Committee proposes local day care center

4-16-71

A day care facility for children of the Ohio State community has been recommended by the Day Care Planning Committee.

The facility, a long time demand of campus Women's Liberation groups, would accommodate 200 children from the age of three months to six years.

The committee's recommendation was sent to Edward Q. Moulton, executive vice president for administrative operations, according to a release from University News Service.

However, Moulton said the committee's recommendation to open the facility by September is unlikely to be implemented because of the low budget.

According to the release, Louis Lund, director of the School of Home Economics and chairwoman of the committee, said, "The estimated budget for handling 200 children for the type of program proposed runs about $150,000 per year."

It will also cost $75,000 to remodel an existing facility or $150,000 to build day care facilities, according to the report.

Moulton said he is "not against the day care center," but it will not get top priority for budgeting.

Top priority items are faculty salary increases and new buildings, including a library on west campus, he said.

The report includes a design for a pilot program, based on the committee's survey of students' and University employees' needs.

It also includes possible locations for the center and possible sources for additional funds.

The committee plans to contact foundations and the Federal Government for funding, according to the release.

The Ohio State Lantern
COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 24.-- --The Ohio State University Thursday (2/24) announced plans to initiate a child care pilot program, probably with the start of the spring quarter on March 28.

The program will serve as an educational laboratory for graduate and undergraduate students in some 12 academic departments at Ohio State. In addition, the program will provide an educational curriculum and physical care for approximately 100 children of Ohio State students and staff.

The university will provide program support for personnel functioning in an educational capacity with Ohio State students. Enrollment fees will support the service component of the pilot program.

The program will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fees will be based on a sliding scale from $3 to $28, depending on the amount of time a child is enrolled and the income level of the parents. Children ranging in age from 2 months to 5 years will be eligible for the program.

Administratively, the program will be assigned to the office of the university's associate director of

(MORE)
Affirmative Action Programs, Dr. Elaine H. Hairston. "We expect to open the child care pilot program with the spring quarter, although there are matters with the lessor, licensing and renovation still to be completed," Dr. Hairston said. According to Hairston, the facility presently being considered for the program is off campus but in the immediate university area.

Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick, presently the chairman of the Steering Committee which developed the proposal for the pilot program has been named acting director of the program, Hairston said. Staffing patterns for the pilot program are presently being developed.

"The university will explore various possibilities for contributions in support of this project," Hairston said. "The Council of Graduate Students already has voted $2,500 for play and child care equipment, other items have been loaned by the School of Home Economics, and the existing facility has some equipment available for use. We expect that several interested organizations will help raise funds for the project."

Hairston said that more than 50 inquiries from parents already are on file. Application forms may be obtained by calling 422-6762 or by writing Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick at Room 229, Campbell Hall, 1787 Neil Ave.

Members of the university's Child Care Pilot Program Steering Committee, in addition to Dr. Kirkpatrick, are Dr. (MORE)
child care pilot program - 3

Lois Lund and Dr. Jean Dickerscheid of the School of Home Economics; Dr. Hairston, Karen Frank, area management coordinator, Student Housing; Linda Green, Jo Anne Pruitt, and Margy Teuber, graduate students; William J. Griffith, director, Campus Planning; and Judith Washburn, executive director, University Budgets; David Wiseman and Posey Eitzen, undergraduate students.
FROM: OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICES 3-10-72
190 N. OVAL DR., COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210 (LO, WS, SP)
Phone: (Area Code 614) 422-2711

COLUMBUS, O., March 10.-- The Ohio State University will operate its child care pilot program in facilities leased from Indianola United Methodist Church, 1895 Summit St.

The university last month announced plans to begin the program on March 28 for approximately 100 children of Ohio State students and staff. Negotiations for a campus-area site were then under way.

University and church board representatives this week signed an agreement under which Ohio State will rent nine rooms at the church and will have partial use of kitchen, dining room and other facilities. An adjoining yard at 1869 Summit St. will serve as a play area.

Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick, acting director of the program, said a planned remodeling project and interviews of prospective staff members were under way and a license application for the program has been filed with the Ohio Department of Public Welfare.

"We plan to open as scheduled on the first day of spring quarter," Dr. Kirkpatrick said. "Application (MORE)
forms are in the mail to some 200 persons who have requested them. We urge parents to return the applications promptly, since they will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis within the enrollment patterns called for in the program."

Selection of enrollees will begin the week of March 12, she said.

Meanwhile, the university has indicated it will accept contributions to support the pilot program.

"Interested individuals and groups can help by contributing either new or used equipment or money for its purchase," Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

"Specifically, the needs are for cribs, record players, tricycles, strollers, books, art materials and miscellaneous small toys."

The program will open an office in Room 204 of the church on March 16. Entrance will be via the southeast door of the church on Summit St.

