

Giraffe Laugh Waiting List FAQ:

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

A: No. Our goal at Giraffe Laugh is to provide people living in ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households access to quality care and education, therefore, there is not a charge to put your child's name on our waiting list. . For more information on ALICE please visit: <https://www.unitedwaytv.org/united-alice>

2) Q: Is there a list for each center?

A: No. There is one master list, however you may specify your preferred center for enrollment, and you may indicate more than one center as a preference if you wish.

3) Q: I am on the list, now what?

A: We know it's really difficult to wait and we understand how frustrating the process can be. Our waiting list is long therefore, we do not typically contact families on our waiting list until we have an opening.

You are welcome to call us and continue to ask questions while you are waiting. You can follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [Instagram](#) and visit our [website](#) to see what we are up to, and you can also get on our email list to stay informed on updates and events and how you can become more involved.

Giraffe Laugh is 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) Q: Why am I not able to get a tour right away?

A: 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 anyone 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 may be comparing programs for the first time. Please let your favorite location know if this is the case for you and they will work you into a tour as soon as they are able. However, it is important to remain patient because they may not be able to get you in as soon as you would like.

5) Q: When I call to see where I am on the waiting list, why is it no one can tell me where I stand and when my child can start?

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

- a) It is rare that families leave once they are enrolled, therefore we cannot 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 cannot possibly call everyone on the list with regular updates, therefore there may be several people that have found other centers as they will keep looking and we encourage you to as well by calling the [Idaho CareLine](#) at 211 or visiting the [Find Help Idaho](#) website). Therefore, to give you an estimated date might not only be discouraging but also inaccurate.
- d) We prioritize enrollment based on the following criteria:
 - i) Siblings of already enrolled children
 - ii) ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families *For more information on ALICE please visit: <https://www.unitedwaytv.org/united-alice>*
 - iii) Children that are already enrolled who wish to expand their schedules (ex: part timers who want to be full time)
 - iv) Children whose names are at the top of the list according to when their parents called

6) Q: How do I qualify for a scholarship?

A: Scholarships are based on income and the number of people in your household. People must sit down with their site directors and fill out the paperwork to ensure they are eligible. Pay stubs, Social Security numbers, picture identification, and household information is required to ensure eligibility.

7) Q: Does Giraffe Laugh accept students on a drop-in basis?

A: Yes. We provide drop-in childcare at our full year locations *by appointment only*. You are welcome to call well in advance or last minute. If we have an opening, we are happy to provide care for your child for the day or week if we have space available. Payment for services are expected on the same day your child is in attendance, so please bring your checkbook or exact cash to settle up before leaving. We do not have cash change at the centers.

8) Q: What do I do if I need childcare right now and I cannot get into Giraffe Laugh?

A: We recommend:

1. Contacting the [Idaho CareLine](#) at 211 and letting them know you have a need and they will send you a list of providers.
 - a. Ask for centers or providers that participate in the IdahoSTARS program.
2. Or visit the IdahoSTARS website [here](#) for a list of providers that participate in Steps to Quality and detailed information about Idaho's Steps to Quality - Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for child care programs.
3. Or by visiting the [Find Help Idaho](#) website.

You are welcome to call us back from time to time to check in, however the list does not have major movement with the exception of June, September and sometime January.

9) Q: I unenrolled my child then decided to come back, when is it possible to re-enroll?

A: Once a child is unenrolled it may be difficult to re-enroll right away because vacancies are filled quickly. We do not "save" spaces unless there are extenuating, temporary circumstances, such as job loss. We are happy to work with families that 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 any questions not addressed here email us at Neile@GiraffeLaugh.org and we will do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible.