

Care centers coddle kids

By **DEBBIE HOWLETT**
Of the Emerald

Student parents Kip and Susy Rice face a situation this fall similar to that of other student parents. Kip is going to Alaska to find work he couldn't find at home in Myrtle Creek, and Susy is enrolling at the University.

The problem is what to do with their two daughters — ages 2 and 4.

The Rices are considering the Child Care and Development Center — one of two University childcare centers located on or within walking distance from campus.

The Rices' story typifies the situation most student parents face. How can parents continue their education and raise a family at the same time?

Mary-Curtis Gramley, coordinator of both CCDC and the EMU Child Care Center, says she feels the centers — especially CCDC — are interested not only in serving the children, but also in involving the entire family.

She says she encourages parents to visit for lunch or in between the parent's classes.

"Our primary objective is to provide the highest quality childcare we can."

Gramley, who took charge of the two centers last year, says that a typical day at CCDC consists of many "free-play" activities that induce children to learn and interact socially.

The program also recognizes the need to educate children, not in a typical academic environment, but rather at the pace the child sets for himself, she says, adding that the structure of CCDC is used to further the child's "total self."

The University campus is a valuable learning tool for the CCDC, Gramley says.



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A preschooler enjoys the outside play area of the EMU Child Care Center.

"We have an excellent opportunity here for valuable interaction," she says, explaining that students from many campus departments find CCDC invaluable as a tool for study and CCDC finds the students invaluable for their interaction with the children.

Gramley says she believes this system is effective and that she also finds the campus a great way to interest the children in many different areas.

The childcare system is set up to serve the varied needs of student parents, Gramley says.

At CCDC, located at 1511 Moss St., the Brown House cares for the three-month to

16-month age range with enrollment on a half or full-day basis at a cost of \$1.60 an hour.

The Green House and the Villard House accommodate toddlers at \$1.50 an hour with enrollment hours 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Both houses are set up on an hourly or half day/full day basis.

The Moss House is an hourly center at \$1.10 an hour. There also is an after-school program for children up to 12, and although registration began Sept. 15, Gramley says she "doesn't want to discourage parents, because there still may be openings."

The ASUO provides some

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