The university has planned the program to serve as an educational laboratory for graduate and undergraduate students in about 12 academic areas, as well as to provide an educational curriculum and physical care for the children.

The university will fund costs of personnel functioning in an educational capacity with Ohio State students. Fees ranging from $3 to $28 per week will support the (MORE)
child care - 3

program's service aspects.

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(Contact; Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick, 422-6762).

-wfr-
Day care available

By Audrey Shifres

One of the demands of University students during the 1970 Spring Quarter disturbances was that a day care program be available. Soon after, a committee was formed to investigate the need for such a program.

When the committee, composed of students, faculty and administrators, agreed that such a program was needed, plans for the Child Care Pilot Program (CCPP) began to take shape.

CCPP went into operation the first day of Spring Quarter, 1972, located at Indiana University Methodist Church.

Eligible children include those whose parents are students of Ohio State or academic or non-academic employees of the University. Only one parent needs to be affiliated with Ohio State.

Sue Kirkpatrick was the first acting director of the program. She will be replaced by Sue Vartuli who was the head teacher of the preschoolers.

Up to kindergarten age

Kirkpatrick said the program will accept children two months old to kindergarten age. Children with handicaps, abnormalities and emotional problems are also accepted. "There is a new trend to take children with problems in with others," she explained.

Currently 90 children are enrolled. Because all 90 don't attend the same times, Kirkpatrick said the most children there at one time is 73.

Assistant teachers have B.A. degrees in child related fields such as elementary education, family and child development and home economics.

There is also a new two-year college level training program in early and middle childhood that qualifies teachers for CCPP. According to Kirkpatrick, head teachers have their M.A. degrees. The infant groups have two registered nurses with B.A. degrees. Work study students also participate.

Space limitations

Enrollment in CCPP is limited by space. "We can handle 96 children. The state licenses you to handle so many children according to space. You must have 30 feet per child," Kirkpatrick said.

Once enrollment hits its limit, two routes may be taken. "We would have to turn people away after we reach our maximum" said Wadensburg or form a waiting list," she said.

Although there are no real plans for after the quota has been reached, Kirkpatrick said the main committee has thought of satellite centers, "one by the hospital, one at North Campus."

The idea of satellite centers hasn't been further explored at this time. "We need to get this program to be a reality one before we can open satellites. We're not just concerned about enrollment, but also what kind of education the children are getting," Kirkpatrick said.

Fee depends on income

The fee for CCP depends on the parents' income and how many days the child attends the center. "We ask for the parents' income before taxes and how much federal and state tax they pay. The fee is based on income less taxes," Kirkpatrick said. Fees range from $3 to $28 per week.

The center receives University funding so "everyone pays less than it actually costs to run the program."

The subsidy for CCPP now receives is "federal money which comes down through the state and county." Although federal grants are available for research, Kirkpatrick said she is interested in getting the current program going before attempting research. "When we're comfortable with the program we may apply to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for a research grant," she said.

Education, home economics, linguistics, dental hygiene, nursing, medical and speech and hearing students have come to observe at the center.

Multi-lingual help sought

Kirkpatrick expressed her desire to interest students who study or speak other languages. "Some of the children are bi- and tri-lingual and some don't speak English at all. We need some help from people who speak Persian, Iranian, Portuguese and Spanish," she said.

This summer Kirkpatrick said a playground will be installed. The only play area now is a fenced-in yard.

A parent advisory group is to start this summer with parents "as 50 to 51 percent of the group." The center also received good response to their first newsletter and will continue writing them.
Ohio State community gets Child Care Pilot Program

By Kathy Zinser

"I go to school here, and not far away, my mommy and daddy go to school, too.

On March 28, 1972, the University Child Care Pilot Program got off the ground, and approximately 60 children, ranging in age from two months to five years, found themselves going to school, "just like mommy and daddy."

The program came out of a committee appointed by Executive Vice President Edward Q. Moulton, in September 1970, which studied the needs and possibilities for such a center.

After a year and a half of planning, the center was opened in Indianola United Methodist Church to serve the parents and children affiliated with the University.

"The program is doing quite well. I feel pleased," said Sue Kirkpatrick, acting director of the program.

Summer enrollment rose to approximately 90 children and Kirkpatrick said she expects a slight increase Autumn Quarter. Ninety children is the tentative maximum at one time, she said.

"It's a convenience to parents, but the child also gets a chance to learn," said Joanne Oliver, an assistant teacher in the pre-school.

The center operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fees are arranged on a sliding scale from $3 to $28 a week, depending on income of the parents and amount of time enrolled.

A wide variety of options is available to the parents who wish to send their child to the school.

Children may attend full-time or part-time, two, three, or five days a week.

"There is a dual purpose of the program," Kirkpatrick said. "It is a service to students, faculty and staff and also is for observation and participation."

