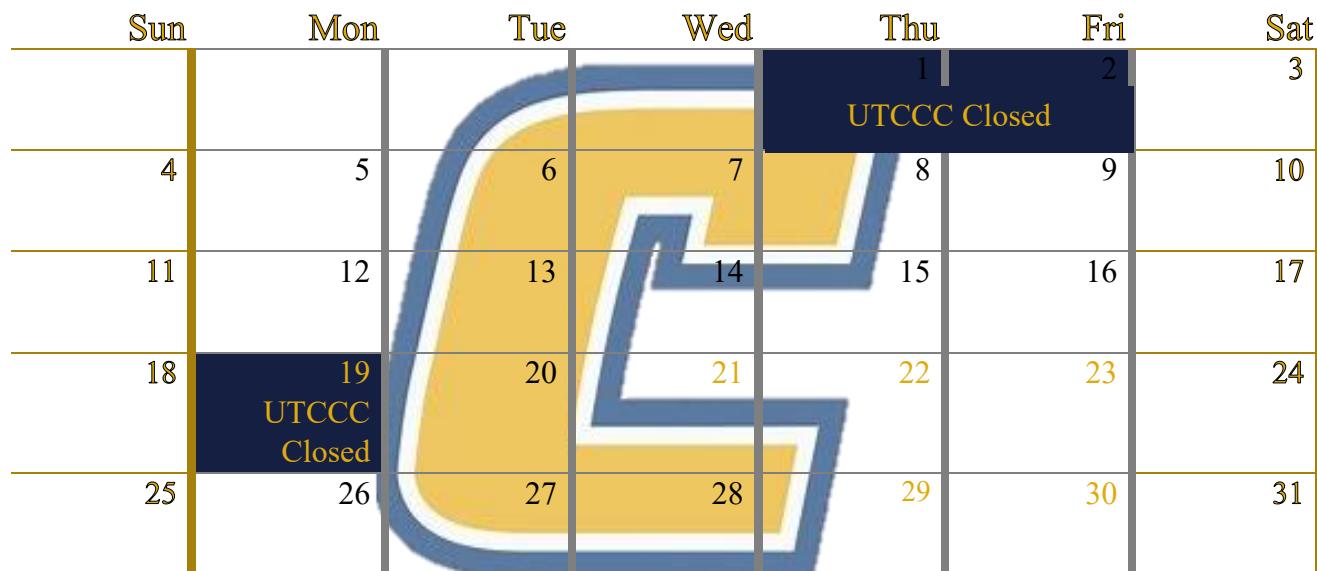


UTC Children's Center Newsletter

January 2026



Information Sources for Weather-Related Campus Schedule or Operations Changes

- Email message sent via campus-wide listservs:
[@UTC-INFO](#), [@UTC-NEWS](#) and [@SCRAPPY](#)
- Text message to all [UTC-ALERT](#) followers
- Digital displays on building/classroom messaging boards
- RSS feed/home page bulletin on [utc.edu](#)
- UTC official social media accounts
 - [@UTChattanooga](#) (Twitter)
 - [Facebook.com/UTChattanooga](#)
- Media advisory to all Chattanooga and regional news media
- On-campus NPR affiliate WUTC-FM 88.1
- Recorded telephone voice message at:
 - UTC Main Switchboard 423-425-4111
 - UTC Inclement Weather 423-425-4766
 - UTC Communications and Marketing 423-425-4363



Lead Coordinator: Cindy Hornsby

UTCCC Battle Academy Site

Site Coordinator: Regis Richard

Infants: Katie Griffin (interim)

Young Toddlers: TK Brooks, Christin Harvey, Nadia Burris

Older Toddlers: Amy Blackburn, Jheri Cabral

Preschool: Jean Walston, Nardia Ingram

Pre-K: Emma Gray, Sunny Smith

Staff Floaters: Kathryn Friedle

Administrative Support Assistant: Doreen Watt

UTCCC Brown Academy Site

Site Coordinator: Kristen Mounce

Infants A: Katie Griffin, Tiffany Vick

Infants B: Taylor Parker

Toddler 1: Macaria Hudson, Veronica Banks, Keegan Rhodes

Toddler 2: Jennifer Hunt, Jasmine Jackson

Preschool 1: Ashley Burnette, Hannah Antone

Preschool 2: Andrenique Moore, Jada McCray

Pre-K: Shawn Winters, Angela Mackler

Staff Floaters: Millie Tramel, Amarree Hardaway

Administrative Specialist: Jackie Tate

Little Miss Mag at UTC

Site Coordinator: Jameshia Borders

ECS/Teacher Trainer: Ann Mayer

Infants A: Shakira Roberts

Infants B: Lori Adkins, Tashia White

Infants C: Tavia Blanks, Wallika Sheckley

Toddler 1A: Amy Hansen

Toddler 1B: Tehya Long, Katie Robinson

Toddler 2A: Sarah Trumbore, Payton Smith

Toddler 2B: Pearlene Kelly, D'anerys Doe

Preschool: Taylor Winnie, Amanda Anders

Pre-K: Beverly Eller, Andi Callahan

Staff Floater Samantha Derryberry

Administrative Assistant: Cecily Macomber

Front Desk Volunteer: Parker Davis

UTC Children's Center at Battle Academy

Infants

Hello families!

We hope everyone enjoyed their winter break! We loved learning about and exploring lights for the month of December. We loved playing with our light box and toys with lights and exploring fairy lights in different containers. We enjoyed reading books about how lights are used for various holidays.

We are excited for the new year and to have several new friends in our class. For the month of January, we will be learning about winter, polar animals, and music. As a reminder, we will be closed on Monday, January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out!

Thank you,

Ms. Katie



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Young Toddlers



Welcome back! And Happy New Year!

We're going to welcome 2026 with a new full time assistant teacher, back, in our class! **Ms. Nadia** is back and will be completing our YT trifecta! We are so thrilled to have her back with us with her radiant energy!

We will be kicking off the year with some fun lessons about Winter! We will get sensory exploration with ice and “snow” and get to see how these cold winter things react when we play with them, melt them, etc! We will be painting with ice and using our snow cone machine to make edible snow and snowballs!

The Center will be closed January 19th.

ProCare messages are the first place we will send reminders for diapers, snacks, etc. as most of us know; it can be tricky in response however we are trying to figure it out together— so please keep checking your ProCare app messages if notifications seem to be tricky!

Again, welcome back and we can't wait to start a new year of fun and learning in YT!



- YT CLASS

Older Toddlers



For the month of January, we will be discussing winter. The Older Toddlers will learn all about snow, ice, the changing weather, and winter animals and hibernation. We will learn all about how water turns to ice and how when the weather is cold enough, rain turns into snow. If the weather cooperates, we will also be experimenting with freezing bubbles. A lot of our learning and our experiments will take place outside (weather permitting) where we will observe and explore the changing environment and weather so please remember to bring a jacket and a hat for your child every day.

Thank you,

Ms. Amy and Ms. Jheri

Preschool

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!!

December was a busy month. The children were busy working on holiday projects and learning about different holidays celebrated in the month of December. We ended the year with our holiday party with a few of our favorite snacks.

A big thank you to all the parents for the many acts of kindness you have shown us. The money, gift cards and gifts were very much enjoyed! We appreciate each of you more than words can say! And thank you for all the support you have given us throughout the year.

For the month of January, we will be learning about winter, winter weather and creating snow people.

There's more to come in the new year!

Ms. Jean and Ms. Nardia



Pre-K



Happy New Year everyone! Pre-K had a lot of fun last year, and we look forward to continuing to see your children grow. This month our class will learn about different animal habitats. The kids have a huge interest in this right now! We will also talk about and explore the season of Winter. Please keep in mind we are closed January 19 for MLK day.

-Miss Emma and Miss Sunny

UTC Children's Center at Brown Academy

Infant A



It's wild baby winter! We hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. We have been so excited to welcome three new families to our class! We had fun learning about different cultures and traditions across the world. The menorah was our favorite thing to learn about in December. In January, we will be learning about winter, Arctic animals, Antarctic animals, and music. A quick reminder the Center will be closed on January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We are gonna have a great year learning about the world around us.

Katie and Tiffany

Infant B

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year from Infant B! We had so much fun learning about arctic animals and winter holidays. In January we look forward to learning about New Years, snow, and winter! We hope you had a great holiday break and got to spend some much-needed time with your little ones!

The UTC Children's Center will be closed for MLK on the 19th of January.

Thank you for your continuous support and partnership.

Taylor



Toddler 1

We learned about everything about winter, holidays, and nursery rhymes!

Here are some important reminders:

- The UTCCC will be closed January 1st and 2nd for the Winter Holidays and the 19th for MLK Jr. Day!
- Please remember to send a jacket with your child to school, as the weather continues to get colder.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. Email, text, or reach out on ProCare, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Ms. Macaria, Ms. Veronica, and Keegan

Toddler 2



Dear Toddler 2 Parents,

It's so hard to believe it's already a new year! We will learn about winter, hibernating animals, and penguins this month.

