

Giraffe Laugh waiting list FAQ:

- 1) Does it cost money to be on the waiting list?

No. Because our goal is to give low income people access to quality care and education, there is no charge to be on our list.

- 2) Is there a list for each center?

No. There is one master list however you can specify which center you prefer to be called about and we will only call you for that center. If you are a student at Marian Pritchett School, however that is a separate list, so please call that location to be on their waiting list.

- 3) I'm on the list, what now?

We know it's really hard to wait and we understand how frustrating the process can be. You can call us and continue to ask questions while you're waiting, you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest to see what we are up to and you can get on our email list to see what is happening and how you can be involved. You can also visit us on our website to see what's new.

Giraffe Laugh is also a nonprofit which comes with many opportunities for involvement beyond a normal preschool setting. You are welcome to become a [volunteer](#) and join us at our events and become a part of the Giraffe Laugh family long before your child even enrolls.

- 4) Why can't I get a tour right away?

If we gave a tour to everyone on our waiting list, that is how we would spend each and every day which is not in the best interest of everyone involved. We will however give you plenty of advance notice before enrolling so that you are able to tour, give your current provider notice and to visit often enough to make an informed decision before committing to enrollment.

We hope that our website will answer most of your questions and a personal call is always welcome. For parents of infants we understand that this can be very difficult because you are comparing programs for the first time. If it is a big issue for you, please let your favorite site know and they will work you into a tour to the best of their ability as long as you remain patient through that process of waiting.

- 5) When I call to see where I am on the list why can't anyone tell me where I stand and when my child can start?

It's difficult for us to judge when your child might get into our program because there are so many variables out of our control. Some of them include the following:

- a. It's rare that people leave once enrolled, therefore we can't predict when that might happen.
- b. Your child is on a list in a full classroom and as they age, so does your child, which means the opening may not happen until ratios change which is normally when they turn three.

- c. We can't possibly call everyone on the list to update regularly therefore there may be several people that have found other centers (they will keep looking and we encourage you to as well by calling 211) so to give you a number might not only be discouraging but also inaccurate.
- d. We prioritize enrollment based on the following criteria:
 - i. Siblings of already enrolled children
 - ii. Low-income, homeless children and children with limited access
 - iii. Already enrolled children who wish to expand their current schedules
 - iv. Children whose names are at the top of the list according to when their parents called.

6) How do I qualify for a scholarship?

Scholarships are based on income and the number of people in your household. Parents must sit down with their site directors and fill out paperwork to ensure they are eligible. They must provide pay stubs, social security numbers and household information to determine eligibility.

7) Does Giraffe Laugh accept drop-in students?

Yes. We provide drop-in care at sites 1, 2 and 4 and it is by appointment only. Feel free to call as far in advance as possible but we also encourage last minute calls as well. There may be someone out on the day you call that we couldn't predict would be gone a few weeks ahead of time. Payment for services are expected on the same day your child drops in, so please bring a checkbook to settle up before leaving.

8) What do I do if I need childcare right now and I can't get in?

We recommend contacting 211 and letting them know you have a need and they will send you a list of providers. Ask for centers or providers that are in the IdahoSTARS program, look at the www.idahostars.org website to see a list of questions you should ask, look on the City of Boise website that will list providers that are in compliance with the City of Boise Healthy Childcare initiative and begin asking friends for references.

You can call us back regularly to check in however the list does not have major movement except in June and September and sometimes January.

9) I unenrolled my child then decided to come back, when can I get back in?

Once a child is unenrolled, it might be difficult to get back in right away. We can normally fill an opening quickly and unless we know it's temporary such as you lost a job or other extenuating circumstances, we will not save a space. We are happy to work with families we know to get you back in as soon as possible, however we will also enroll according to the criteria listed in question #5.

If you have other questions you'd like us to answer, email us and we'll do our best to get back to you right away.