The program serves as an educational laboratory for graduate and undergraduate students in 12 academic departments.

Students in such areas as dental hygiene, home economics, family and child development and education may work and observe at the school, Kirkpatrick explained.

"But the amount of observation of and research on the children is limited for the children's benefit, she added.

"Of course, the underlying assumption is that the child gets a good educational experience," Kirkpatrick emphasized.

One assistant teacher has a bachelor's degree in family and child development. Another has her master's in family and child development. Still another teacher hold's a master's in social work.

Facilities in the church include six classrooms — two devoted to infants, two for toddlers and two for the pre-school children.

A play area, located on the church grounds, nears completion.

The low budget, small space playground was designed by Jot Carpenter, chairman of the Division of Landscape Architecture and father of two children in the program.

Infant stimulation is used and we try to develop their skills, said Sandy Yanish, an assistant teacher.

For example, we would talk to a baby in an effort to develop some language skills; she said.

The toddler group, ranging in ages from 18 months to three years, listens to music and stories as part of their education. Art also is included in their mini-curriculum.

Pre-School children get involved in a wide variety of activities from creative time to science nature.

The program is assigned to the office of the University's Associate Director of Affirmative Action Programs, Elaine H. Hairston.

The University provides program support for personnel functioning in an educational capacity with Ohio State students.

What do the children think of the program?

While munching a cookie during snack time, pre-schooler Genny remarked, "It's fun."
Interest mounts in day care

By Bill Panning
11-26-73

Although day care was once thought to be service needed only by lower classes, the middle has now joined a chorus of voices requesting child care.

Dorothy Reynolds, director of Community Coordinated Child Care of Franklin County, said middle class women find it difficult to raise a family while working. Interest in child care has consequently taken an upsurge as a result of this middle-class involvement, she added.

ACCORDING TO Reynolds, child care can be divided into three different categories. One type of day care program lasts all day, while pre-school day care operates on a half-day basis. Babysitting day care utilizes a parent's home facilities.

Reynolds explained that Ohio State has a pilot project care program, started through the efforts of the women's liberation movement here. The program takes care of children whose parents are either students, staff or faculty members.

This program offers child care on a sliding scale, which means a client pays according to the amount of money he or she can contribute. The problem is that there is a waiting list of about 200 children, Reynolds said.

PRESENTLY, there are 6,000 available day care openings to serve a Columbus metropolitan area of about one million people, she said.

"Not only is the supply lower than the demand, some day care programs are operating in poor condition," Reynolds added. "This is due to the lack of competition in the field. The least expensive day care service, a privately owned center, is seventeen dollars a week per child, or $2,400 a year."

IN 1970, a licensing law was enacted to specify state standards for all day care services. People wishing to establish a day care program must obtain this license, Reynolds said.

Reynolds added she believes the licensing law is weak, with little penalty for those who do not meet the standards put forth by the Ohio Dept. of Public Welfare.

Lee Row, director of the School for Young Children, stressed the need for high standards within day care programs.

"TEACHERS SHOULD be motherly to the children, giving a sense of security, yet pointing them to the outside world," Row said.

She added that high school diplomas should be required for any licensed teacher. However, by enforcing this requirement strictly, another problem comes into play.

Although Row believes teachers should have a degree to guarantee proper education for children at the day care center, a degree requirement shuts the door to untrained persons with strong desires to teach.

A BILL which would have allowed $2 billion a year for the expansion of child care programs was vetoed by President Nixon. A similar comprehensive child care bill introduced to the House of Representatives in February of this year has not been voted on, Reynolds said.

"This bill would allow $150 thousand for planning purposes the first year. The second year, $2 billion would be granted to the project. She added.

According to Reynolds, groups such as the Daughters of the American Revolution have attacked the day care program. Opponents caution against the federalization of children, she said.

ROW SAID, however, that developmental programs do not place all their emphasis upon learning. Children are enhanced through the day care program by interacting with peers and learning to handle themselves, she added.

Reynolds said she is concentrating on neighborhood projects, talking to any and all groups about both Columbus' day care needs and possible solutions to center problems. "The nuclear family exists alone. There are no more aunts, uncles or grandparents living next door. The ties are gone, and along with it free day care," Reynolds said.
**More sites urged**

Oval 'child-in' held

By Denise Kilgo

**4-29-74**

"We hold nothing against Ohio State's child care facilities," said Jeanette Seeman, an organizer of Saturday's Child-In discussion at the Oval. The former president of Women's Self-Government Association (WSGA) said, "It's a great program but we need more of it."

Participants in the 1 p.m. discussion, focusing on the child day care situation in the University area, were asking for improvements in four areas:

- Expansion of existing facilities to meet the needs of those on waiting lists;
- Extension of area day-care center's hours to provide for children who have parents who work or attend classes at night;
- Facilities to provide for sick children; and,
- After school care for children in the early elementary ages.