Here are a few reminders for this month:

- Remember, we will be CLOSED Thursday, January 1st through Friday, January 2nd. We will re-open on Monday, January 5th, 2026.
- We will also be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- If we close due to inclement weather, we will close with UTC, not Hamilton County. If you have signed up for text alerts, you will be informed this way. We will also contact you via Procare and email, and it will be posted on the university's website.
- Please also remember to label items that come to school. This will help us avoid confusion and help us to find missing items. Please check the shoe basket in the classroom, if you are missing a hat, glove, or pair of socks.
- If your child is sitting on the potty, please send them in items that help with independence – not onesies, overalls, etc.
- Please keep a complete extra set of clothes in your child's bag – including socks and extra shoes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you,

Ms. Jasmine and Ms. Jennifer

Preschool 1

Dear Preschool One Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break. We had a great time in December learning about different holidays we can celebrate here and around the world. Thank you to everyone who brought something for our holiday party! Also, we give a big thank you to anyone who got us a gift. We appreciate you!

In January, we are going to learn about winter, snow, and arctic animals. Maybe (hopefully!) we will get to see some real snow this year! If you have any questions please let us know. Also, please remember that we will be **closed Monday January 19th** for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

We look forward to another great month to start off the New Year!

- Ms. Ashley and Ms. Hannah



Preschool 2

Looking back on December, we wrapped up the year with a mix of learning, creativity, and seasonal fun. We explored winter holidays from around the world, talked about cold-weather changes, and learned how animals like Arctic foxes and penguins adapt to the season. We also enjoyed hands-on activities such as making winter crafts, creating paper snowflakes, snowmen, & so much more! It was a month full of curiosity, teamwork, and winter wonder—perfect for ending the year on a bright note. As we move into January, we’re kicking off the new year with creativity and fresh starts. We’ll be setting goals with a fun goal-setting craft, creating mirror self-portraits to celebrate who we are, and continuing our winter theme by learning more about snow, animals, and their habitats. It’s a month focused on new beginnings, imagination, and exploring the world around us.

Cold Weather Reminder

As temperatures drop, please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play!

Warm coats, hats, mittens, and boots help keep everyone cozy and ready for fresh-air fun!

Welcome back—we’re excited to start the new year together and hope your break was a wonderful one. We’re ready to jump into January with fresh energy, new ideas, and lots of learning ahead.

Ms. Jada and Ms. Hannah

Pre-K

Dear Pre-K Families,



After such a very busy December all the students were ready for Winter Break. We thank you so much for your gifts, you are very generous.

January brings lessons about winter weather, animals in wintertime, staying warm in winter, and more. We welcome Dempsey from Preschool 2 to PreK. We’re glad to have him join us!

Please remember to have outside clothing for your child every day. We go outside every morning and afternoon unless it is below 32 degrees or storming.

Also be sure to have at least one complete change of seasonal clothing (always including shoes and socks) for your child.

UTC Children’s Center will be CLOSED January 1st - 2nd for New Year’s, and the 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Enjoy this time with your family!

Thank you, Ms. Shawn and Ms. Angela



Little Miss Mag at UTC

Infant A

Your little ones enjoyed reading stories such as *That's Not My Reindeer* and *Let's Celebrate! Special Days Around the World*. We sang and danced to songs such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Jingle Bells." Your little ones had the opportunity to explore textures such as a swarm vs cold and what does snow feel like. Your little artists spent this month using their artist skills to make snowmen footprints and Hanukkah candles.

And as always if you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to either contact or speak with either Ms. Shakira or Ms. Sam

Infant B

Dear Infant B Families,

As we wrap up our fall theme, our infant classroom has enjoyed exploring the sights, textures, and colors of the season. We had so much fun experiencing fall through simple sensory activities, seasonal stories, and cozy moments together that encouraged curiosity and comfort.

With fall behind us, we are excited to bundle up and jump into our winter theme, exploring winter colors, soft textures, and gentle sensory experiences. Activities will include winter-themed books, music, and age-appropriate sensory play that supports development while keeping our days warm and engaging. We are hoping for some real snow to explore together, but if winter weather does not cooperate, we will create our own baby-safe snow for fun, hands-on sensory play and snowy surprises! We look forward to a wonderful winter season filled with learning, cuddles, and discovery.



