

# Latch Key fills child day care needs of many

By Yvette Jefferson

Of the Emerald

Three local elementary schools are serving as day care centers for children of working

parents this summer.

Eugene Latch Key Inc., a private, non-profit organization, provides adult supervision for children who range from

five to 12 years in age while their parent or parents work, said Edwina Albright, director of Latch Key. The average age of children in the program is seven, she said.

Mark Feleck, acting director of Latch Key at Patterson Elementary School, said the enrollment at Patterson is 25 to 30 children a day. Enrollment is low this year compared to past enrollment figures of 40 to 50 children a day, however, he said.

"Actually, more than 45 kids would be a complete zoo," Feleck said. "One time we had 50 kids and it was totally chaotic, but it was fun."

Linda Wolf, a Latch Key secretary, said the program is based on a family's ability to pay so it can serve any family who needs the service.

To calculate the payment plan for a particular family, Latch Key assigns families to one of five categories depending on the total number of family members, Wolf said. Latch Key also groups families according to their gross income per month, she said.

The cost for Latch Key services range from \$60 to \$100 per child a month for full-time care, Wolf said.

"The average day care cost throughout the nation is \$200 a month per child, which proves our service is reasonable," Feleck said.

About 20 percent of the parents using the service pay at the lowest level, and about 36 percent pay the at highest level, Albright said.

The program is especially helpful for parents on welfare because they pay the lowest price for the service, Wolf said. The Welfare Department has approved Latch Key's payment plan and agreed to give money to a parent to use strictly for the service, she said.

The program has nothing to do with employment of a child's parents, Feleck said. Therefore, a parent on welfare who is looking for work, or a



Photo by Allan Lazo

Michael T. Davis, 10, plays at the Latch Key center on Chambers Street.

student parent who is on welfare, can still use the service, he said.

"Incidentally, we serve a lot of University students," Albright said. "Our program is flexible so the kids can really enjoy themselves, and parents don't have to worry about what their children are up to."

Mary Ann Doan, coordinator of the University's child care center, places her child in the Latch Key program during the summer, but uses the University's program during the school year.

"I think our program is far superior to Latch Key because we educate our kids as well as entertain them," Doan said. "The reason why so many University students use their program as opposed to ours is that they offer more locations and can take an unlimited amount of kids. Also, we deal with more toddlers than they do."

The University's program

also has better funding than Latch Key and is better staffed, Doan said. The University has a supervisor-to-student ratio of 1-to-8 to Latch Key's 1-to-10, she said.

"I am not criticizing their organization," Doan said. "I think it is really good, but I feel ours is better."

Latch Key, 1350 Chambers St., is a nine-year-old organization that operates within the 4-J school system throughout the year and uses 12 elementary schools that are near heavily-populated neighborhoods, Albright said. During the summer the organization only uses three elementary schools because the need is not as great as during the regular school year, she said.

Current locations include Patterson Community Center, Willagillespie Elementary School and Willard Elementary School. Typical service hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Albright said.

**YEAH! Something to Shout About!**

**\$1.00 OFF MEDIUM PIZZA**

**TRACK TOWN PIZZA**

484-2799 • 1809 Franklin Blvd.

Not good with any other offer • Expires August 11  
One coupon per customer

**VOLVO Owners**

Take advantage of our FREE Safety Inspection and SPECIAL

**Alpine Import Service**

**10.50 Oil Change**  
includes oil & filter

Call for an appointment or just drop by  
Springfield • 12th & Main • 726-1808

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

*The VOLVO Specialist*

**COPIES**

**3¢** ALL DAY  
★ EVERY DAY  
8:30 - 5:30  
MON. - FRI.

8 1/2 x 11 WHITE

519 E. 13th  
485-1940

**Ice Cream Specials!**

**MONDAY**

**99¢ Shakes**

**TUESDAY**

**\$1.99 Banana Splits** (reg. \$2.70)

**WEDNESDAY**

**99¢ Sundaes!!**

1365 Villard (campus store only)  
484-1031

**BASKIN-ROBBINS ICE CREAM STORE**

**ONE WEEK ONLY!**

**BEAT THE HEAT WITH INDOOR TANNING**

**10** Tanning Sessions  
for only  
**\$20**

Our Lowest Price Ever

\*Be sure to ask about our one month Free special!  
\*one coupon per customer • no other discounts apply • expires 8/11/86

**SunShower**

874 E. 13th (upstairs next to Kinkos) 485-2323

**Oregon Daily Emerald**

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published on Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 97403. Daily publication will resume with the fall term.

The Emerald operates independently of the University, with offices on the third floor of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

**General Staff**  
Advertising Director: Susan Thelen  
Production Manager: Diane Fassler  
Classified Advertising: Alyson Simmons  
Assistant to the Publisher: Jean Ownbey

**Editor / Editorial Page Editor**  
Managing Editor: Michelle Brence  
Night Editor: Lucinda Dillon  
News Editor / University Affairs: Michael Rivers  
Photo Editor: Michael Rivers  
Graphic Design Editor: Ross Martin  
John Bock

**Associate Editors**  
Community / Higher Ed. / Administration: Chris Norred  
Student Government: Stephen Maher  
Student Activities: Tonnie Dakin  
General Assignments: Yvette Jefferson

**Advertising Sales:** John Boiler, Sales Manager

**Production:** Kelly Alexandre, Manuel Flores, Ross Martin, Mary May, Rob Miles, Michele Ross, Alyson Simmons.

**News and Editorial**  
Display Advertising and Business: 686-5511  
Classified Advertising: 686-3712  
Production: 686-4343  
Circulation: 686-4381  
686-5511