

# Child Care Business Also a Ministry

## Owner follows her calling

BY AMANDA GREAR  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Do you think your son's a prince? Or your daughter a princess? Most parents do. And like most parents you probably want them to be treated as such.

In that case, if you are in the market for quality child care for the heir to your throne, look no further than King's Kids Child Care Ministry. The local childcare provider could be the perfect little kingdom for you and your child.

Owner and Director Sherrena Torrence embarked on her business 10 years ago.

"Opening a ministry to serve children and their families was a calling from the Lord," Torrence said.

At the time she had an 18-month-old son and wanted to spend more time with him. She figured she could provide him and other children a safe learning environment, and as a plus, it would allow her to be home with her son.

There are innumerable child care facilities out there, so what sets King's Kids apart from all the oth-



PHOTO BY AMANDA GREAR/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Sherrena Torrence sees her certified childcare business as a ministry to serve children.

ers?

"As a certified family childcare provider, I have the best of both worlds; a professional setting with a family atmosphere," she said.

Torrence said that the aim of her child care business is to give parents a peace of mind, knowing that their children are in a safe, clean, loving, Christian-learning environment.

So, do kids learn any better or differently in this environment? Torrence would say yes.

"I believe that children learn best by play and exploration," she explained. "We go off of the child's lead. So if they are interested in [something], we take that and develop it."

"Because children are unique, we attempt to tap into their individual learning styles and gifting and create an environment for them to flourish," Torrence continued.

Children fully participated in a recent graduation ceremony for one of their fellow classmates who was forging ahead to grade school with dreams of becoming a robotics engineer.

In addition to her 10 years professional experience, Torrence has over a year's experience as a di-

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## Minority Entrepreneurs Celebrate

### Annual conference spotlights recent achievements

The Business Diversity Institute, a training institute for contractors, will celebrate the achievements of minority entrepreneurs and business leaders during the Minority

Enterprise Development (MED) Week Awards Conference at the Oregon Convention Center on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year's event—"Energizing the American Economy with Minority Business Enterprises"—will provide informative educational workshops and business networking opportunities to help minority small businesses leverage and grow their businesses to weather the current eco-

nomie climate.


Minority businesses that attend will become more innovative and competitive in the federal and commercial markets. The morning workshops will be followed by an awards luncheon and reverse vendor networking.

The cost is \$85 a person or \$650 for a table of 10.

For more information, visit the institute's Website at [bdiweb.org](http://bdiweb.org).

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