

Center benefits parents

Childcare program helps teach youngsters

By Shelley Ball
Of The Print

In order to better meet the needs of its pupils, the Child Development Center at Clackamas Community College has divided the children into two groups, according to Supervisor Myra Lunn.

The two groups are Infant/Toddler (six months to two and a half years) and Preschool (two and a half to four years) according to Chairperson for Family and Human Services Carolyn Knutson.

Knutson explained that because of budget and staff cut-backs the Early Childhood Education Program was dropped, in order to still meet the needs of students, the Childhood Development Center altered the drop-in center for more flexible hours, after which it was merged.

"Before, younger children were getting lost in the shuffle of older children, and we felt we were not meeting their needs," Lunn said in regards to the change.

Lunn explained that having the children separated into two groups enables each group to learn skills geared to the age of the children.

Parents of infants or toddlers can expect them to experience sensory stimulation through touching, language

development by listening to music and being talked to by the teachers and motor development, according to Lunn.

Preschool children will have exercises to improve hand/eye and balance coordination, lessons in problem solving and will be involved in cooking projects to learn measuring principles.

Both groups will be beginning socialization and will be taught by a staff trained and experienced in early childhood education, according to Lunn.

Fees are \$1.25 per hour for infant/toddlers and \$1.00 per hour for preschool. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. for infants and toddlers, and 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. for preschoolers.

Lunn estimated involvement of 35 families and enrollment of 40 to 45 children in the center of 40.

Parents of children range from college students to campus employees and even off-campus community families, who wish their children to be enrolled in preschool. "We are not babysitting children, we are teaching children," said Lunn.

Feedback for the center in previous years has been excellent and there are currently waiting lists for students and off-campus parents, which Knutson attributes to the more flexible hours of the program.

When asked for her feelings on the center, student/parent Leeann Skelton replied, "I trust them." Skelton is a full-time student at the College and has one son she brings to the infant/toddler group. "When I don't exist; you can usually tell by kids if they like something," she said.

Good organization and a likable curricular program are additional reasons why Skelton approves of the center.

"I'm pleased with the staff," Lunn said. "They're brand new, have a lot of positive energy and commitment, and that's what makes a great center."

Staff for the center consists of five new teachers, and a variety of work-study students. Two of the new teachers, Karen Robinson and Linda Dorzweiler, are in charge of the infant/toddler group. Their jobs consist of planning activities, changing diapers, feeding and rocking children to sleep, as well as taking them on walks around the College.

Robinson came to the center from Portland Community College after graduating from their two-year program of early childhood education. She works six and a half hours, five days a week and plans to stay until the end of the fall quarter.

Dorzweiler started work at the center after working for Headstart in Clackamas County for five years. She chose to work here because "I didn't want to work full time."

At the center Dorzweiler works 25 hours a week and is able to have her own daughter with her on the job.

Anyone interested in volunteering time for the center or registering a child can contact Myra Lunn (ext. 378), or drop by her office in the Child Development Center located in the Orchard Center for applications.



Staff photo by Duane Hiersche

ASG sets goals for year

By Kari Gassaway
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Pleasing students is the goal of this year's new Associated Student Body officers, according to ASG President Paul Nastari. "We want to serve the needs of the school," Nastari said.

The new ASG officers were chosen last April. President Nastari and Vice President Jay Schaller were put into office by student vote, while Assistant to the President Emma Espinal and Activities Director Stephen Vohs were appointed by a committee. The office of Administrative Assistant will be filled Oct. 5 to complete the circle of ASG officers.

Ten student senators will also be a part of ASG. These senators will be elected through an application process. The last date for acceptance of these applications is Oct. 7. Any stu-

dent is welcome to apply, Nastari said. Many of this year's ASG officers were Senators last year.

Nastari feels the slimming down of government positions will create a closer working group with less inner conflicts. The number of Senators has been reduced from 20 to 10; consequently ASG offices have also been combined.

All the members of ASG, plus two advisors, will get together on Oct. 15 to decide what they are going to achieve this year and how. They will meet in Menucka, a church retreat near the Gorge.

Nastari feels there are some misconceptions about ASG. "It is unfortunate that some feel that ASG is just given money to play with," he said "We want to provide activities and events which students can participate in and enjoy," said Nastari.



Staff photo by Duane Hiersche

CHILDREN Enjoy the sunshine at the College child care center.

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