**Center evaluated**

Kathy Jenkins, child care liaison for Columbus OSU Women's Liberation, explained that the facilities and programs of the University child care center are being evaluated under the Affirmative Action program.

The child care center, originally a University pilot program, began in mid-1970, Jenkins said. By next year, the evaluation will be finished and will state what needs should be met, she added.

"Presently, the center, located in the Indianola United Methodist Church at 17th Avenue and Summit Street, is overcommitted," Jenkins said. "What we need is more equipment, more staff and more money."

**250 await school**

Jenkins explained that the facility has 96 children enrolled, but has a waiting list of approximately 250 names.

"Hopefully we will eventually meet our long range goal to have our center in our own building located here on campus," Jenkins said.

Tim and Helen Spengler, two parents at the Child-In, said that they have one child enrolled in the pre-school program at the University child care center. They both said they found the program "tremendous."

"The fees are based according to income," Ms. Spengler explained. "We couldn't consider child care unless it was this way. It's a great program."

"I'm only going to school evenings to fit it in," stated Marilyn Shannon, a freshman from Columbus and a mother of two children.

**Parents help**

"A mother's dilemma is a sick child," Shannon said. "What do you do when the child is not feeling well for a week, but is well enough for some social contact? One can't miss classes for a week."

Barbara Morris, former president of the Day Care Co-op located in the Indianola Presbyterian Church, explained that their program is trying to prove that parents can work such an organization as theirs.

She said they have hired two full time teachers and two assistants. The parents do the extra job such as cleaning and buying the groceries.

"However, because of limited facilities, we have to limit it to 30 children between the ages of three to six," Morris said.

The Child-In was sponsored by WSGA, Columbus-OSU Women's Liberation, Off Campus Student Association and Single Mothers Support Group.
Meet the Kids

at the Child Care Pilot Program

"Buckeye News", Sept. 1978

Deborah Logan, whose eight month old son Michael has been at the Child Care Program for six months, agrees that the contact with the other children has been good for her child, too. "Mike has the chance to be around other children now and this has helped him a lot I think."

By using the Child Care Program, Mrs. Logan — like Sandy Algeo — was also able to continue working full-time without the use of a sitter. "Actually it couldn’t have worked out better," Mrs. Logan explained, "because I could start back to work full-time after Mike was born. I did have apprehensions at first about returning to work right away and not staying with Mike, but now that I’ve seen how good the program is, I’m really pleased."

Mrs. Lynda Babbitt was also apprehensive about not staying with her two month old child, Jennifer. "My husband is a student," explained Mrs. Babbitt, "and I needed to go back to work after Jennifer was born; but I didn’t like leaving her. When I saw the personal attention each child was getting, I was really much more confident." Mrs. Babbitt’s confidence is further displayed by the fact that she is expecting another child and plans to enroll her (or him) in the Child Care Program, too.

Parent Involvement

According to Judy Fountain, director of the Program, parents whose children are enrolled in the service are encouraged to become involved as much as possible. Opportunities for involvement are provided through parent meetings, parent/teacher conferences and child observations. "Parents are also welcome to come and visit during the day or to call anytime to check on their children," explained Mrs. Fountain, whose own child is also enrolled in the Program. "Parents can also become involved in the Policy Council which meets quarterly to discuss different aspects of the Child Care Program. The Council has done everything from providing parents with information about the Program to recommending the end of diaper service to help trim the budget."

When Heather Algeo was enrolled in the Child Care Pilot Program at Ohio State, she was one of the first children to use the service. Being only 15 months old at the time, Heather doesn’t remember much from those first days, but her mother Sandy Algeo does.

Mrs. Algeo had hired private babysitters so she could return to work after Heather’s birth. "I wasn’t really satisfied with them though," she explained, "but at that time there weren’t any other alternatives if I wanted to continue working. I just happened to run across an article about the opening of the Child Care Program and decided to give it a try."

Her daughter Heather ended up attending the program for the next 5 years. As Heather grew older, she experienced a variety of activities planned for different age groups—infants, toddlers and preschool children. Infants are offered individualized activities; toddlers participate in relaxed group experiences and preschoolers are offered a variety of experiences planned on a weekly basis.

Mrs. Algeo’s dissatisfaction with private sitters came in part from the fact that Heather had little contact with people other than her sitter during the day. "At the Child Care Program, however, I felt Heather could benefit from having other children around and from having contact with both male and female staff members," Mrs. Algeo explained.
President’s Affirmative Action Statement

In the Report of the Commission on Women and Minorities the following recommendation is made:

“A clear, precise, well defined policy statement on affirmative action objectives, authored and disseminated from the Office of the President, to be administered by the University's middle management, is critically needed, and recommended by the Commission.”

