

# Care: Spaces still open for student families

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have the subsidy, they wouldn't be able to be in school," Spencer View director Suzy Blanchard said.

Another problem some families face when they don't have the subsidy is substandard care for their children, she said.

"There are more qualifications to be a beautician than a child care provider," she said.

The married couple live in Spencer View Family Housing, where they each spend at least four unpaid hours a week working in the day care center as part of the requirement for living there. While working in the day care center, they can keep a close eye on Christopher, while he sits in front of a long mirror along the floor and keeps an eye on himself as well.

The type of child care covered by the subsidy ranges from certified centers to care in student homes, as long as the care providers are registered and have had a criminal history check, Medew said.

Hernandez said 55 percent of the cost of Christopher's care is being covered by the subsidy.

"It's really helped us big time,"

she said.

White agreed: "We wouldn't be able to [afford child care] without it."

Hernandez also works at the ASUO Women's Center as part of work study and puts in paid hours at the day care besides the required four, she said. White also works with Campus Recycling as a part of work study.

"We're working so he can go to school in the future," Hernandez said.

There are 210 slots for families in the subsidy program, Medew said. In Spencer View alone, there are 44 families using the subsidy, Blanchard added. Currently, there are 14 slots available for student families.

"The University is looking at the fact that more non-traditional students are coming back to school," Blanchard said. "It's a good investment for the future."

Balancing school work and Christopher's future has been difficult but rewarding, Hernandez said.

"We knew it was going to be difficult," she said. "We're taking it one day at a time."



Christopher lives with his mother, Jessie Hernandez, and his father in Spencer View Family Housing.

# Grants: First Steps project will target at-risk kids

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standing and Sustaining Educational Innovations, coordinated by Professor Mike Benz.

This project is a continuation of the Youth Transition Program, "a proven innovation addressing the school-to-work transition needs of youths with disabilities," according to a project abstract by Benz.

"There has been a national 15-year effort to develop effective secondary and transition practices for

youth with disabilities to improve the poor post-school outcomes these youths have experienced historically," the abstract states. "Unfortunately, these practices are not being implemented and sustained in local communities ... this project will conduct in-depth case studies of a comprehensive secondary transition innovation in communities across Oregon and Arizona — the Youth Transition Program."

The third grant, totaling \$1 million for five years, went to Professor Hill Walker's project, called First Steps. This project, in conjunction with the Head Start Mental Health Research project, will help identify at-risk preschool children from four different cultural backgrounds, including African-, European-, Hispanic- and Native-American, Hill said.

"This grant will fund the screening part of this project to find these

little guys," Walker said.

About 3,000 children in Head Start centers in Oregon will be selected and followed up through first grade to see how well the transition from preschool to grade school is for the kids.

Walker's look at prevention and early intervention involving at-risk children will help keep them off the path to dropping out of school and criminal behavior, Kaufman said.

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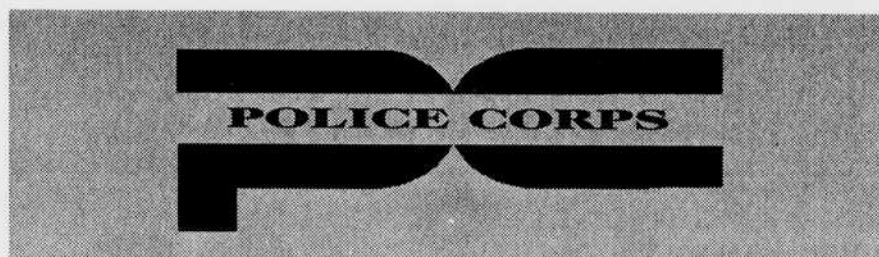
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