

Child Care: Parents celebrate Child Care and Development Centers



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Annie Sneed gets her face painted at the Birthday Bash at the Moss Street Children's Center on Wednesday evening.

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At the time, child care was considered an important step in creating equal access to education, especially for women, according to Reynolds.

A committee was formed to study the issue and respond to student demands.

"The study committee recommended an allocation of University space," Reynolds said.

A temporary facility was set up in an old house on Moss Street.

"Nobody was sure if this was something that was going to work. It was kind of an experimental thing," Reynolds said.

Within two years, the program had expanded beyond the Moss Street facility. Over 35 years, the CCDC has housed in a variety of buildings.

"During that whole period of time, the Child Care Development Center has continued to focus on removing child care as a barrier for students

coming to the University of Oregon," Reynolds said.

In early 2004, CCDC moved into a new facility especially built for the program.

"Old houses worked, but they were never designed to be child-care centers," Reynolds said.

Student leaders and student groups were instrumental in moving the program to its current location, according to Reynolds.

"We finally moved to a place where the quality of our nationally accredited program is reflected in the quality of our facility."

One of the advantages to the new facility, Reynolds said, is the ability to hold events for all the parents and kids involved in the program, such as the anniversary celebration held last week.

For many years, the CCDC had held an anniversary celebration in the summer. However, it was usually a

lunch-time event for the children. This year, for the 35th anniversary, staff and parents decided to expand the event.

"We shifted the focus from kids to kids and parents — to families," Reynolds said.

The celebration included a barbecue, birthday cake, activities and music.

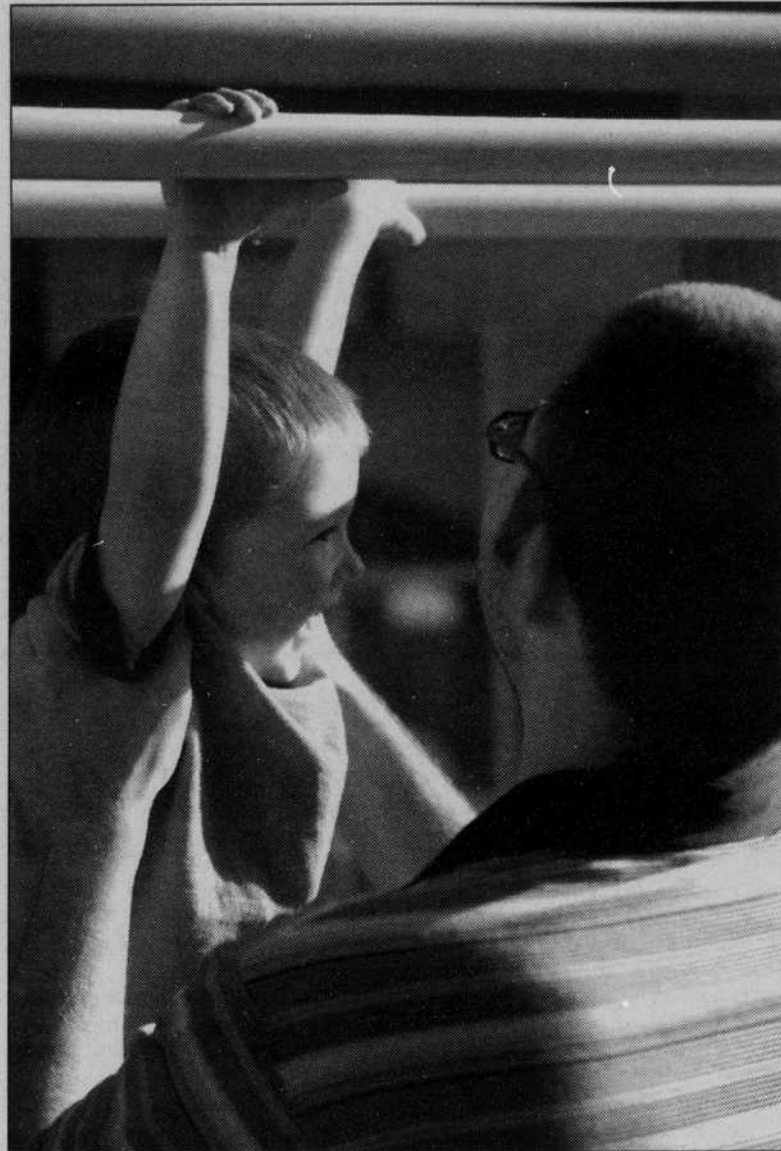
Psychology professor Ulrich Mayr sends his daughter to CCDC.

"It's the best thing that could happen for our daughter," Mayr said. "The staff is very dedicated."

The "variety and different people she can relate to," is a major strength of the program, Mayr said. "That's been very positive for us."

Because priority on space is given to children of students rather than children of faculty, Mayr was not able to send his younger child to CCDC.

"We tried to get our younger one in there, but we couldn't so we had to send him somewhere else, at least for now. Definitely we would send all



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Elijah, left, plays on the monkey bars with his father, Eric Weilbacher, at the 35th anniversary celebration for the University's child-care program.

our kids here if we could," Mayr said.

University law school alumna Jennifer Hisey sends her two daughters to CCDC.

"They love it here," Hisey said. "They like everything about going to school."

Hisey said she especially appreciates the interactivity of the program and the opportunity for the children to take field trips.

"The teachers are great; there are lots of activities," Hisey said. "I'm glad I found a safe environment that can enrich their daily lives."

The program's relatively small adult to student ratio is also important, said Hisey.

"I think it's a good program. I always recommend it."

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