As a contractor with the federal government and a recipient of federal funds, the University is subject to legislation and administrative regulations dealing with equal opportunity and affirmative action. These include Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments of the Higher Education Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Executive Order 11246, as amended. It is under this Executive Order that “affirmative action” requirements arise, and it is from this Order that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has taken its authority to require colleges and universities—among others—to adopt affirmative action policies and plans.

On November 30, 1977, The Ohio State University entered into an agreement with H.E.W. based on that Department’s regulations under this Executive Order. This agreement also set forth specific affirmative action policies to which the University is bound. Although the terms of this agreement are now the subject of a dispute between two federal agencies, the University intends to fulfill the terms of that agreement.

More important than the pages of regulations and the force of law, however, is the moral obligation on educational institutions to rectify the pervasive results of past discrimination. We undertake affirmative action because— to put it simply—it is right to do so.

The recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Bakke case gives recognition to the substantial interest of a state-supported university in pursuing affirmative action in its admissions programs so as to achieve the objective of a diversified student body. With that decision as our guide, the University will continue its efforts to recruit and retain more female, minority and handicapped students.

Affirmative action—in another very important dimension—affects how we make personnel decisions and judgements. These decisions are never simple. Reduced to its essentials, affirmative action involves the recognition that equal opportunity will not come about unless and until those factors—both the obvious and the subtle—which have resulted in discrimination are aggressively rooted out and changed. It does not require preferential treatment or “reverse discrimination” either for or against any person or classes of persons. It does require a recognition that past personnel recruitment practices may not have provided some persons with the opportunity to compete for employment opportunities, and that the traditional criteria upon which personnel judgments have been made often fail to measure adequately the potential of persons who have not been the beneficiaries of all.

Guide to Ohio Fall Festivals Fun

Columbus Day Celebration
Close to home, the Columbus Day celebration honors—who else?—Christopher Columbus and his discovery. A marathon race, concert, parade and fireworks highlight the festivities held on the weekend of October 7th and 8th. Contact William Wolfe, Columbus USA Assn., P.O. Box 1527, Columbus, Ohio, 614/221-1321.

Color Caravan Tour
A fifty mile drive-it-yourself tour beginning in Logan and winding through scenic Hocking Hills at the peak of the fall season is held on October 14 and 15. Tour guides are available at noon and 2 p.m. each day. Information on the tour can be obtained from Wanda Austin, Logan Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 838, Logan, Ohio 43138. 614/385-7259.

Circleville Pumpkin Show
Perhaps the most popular Ohio fall event, the Pumpkin Show held October 18-21 in Circleville features 100,000 pounds of pumpkins, squash and gourds and the world’s largest pumpkin pie. Contact Ned Harden, 324 West Main Street, Circleville, Ohio 43113. 614/474-4726.

Fall Walk
A treasure of rare and interesting varieties of plants and animals can be observed at the Cedar Bog State Memorial. Normally seen by appointment only, Cedar Bog is the sight of a special tour held at 1 p.m. on October 22 with no reservations required. Cedar Bog is located just south of Urbana. More information is available from the Public Relations Office, Ohio Historical Center, 1-71 and 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211. 614/466-1500.

The complete guide to Ohio Fall activities can be obtained by writing the Office of Travel and Tourism, P.O. Box 1001, Columbus, Ohio 43216, 614/466-8844. The Travel Office’s toll-free phone line — INFOHIO — has up-to-date information on festivals and other travel activities. Dial 1-800-282-0250 day or night for information and enjoy Ohio this fall.
Eligibility and Cost of Care

Staff, students and faculty members are eligible to make use of the service, although there is a waiting list. Parents can usually expect a two or three quarter wait before space opens up for their child," Mrs. Fountain pointed out.

For those who plan ahead, the waiting list needn't present too much of a problem. Deborah Logan placed her name on the list shortly after she learned she was expecting and space opened up when her son Michael, at the age of eight months, entered the program.

"Weekly fee charges for child care is based on the total income of the parent or parents," Mrs. Fountain pointed out. Fees range from $22 a week for families with a total income under $5,000 to $43.50 for incomes over $16,000. Financial assistance is also available for low and middle income families through government agencies.

The Child Care Program remains open 52 weeks a year, Monday through Friday except when University offices are closed. Parents interested in more information can stop by the office at 1895 Summit Street, just east of campus, or call 294-1681.

Newark Campus Adds Child Care

Staff and students at OSU-Newark and Central Ohio Technical College are now offering the services of a child care center. Beginning September 20, parents with children two-and-a half years old or more could register their children at the new Newark campus center.

Ellen Miller, Child-Care coordinator, stated that the center will enable parents of young children to attend classes either during the day or evening and to further their education more easily.