Ms. Lori & Ms. Tashia

Infant C

Hello Families,

During the month of December, the babies explored the wonderful world of lights! We had so much fun playing with musical light-up toys, exploring our light table with colorful blocks, touching and feeling rope lights, and watching our light projector. The babies truly enjoyed observing all the different colors of light from each activity.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! Please feel free to reach out if you have any needs or concerns.

Ms. Tavia and Ms. Wallika



Toddler 1-A

Dear Families,



December was a joyful and music-filled month in our classroom! Here are some of the wonderful experiences your children enjoyed:

We concluded our classroom residency with Wolf Trap, guided by the talented Ms. Jennifer. The children explored rhythm and sound by playing drums and experimenting with a variety of hand-held instruments. They also expressed creativity through movement, using colorful scarves to dance and interact with the music. This residency gave our students a chance to connect with the arts in a hands-on, playful way that sparked both imagination and collaboration.

We spent time talking about holidays and traditions, sharing stories and learning about the different ways families celebrate this special season. These discussions encouraged curiosity, respect, and appreciation for the diverse celebrations that make our community so vibrant.

January themes: Winter Wonderland: Explore cold weather, Snow & Ice. Animals in Winter: New Beginnings, and Colors of Winter: Focus on white, blue, and silver through art projects and sensory play.

A reminder: Please make sure your child has the appropriate gear for the weather. We will go outside unless the playground has too many puddles or the temperatures are freezing. Please make sure to have a change of clothes in their bags.

We appreciate your support in making these experiences enriching and enjoyable for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Ms. Amy and Mr. Mo

Toddler 1-B

Dear Parents,



First, I would like to wish everyone a happy new year. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday! It is hard to believe that many of us have already been together for a full year. We have made so many memories, and we have learned so much along the way.

I would also like to take time to welcome our new assistant to T1B, **Ms. Katie!** Many of you have already met Ms. Katie, but this is our official welcome! Ms. Katie has been a huge help in the classroom and has made several friends already. In December, we learned about holiday traditions and decorated our classroom for the season. We made winter hats, holiday wreaths, and we even hosted a holiday party for our whole class!

In January, we will spend time learning all about winter weather and how to dress in the cold. We will also be learning about all the different activities we can do in the winter and how the snow can make things even more fun!

We would like to thank each one of you for your support and for all that you have provided for our classroom, and we look forward to all the memories we will make next year! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Ms. Tehya & Ms. Katie

Toddler 2-A

T2-A Families,

Happy January! We hope all of you had a lovely break; we are so excited to be back together again.

During December, we learned about the different holidays that take place and some of the traditions that go with them. We also learned about traditions that are specific to the winter season. The children's favorite activity this month was making snowmen out of paper plates.



In January, we will focus on winter weather and activities. We will explore ice and snow, make art inspired by winter, as well as learn about what different animals do when it gets cold out. Be on the lookout for some hibernating bear sculptures!

A quick reminder: please make sure your child has appropriate outerwear in a size that fits them, labeled with their name. As long as the temperatures are safe, we are outside twice a day even when it's cold! Please let me know if this is something you may need help with—we can figure out a solution!

Thanks,

Ms. Sarah & Miss Payton

Toddler 2-B

Theme: Winter/Winter Animals

Toddler T2-B

Hello Parents,

Happy New Year! We are all blessed to be here.



Starting off, our class really enjoyed Our Wolf Trap Artist Teacher, **Mrs.**

Emma Collins. All the different tools used in our lessons was great! Mrs. Emma taught staff and the children how to create so much imagination from the story of the bear during each lesson and the children did a great job adding to the story and remembering something about the story during each lesson.



The month of December was very busy for our class even though it was a short month. We did a lot of arts and crafts, strengthening our fine motor muscles. We talked about how the weather has changed and what season we are in and what kind of clothes we are wearing now. We enjoyed playing with some holiday tinsel and glitter paper. Of course Jingle Bells was our favorite holiday song. One of our favorite books was The Snowy Day.

For the month of January, we will continue with Winter/Animals

A Big thanks to all our parents who donate to our Train Food Box

Mrs. Pearlene and Ms. D'anerys

Preschool

We had a great month of December learning about Holidays Around the World and Gingerbread! In January, we will be learning about Healthy Habits, Winter Weather, and Arctic Animals!

Here are a few reminders for January:

- LMM@UTC will be CLOSED on Monday, January 19th in observation of MLK Jr Day.
- Check your child's cubby DAILY for any artwork, soiled clothes, etc.

- There are lots of germs going around this time of year! Please help us by...

- Making sure naptime blankets and sheets are being washed each weekend
- Water bottles are being taken home each day and washed,
- Practicing covering coughs and sneezes with their arm/into their elbow!

