Muhlenberg College Children on Campus Policy

This Policy applies to all College employees, students, and visitors and addresses the health, safety and management of children under the age of 18 who are not otherwise enrolled in programs of the College. The purpose of the policy is to protect the health and safety of children while maintaining an appropriate academic environment for collegiate-level teaching and learning, research, co-curricular activities, and all of the related work that supports the academic life of the College.

1. Children are welcome on campus when accompanied by a parent or guardian providing age appropriate supervision. However, many areas of the campus (offices, classrooms, and laboratories, for example) are not appropriate environments for extended visits by children unless a College sponsored program or event designed for children is being held in such areas. The following sections address the different areas of campus.

A. Classrooms

Attendance at class meetings should be limited to instructors, enrolled students, prospective students, and visitors invited by the instructor to contribute to student learning in the course. Instructors have discretion when addressing situations in which other individuals attend their classes, including the accommodation of temporary, unforeseen childcare emergencies (including “snow days”) for children who are able to occupy themselves without posing a distraction to the classroom.

B. Campus Offices and Work Spaces

Children are welcome to visit campus offices and work spaces for:

- short, occasional visits when accompanied by a responsible adult; and
- the accommodation of temporary, unforeseen childcare emergencies (including “snow days”) after discussion with the supervisor of the office or work space, when the responsible adult is able to be present and to attend to the care and welfare of the child.

Offices and campus work spaces are not to be used for the purpose of regular childcare provisions, e.g., infant care, after-school care, childcare during summers and holidays, or when the child is too ill to be sent to regular childcare or school. Adults responsible for visiting children are not to ask other employees to attend to their child or children. Should a faculty or staff member require time to resolve an emergent childcare situation, he/she should discuss the matter with her/his supervisor or, if the supervisor is not available, with Human Resources.
C. College Student Housing

Muhlenberg students are not permitted to use college-owned student housing for the purpose of babysitting children.

Students hosting visitors under the age of 18 must register visitors according to the Visitors Policy found in the Student Guide.

D. Campus Grounds and Facilities

Children are welcome in all areas of the campus open to public access. Parents or guardians are expected to provide age-appropriate supervision of their children and remain responsible for their children who are left unattended in public areas of the campus. The College maintains separate policies specific to the Life Sports Center and Trexler Library facilities. These policies are to be consulted when visiting these spaces.

E. Hazardous Areas

Due to inherent safety and health hazards, children may not enter Physical Plant shop areas, chemical storage areas, mechanical rooms or construction areas for theatrical scenery and costumes. Children may enter the following spaces when accompanied by a responsible adult familiar with the specific safety protocols relative to the area:

- student computer laboratories,
- art studios,
- animal care facilities,
- kitchens, and
- research and learning laboratories.

2. Faculty and staff members who encounter unexpected childcare emergencies may ask supervisors for permission to bring a child to work with them, or to remain at home to care for the child. Supervisors are expected to support our family-friendly community by accommodating employees’ absences on those rare occasions when child care emergencies demand parental attention.

3. Programs and/or activities for or involving children must be individually reviewed and approved in order to be considered college-sponsored. Such reviews are conducted by the appropriate member(s) of the President’s Staff in conjunction with the Treasurer’s Office (Risk Management).

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1 Exceptions are made for children engaged in the scene or costume shop as part of Theatre internship programs and for prospective students touring the facilities.