The center, located in Adena Hall, will permit students to use its recreational facilities twice a day and will also have an outside play area. An educational program based on the needs of the children also plans to offer a variety of experiences on a weekly basis.

According to Ms. Miller, the center has two purposes. One is to provide good physical, emotional, social and intellectual care for the children of Newark staff and students. The other is to provide educational experiences for Newark campus students, making it easier for those with young children to attend classes.

During fall, winter and spring quarters, the center will be open 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays. The center will be open during the day from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at all other times of the year except on legal holidays.

For more information, contact Ellen Miller at 366-3321.
Cont. Ed. Focuses on Jobs

Career guidance and job search skills will be offered this fall by the Division of Continuing Education. Discussions, lectures and group exercises are combined in the three following courses:

How to Conduct a Job Campaign in a Tight Economic Market This series of 5 sessions will help participants learn how to conduct a first class job campaign to enhance their chances of securing the best job possible.

The course is offered Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. beginning October 17.

The Resume. Two two hour sessions will include coverage of the following topics: purpose of the resume, preparing the resume and sources of potential employers. The two sessions will be held Tuesday October 24 and 31 from 7 to 9 p.m.

To Work or Not to Work Four weekly sessions offer a practical guide for women deciding whether to enter or remain in the job market. Alternatives to employment will be explored. Guidelines for making individualized decisions regarding employment will be a major focus of the sessions. Other areas will include: self evaluation, marketing your skills, retraining, the ‘new role’ of the employee, how to get ahead, and ‘a job or a career?’

The four sessions are offered on Thursdays, October 5 through the 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.

For further information about these courses or for registration information, contact the Division of Continuing Education at 422-8571.

President’s Statement continued from page 3

society’s privileges and opportunities. Personnel decisions, basically, require judgments that human potential; how a person will perform if hired, or how he or she will continue to perform after they are promoted or tenured. As such, these judgments are in part necessarily subjective. In assessing a person’s potential, we must consider whether or how a person’s sex or racial background may have affected the opportunity he or she has had to demonstrate success by traditional measurements of academic, administrative or technical performance. We should consider, for example, whether or how the responsibility for child care impacted on a person’s achievements as measured by traditional criteria. And clearly we should consider whether the potential of a handicapped person is accurately measured by traditional criteria.

There are a host of other subjective considerations that can be taken into account in making judgments as to human potential. Affirmative action requires that we carefully consider how handicap, race, or sex have impacted on the degree to which a person’s potential can be assessed by traditional and standard criteria. There are no formulas to be applied in making these judgments; they require always thoughtful consideration.

Affirmative action does not, must not, involve a lowering of academic standards. It does, however, require that our recruitment procedure ensure that we seek out qualified persons who have not been recruited in the past. It also requires a constant process of examining our standards and re-evaluating the degree to which they measure each individual’s potential. Affirmative action does not require that we hire, retain, or promote any person other than those who have the best potential for high quality academic, administrative or technical performance. But it does require that we be certain that the criteria upon which our judgments are made do not unfairly discriminate.

The University is under a strong obligation — moral and legal — to play an important and leading role in eliminating the effects of discrimination to our society based on race, sex and physical handicap. This conviction — this commitment — is an important part of our mission, and one to which all of us must devote substantial and sustained effort.
OSU day care not only for kids

By John Petric 2-13-79
Ohio State's day care center for children is not only one of the largest in Columbus, but also the largest such service offered by any Big Ten University.

Enrollment is limited to children of OSU staff, faculty and students. The center currently is operating at maximum capacity with 150 children.

"We are here to provide a needed service, not to replace families," said Judy Fountain, director of the program.

The flexibility of the program enables it to be a service to the parents as well as to the children.

"We can respond to parents, staff and children because we're autonomous," Fountain said. The child care program is not part of any college so it is "quite free" to run itself.

The OSU Day Care Center, like many others across the country, came into being as a result of student unrest in the 1960s and early '70s, said Fountain.

"Women included day care in the student demands because they needed it," she said.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday year round, and parents are expected to drop their children off and pick them up. The center is situated in the Summit United Methodist Church, 1895 Summit St.

Fees are decided on a sliding scale and are dependent on the parents' monthly income and how many days a week the child will be at the center. Parents must carry seven credit hours at OSU to qualify as students.

"Because so many parents want to enrol their children in the center, a waiting list exists, Fountain said. It takes about a year to get a child in.

Children from two months to five years are accepted. Activities vary by age group.

The infants — 2 months to 18 months old — receive a lot of touching and close attention to meet their emotional and physical needs.

Toddlers — 18 months to 3 years old — are given the time and setting to interact with other toddlers in play and group experiences.

Pre-school children — 3 years to 5 years — go through a pre-school program consisting of creative art, music, stories and playground activities. A "large muscle" room for children to run around in, play games and ride tricycles in is used as an indoor playground.

