



Oregon State University - Cascades  
1500 SW Chandler Ave.  
Bend, Oregon 97702

P 541-322-3100  
OSUcascades.edu

May 7, 2026

Dear Little Kits Families,

I am writing to share an important and difficult update regarding the future of the Little Kits Early Care & Education Center.

Due to ongoing financial challenges, OSU-Cascades has made the decision to conclude operations of Little Kits under the management of the OSU Family Resource Center, effective July 2.

We know this news is distressing, and we want to provide families with as much notice as possible so you can plan for your children's future care.

Unfortunately, here in Oregon and across the country, childcare remains an extremely challenging model to sustain and subsidize financially, with rising operating costs and limited public funding.

While Little Kits will close under the OSU Family Resource Center's management, OSU-Cascades remains committed to childcare in our community and to meeting its obligations to funding partners, including Deschutes County, the State of Oregon and the federal government.

To that end, OSU-Cascades is actively working to secure an independent childcare provider to lease the Little Kits facility and operate a licensed childcare program. At this time, neither a new provider nor a timeline has been confirmed.

If a new provider is secured, please be aware that eligibility, enrollment criteria, tuition and program policies may differ, and current Little Kits families may not automatically qualify for the new program. We understand how concerning this uncertainty may be and are committed to sharing information as soon as it becomes available. Should you need assistance in talking through alternate early childhood education arrangements, please be in touch with [Find Child Care Oregon](#), the state childcare resource and referral network.

We recognize the impact this transition has on families and on the dedicated Little Kits staff who have cared for your children. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us and for the role Little Kits has played in your family's lives.

A [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) has been created and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Finally, as a reminder, Little Kits will be closed on Fridays starting tomorrow, May 8.

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca J. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Becky Johnson  
Interim Chancellor and Dean