

The program's brochure states: "We believe that children are individuals in their own right and that their emotional and intellectual needs vary from child to child. ... We believe in allowing growth, rather than forcing children to learn ...."

EFAP also works closely with the parents of the children, who in turn play a very important role in the advancement and education of their children, Parrish said.

She said she meets with parents of new students and gives them a tour of the facilities before their child's first day of class, she said. This helps the child adapt easier once school starts because they would be familiar with the surroundings, Parrish added.

Other meetings are held later in the term with parents, she said. Parrish added that she also welcomes parents to sit in on classes whenever they have the time to.

In addition, parents have been very helpful and have aided in fundraising and donating materials for the children to work with, she said.

Because the school runs entirely on tuition, Parrish explained that fundraising played a major role in the development of the Spanish program.

The initial start-up and initial miscellaneous costs will have to be covered with funds raised through grants and fundraisers because the French program cannot pay for such costs, she said.

University English instructor

Martha Ravits' daughter Sarah is a second-year student at EFAP.

"The secret of the school is that Catherine is such a wonderful educator," Ravits said. "The key to any child's development is the quality of the teacher and Catherine is just outstanding."

Ravit's daughter started attending EFAP when she was

ate from Parrish's program.

Fernandes said the children from Parrish's program do not experience the initial stress that other students do because they already are comfortable with the language.

"They come in with an advantage, they know all the songs and can converse in French," she said. "Those children are experiencing first

Parrish's assistant teacher Paula Fleisher said she has never seen such a program for young children before.

Fleisher began working with Parrish in September 1988 and has decided to carry on in the field of early child education in the future.

"It's certainly turned my head in that direction," she said. A graduate student at the University, Fleisher taught preschool on the East Coast for one and one half years before moving to Eugene.

"The kids catch on very quickly," she said about the program. "They are not even aware of how much they know. They use it completely in context and French becomes a part of their lives."

Parrish said the change to include a Spanish program ties into her goal for EFAP to become a true international preschool and to hopefully include programs in German and Japanese in the future.

"In terms of inter-cultural exchange, it would be a very interesting thing," she said.

Parrish said the location of the Spanish program is still not confirmed, although she does have an idea of where she would like it to be.

In addition, she said the teacher has not been hired but added that the teacher will be one with high credentials.

She said the decision to start the Spanish program was made by the EFAP board of directors two weeks ago.

The program was considered because there already is a Spanish bilingual elementary school in Eugene, Parrish said. In this way, the children who go through the program will therefore be able to continue learning the language after they are done with preschool, she added.

More information about the Eugene International School can be obtained at the Eugene French-American Preschool or by calling 345-3818.

**'After teaching in many bilingual schools, I had a clear idea of what should be done and what should not be done.'**

**-Catherine Parrish**

three-years-old. A year later, Ravit said her daughter does not hesitate to use the language and has even come home singing French songs and fully understands them.

"(Parrish) really does make it seem part of a natural and enjoyable process," said Ravit, who has sat in on several of Parrish's classes with her daughter. "She has very high expectations from the children but she gives them a lot of encouragement and support."

Ravit said the real essence of the program is that Parrish uses the language to open up worlds for the children.

Judith Fernandes teaches first grade at Fox Hollow French School, 5055 Mahalo St., and sees a lot of students who gradu-

ate as a normal first grader in America," while others come in and do not understand a word the teacher says.

The impressive part, Fernandes said, is that the children from EFAP often act as interpreters for the other children who do not understand what the teacher says.

"I think it's (EFAP) a wonderful place for kids," Fernandes said. "It's a gift for the city of Eugene."

Fernandes, who said she is the product of a similar program, has also enrolled her three-year-old daughter, Ana Cara, in EFAP.

Ana Cara began attending EFAP in November when she was just 2½ years-old, Fernandes said.

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**Correction**

In the May 22 Oregon Daily Emerald, Oregon softball pitcher Katie Wiese was misquoted in an article about the Ducks' berth to the College Softball World Series. Wiese did not say she was in "great" shape physically. She said she was feeling all right physically but was going to have to be tough mentally. The Emerald apologizes for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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