Fountain said the children can choose their activities. "We try to focus on individual needs," she said. They are all growing and come from different homes, parents and cultures, Fountain said. "We operate from the theory that all children are individuals and grow at their own rate."

Eleven full-time teachers with B.S. degrees in child development or related areas work at the center. Forty students on work-study programs or field work assist them.

The walls of the 11 classrooms are covered with colorful artwork by the children, and numerous pictures.

Every child has something made out of construction paper giving his or her birthdate.
Day care comes of age

By Steve Sterett

The oldest "graduates" of Ohio State's Child Care Program may soon begin planning their return to the University as college students.

The program, which provides day care to the children of students, staff and faculty, marked its 10th anniversary last month.

Among the student issues in the unrest of 1970 was a demand from women for child care. After a committee studied the options, the Child Care Program was established in March 1972 under the Office of Personnel Services.

The program quickly filled to its capacity of 95 children and "we've never had a problem with (maintaining) enrollment," explained Judy Fountain, director. In 1975 the program was expanded and it now serves some 150 children weekly, ages two months to five years, Fountain said.

Since its establishment, the program has rented space in the education wing of Summit United Methodist Church, 1895 Summit St.

As part of its 10th anniversary celebration, Fountain said the program will dedicate its new playground April 9 at 2 p.m.

The playground was built with a one-time contribution of money from the University. The equipment is portable if the program ever moves from Summit, Fountain said.
Child care aid cut

By Leslie Constable

University students with children who are dependent on the Title XX child care program may find completing their degrees difficult as a result of cutbacks in the program.

Franklin County Welfare Department officials and County Commissioners recently decided to limit child care through the program for parents in training to one year.

Judy Fountain, director of the OSU Child Care Center, 1895 Summit St., said that of the 75 Title XX families enrolled in the center are involved in training programs. Many of these parents, enrolled as full-time OSU students have already received notification that their services will be terminated as of December 31, 1980.

Most of the parents involved in the program in this center and others are women. "This cut will discourage a lot of women from getting further education," said OSU junior whose son is enrolled in the OSU Childcare center.

Title XX, administered locally by the Social Services division of the Franklin County Welfare Department, provides child care for both working parents and parents involved in training. The federally based program gets its funding from the state to provide child care for 1,900 low-income families and 26 Franklin County day care centers.

Problems in the program began in January 1979 when cutbacks in state allocations forced a redefinition of the program.

The Welfare Boards set up the priority scale that defines the child care needs of the parent in training as second priority. Working parents have first priority funding status.

James Cronin, Deputy Director for Social Services at the Franklin County Welfare Department, said it was "better to have 100 students on Title XX for one year than to have one on Title XX for 100 years."

Cronin added that giving child care services to someone already working was better than giving the services to those who are delaying their entrance to the job market.

Child Care Program celebrates 10th year

By Mary Jane Dunn

Lantern staff writer

The Ohio State Child Care Program is celebrating its 10th year of service to OSU faculty, staff and students with an anniversary celebration April 5-9.

During the week, artwork by the program’s children will be displayed on the third floor. The artwork also will be shown at Northland Mall April 14-17.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, parents and staff will present a slide show and answer questions at an information booth. The booth will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in Drake Union and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in Ohio Union.

Program Coordinator Becky Wilkens will discuss recent child care options for working parents at noon Thursday during a brown-bag luncheon at the main library.

The anniversary celebration will end 2 p.m. Friday with a playground dedication at the Child Care Program, Summit United Methodist Church, 1895 Summit St. OSU funded the playground last summer.

An unannounced OSU faculty member and Judy Fountain, the program director, will speak.

The program chose to celebrate its anniversary next week because it is the National Week of the Young Child, Fountain said.

"Next week's events will serve as a celebration for the program, and will be a time to say thank-you to OSU for providing the child care services," she said.

The program, a non-profit unit of the Office of Personnel Services, is geared to provide physical, intellectual, social and emotional care for children of OSU students, staff and faculty, Fountain said.

The Child Care Program opened in 1972 because of student demand.
Study praises OSU day care center

By Lisa Ann Leland
Lantern staff writer

While blasting the Ohio day care industry for staff shortages and inadequate inspection procedures, the head of a children’s advocacy group praised the OSU Child Care program.

“Our hope is that every other day care program would be like the OSU program,” said Mark Real, director of the Children’s Defense Funds of Ohio. “They exemplify how every other Ohio day care center should be run.”

Judy Fountain, director of the OSU Child Care Program, said the program has received such high marks over other programs because of its policy.

“Right from the very first day we opened we have taken three things into consideration,” Fountain said. She said the nonprofit, university-funded program has always tried to judge what the parents needed and could afford, what the university could provide and what was best for the children.

