

University provides convenient, quality child care

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Have you ever been startled by a child's scream as you walk past the EMU? When you turned around, did you see a group of children outside playing on a jungle gym and riding on tricycles?

Did you pass by again shortly after noon and swear you're in Pioneer Cemetery? It's incredibly quiet. The shades are drawn. No little people anywhere in sight. It's got to be nap time.

Not everyone is aware the EMU is a child-care provider. Students, faculty and staff, and outside community members can use the EMU Child Care and Development Centers (CCDC) to care for their children during the school day. Renate Dietrich, mother and student, has her youngest daughter in child care at Moss House during the times she attends classes.

"Grace loves her teachers, Mary and Karen," she said. "She likes the outside playground, the rabbit and the kids in her group."

The EMU CCDC began in 1970 as ASUO Child Care. Since then they've expanded into seven care facilities on and off campus. The use of student fees enables student parents to be assured of "quality child care at a reasonable rate that's convenient to attending school," Dietrich said. It allows her to be close to her child in case she's needed while feeling secure her child is in the best care.

The EMU CCDC brings a wide range of families into its programs. The care site at Westmoreland is the most ethnically diverse.

The child care program is licensed to care for 146 children on a rotating basis and can care



Preschoolers Alex and Asa focus intently on their LEGO project at one of the University's Child Care and Development Centers. Alex enjoys the program so much he wishes he could go in on weekends, too.

for as many as 180. Student-parents' schedules change and allow for the flexibility of the enrollment numbers. Currently, programs in nearly all of the sites still have openings.

"The effect of Measure 5 may have an effect on student families and whether they can afford care with higher tuition. We need kids, lots of kids to keep tuition down. This is very unusual to have openings in our programs," said Jen Ditmar, head teacher at the EMU Pre-School Program (ages 3-5 years old).

Tuition for the programs ranges from \$1.90 an hour to the highest sum being \$450 a month, which covers the costs of full-time care. The tuition differences relate to the age ranges of children in care, with enroll-

ment beginning at 15 months until six years old.

The younger children need more care and supervision and require larger numbers of staff. Their care costs are a bit higher. The ASUO provides a child-care subsidy to allow students like Dietrich to receive a subsidy for care.

Without it, she says, "child care costs are too high and uncertain." She needs the care her child is getting at Moss House for scheduling and economic considerations.

During the day, the children experience a wide range of activities. The EMU CCDC philosophy is that children are accepted and appreciated the way they are. The learning they get every day encourages problem solving, playing that

includes active participation and when discipline is needed, it's done in a positive way. Children are encouraged to respect others.

A recent afternoon spent at Villard House included a circle time with hand games and songs like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "The Wheels On The Bus." The children then had snacks of crackers, orange slices and juice.

Bonnie Nicks, a sophomore in speech pathology, works at Villard House eight hours a week for her work study. The best thing about working there is how rewarding her job is, she said.

"One of the kids, when I first started here, put things in her mouth," she said. "She's learning not to do that."

Nicks is a student assistant involved in cleaning up, preparing snacks, changing diapers, reading stories and watching the kids. She wanted experience working with children. Nicks is gaining valuable work experience before she graduates.

Whitey Clark, a professor in journalism, has had his two children go through the EMU CCDC programs.

"Intelligent college students who have a break after being in classes all day are going to play with the kids. Where else can you get that?" he said.

Clark's child, Lacey, is in care at Brown House. The low ratios of staff to children with exceptional care is not available anywhere else in Eugene.

The EMU CCDC programs are the first encounters many children have with education outside of their homes. The main office is located at 1511 Moss St. and the phone number is 346-4384.

Anyone interested in learning more about the care offered, wanting to enroll their children or needing general information can call or stop in during office hours Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Alex Gottshall's mom didn't know what to say when asked what they'd do if University care didn't exist. Alex likes the program so much he wishes he could come in on weekends too.

When you walk past the EMU Preschool and aren't startled by an outrageous squeal of laughter (called an "outdoor voice" by the initiated), and your friends say, "It's great being a kid, I wish I were still little," you can tell them that at the EMU CCDC it is great to be little. Offer them a gold fish cracker.

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MEETINGS

DRUIDS Honor Society will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room D. For more information, call 342-7376.

Tennis Anyone? will meet tonight at 7:30 in EMU Cedar Room C. For more information, call 342-2763.

Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force will meet today from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms C and D. For more information, call 346-3210.

Overeaters Anonymous will meet today from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center Parlor.

EMU Board will meet today from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3720.

ASUO Programs Council will meet today at 3 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 346-0622.

Pre-Law Society will meet today from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 164 Oregon Hall. For more information, call 686-4577.

Japanese Student Organization will meet today from 5 to 6 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms C and D. For more information, call 686-4484.

Asian Pacific American Student Union will meet today at 5 p.m. in Room 225 Counseling Center. For more information, call 346-4342.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Suite 319. For more information, call 346-3360.

Circle K International Service Club will meet tonight at 6:30 in EMU Cedar Room D. For more information, call 346-8840.

RELIGION

Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry will meet for fellowship tonight at 7 at 1236 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-4694.

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♥ AXQ

ΦΚΨ
Wow! No wonder it's a tradition! What a great party! Thanks so much.
♥ AXQ

ΓΦΒ
Congratulations Molly and Mark. We wish a bright, happy, and TALL future! Best of luck.
♥ Gamma Phi

103 GREEK HAPPENINGS

ΚΣ
A full moon was seen it was almost Halloween. Our costumes were disjuring about our spirits were rising. Thanks for the monster bash.
♥ Kappas

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