Have a Happy New Year!

Pre-K

December has drifted by, and we are looking forward to a new year full of new opportunities. We enjoyed making ornaments, decorating our classroom Christmas tree, learning at our gift wrap station, and writing letters to mail to Santa. With the colder temperatures, please make sure to send a coat or jacket on the chilly days! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break!

Ms. Beverly and Ms. Andi





Lunch Box Catering
Donna Laster 423-802-1938
Donnalaster@epbfi.com

January 2026 Lunch Menu

28	29 Cheese Pizza w/ Mozzarella Carrots Apples Milk	30 Ham and Cheese Slider Corn Bananas Milk	31 Beef a Roni Green Beans Oranges Milk	01 New Years	02 closed	03
04	05 Chicken Quesadilla Pinto Beans Apples Milk	06 Creamy Chicken Brown Rice Casserole Carrots Bananas Milk	07 Beef Stroganoff Corn Oranges Milk	08 Turkey and Cheese Roll-up Green Beans Bananas Milk	09 Chicken Nuggets Biscuit Sweet Potato Fries Apples Milk	10
11	12 Ham and Cheese Slider Baked Beans Apples Milk	13 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Peas Bananas Milk	14 Chicken Alfredo Carrots Oranges Milk	15 Beef and Cheese Burrito Corn Bananas Milk	16 Cheeseburger Slider Tator Tots Apples Milk	17
18	19 Closed	20 Baked Ziti with Beef Green Beans Bananas Milk	21 Teriyaki Chicken and Brown Rice Peas Oranges Milk	22 Ham and Cheese Roll-up Carrots Bananas Milk	23 Chicken Patty on Slider Bun Sweet Potato Fries Apples Milk	24
25	26 Beef and Cheese Burrito Baked Beans Apples Milk	27 Cheeseburger Mac Corn Bananas Milk	28 Baked Ham Mac and Cheese Green Beans Oranges Milk	29 Turkey and Cheese Slider Peas Bananas Milk	30 Chicken Tenders Biscuit Tator Tots Apples Milk	31
01	02 Cheese Pizza w/ Mozzarella Carrots Apples Milk	03 Creamy Chicken Noodle Bake Corn Bananas Milk	04 Beef a Roni Green Beans Oranges Milk	05 Ham and Cheese Roll-up Peas Bananas Milk	06 BBQ Chicken on Slider Bun Sweet potato Fries Apples Milk	07



Lunch Box Catering
Donna Laster 423-802-1938
Donnalaster@epbfi.com

January Veg Lunch Menu

28	29 Cheese Pizza w/ Mozzarella Carrots Apples Milk	30 Hummus and Cheese Slider Corn Bananas Milk	31 Black Bean a Roni Green Beans Oranges Milk	01 New Years	02 closed	03
04	05 Spinach Quesadilla Pinto Beans Apples Milk	06 Creamy Chickpea Brown Rice Casserole Carrots Bananas Milk	07 Mushroom Stroganoff Corn Oranges Milk	08 Hummus and Cheese Roll- up Green Beans Bananas Milk	09 Veggie Nuggets Biscuit Sweet Potato Fries Apples Milk	10
11	12 Hummus and Cheese Slider Baked Beans Apples Milk	13 Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce Peas Bananas Milk	14 Mushroom Alfredo Carrots Oranges Milk	15 Bean and Cheese Burrito Corn Bananas Milk	16 Veggie burger Slider Tator Tots Apples Milk	17
18	19 Closed	20 Baked Ziti with Veggies Green Beans Bananas Milk	21 Teriyaki Chickpea and Brown Rice Peas Oranges Milk	22 Hummus and Cheese Roll-up Carrots Bananas Milk	23 Veggie Patty on Slider Bun Sweet Potato Fries Apples Milk	24
25	26 Beef and Cheese Burrito Baked Beans Apples Milk	27 Cheeseburger Mac Corn Bananas Milk	28 Baked Ham Mac and Cheese Green Beans Oranges Milk	29 Turkey and Cheese Slider Peas Bananas Milk	30 Veggie Tenders Biscuit Tator Tots Apples Milk	31
01	02 Cheese Pizza w/ Mozzarella Carrots Apples Milk	03 Creamy Chicken Noodle Bake Corn Bananas Milk	04 Beef a Roni Green Beans Oranges Milk	05 Ham and Cheese Roll-up Peas Bananas Milk	06 BBQ Chicken on Slider Bun Sweet potato Fries Apples Milk	07