your child to begin getting to know the teacher and for the teacher to begin getting to know you and your child. Everyone knows that you are “the expert” on your child, so the more information you can share with the teacher about your child, the better she or he will be able to plan appropriate and interesting things for your child to do at the Center.

During this family visit, you and your child’s teacher will also discuss the best strategy for helping your child feel comfortable at the Center. Once your child is attending, you are all then part of the Big House and should feel free to come and go, as you like. The teachers will invite you along on walks and learning trips, as well as to spend time playing in the classroom. The Center has families from all over the world and many parents enjoy sharing special foods and other aspects of their home culture.

If you have questions about any aspect of the Center, please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher, our education coordinator, or myself. At the Center, we believe there is no such thing as a complaint—it is all information that helps us improve. This is your center and it works best when everyone takes part. We are glad you are here.

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