After conducting a one-year study of Ohio day care programs, the privately-funded Children’s Defense Fund criticized Ohio for having the lowest adult-to-infant supervision ratio among the nation’s largest states.

The current state licensing law requires one adult supervisor for every eight children.

Real said large cities such as Pittsburgh and Chicago have one day care teacher for every four infants 18 months or younger, but the majority of Columbus centers allow eight infants to be taken care of by one teacher.

“With this ratio all they have time to do is change diapers and feed kids. There is no time for personal attention,” Real said.

Fountain said the OSU program has always maintained a 4:1 ratio even though it has more than doubled in size in the last 10 years. She said this is the only way personal attention and protection can be devoted to the infants.

“The more children an adult has to take care of the less flexible that adult can be,” she said. “Even the most skilled person can’t continue to be very individual as you get more and more kids.”

Antoinette Eaton, professor of pediatrics, also said the 8:1 ratio is harmful to children at such an early age.

“As a mother of four children, all of whom were under five at once, I find it incomprehensible that one person could really provide the minimum care and nurturing for eight infants and toddlers,” Eaton testified in the organization’s report. “It is clear the standards require careful scrutiny and revision.”

The group also criticized Ohio for having inadequate inspection procedures. “Currently Ohio has one inspector for every 100 day care centers. This ratio is one of the worst in the country,” the report said.

Real said that in one out of seven day care programs given inspections by the state last year, workers had not disposed of soiled diapers properly or washed their hands between diaper changes. Some centers didn’t even have sinks in the diaper-changing area, he said.

“What’s really amazing about this is that they knew the inspectors were coming,” Real said. “That’s like having your dorm room littered with empty beer bottles and food wrappers on the day you know your parents are coming to visit.”

Real said part of the reason there are unsanitary conditions in some centers is because of weak state licensing laws with different applications and regulations for profit and non-profit centers.

He said there are 530 profit-making centers that must follow state licensing laws but are exempt from administrative rules that govern non-profit centers.

These rules include visitation rights of parents at any time and many safety and sanitation requirements.

“We found 5,000 children in 100 different centers where there were violations of playground equipment,” Real said. “To say you can’t have violations placed against profit-making centers is crazy.”

Fountain said that all of the OSU day care center’s equipment has been thoroughly inspected and meets all safety standards.

“We have nothing to hide,” she said, adding that she welcomes parents to visit their children in the center at any time. “Parents feel it’s their right, and it should be their right.”

Real said because women are returning to school and to the job market less than one year after giving birth, the demand for safe, quality day care service is greater than ever.

“We still think of day care service as something only a few people use,” Real said. “The fact is, half of all Ohio infants will be in day care programs before they enter kindergarten.”

“This means there is a choice to be made,” he said. “Day care can either be a real exciting and stimulating experience for the child, or it can be a warehouse where you have a bunch of stale goods sitting on a shelf.”
WOOSTER, Ohio -- Ohio State University's Board of Trustees Friday (4/5) authorized employment of an architect to design a $2 million building to house the university's Child Care Program.

To be located on the west side of Buckeye Village with access by driveway from Ackerman Road, the new building will have an adjoining playground and parking area.

According to the Office of Campus Planning, the new structure will be designed to accommodate up to 300 children and will provide more space and better facilities than the present rented quarters at 1895 Summit St.

The Child Care Program currently provides day care for some 200 children of the university's students, staff and faculty. They include 55 infants, 45 toddlers, 85 pre-schoolers and 15 kindergarteners.

The board also authorized employment of architectural firms to design a $400,000 remodeling in the Botany & Zoology Building, 1735 Neil Ave., and a $150,000 renovation and remodeling of basement rooms of Newton Hall, 1585 Neil Ave.

Some 5,500 square feet of space will be remodeled in the zoology section of B&Z to accommodate laboratory classes displaced by the renovation of Lazenby Hall, 1827 Neil Ave. Mall, which is being converted from zoology laboratories to space for the department of psychology.

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Contracts -- 2

The renovation and remodeling in Newton Hall is being carried out to meet program needs of the College of Nursing.

The trustees received a report of contract awards for the Agricultural Engineering Building for a total project cost of $11,560,000.

Construction of the new building on Woody Hayes Drive east of the Agricultural Administration Building is scheduled to begin in June, with completion expected in two years. The structure will provide space and facilities for students, faculty and staff of the department of agricultural engineering, including offices, classrooms, and teaching and research laboratories.

In other action, the board approved plans and specifications and authorized advertising for construction bids for three roof replacements.

The projects covered roof replacements for University Hall, 230 N. Oval Mall, at an estimated project cost of $132,000; Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St., $127,066; and Evans Laboratory, 88 W. 18th Ave., $30,000.

Written by Robert Boyce.
OSU Child Care program

By Michele Wigginton
Lantern staff writer

Parents or potential parents should apply now if they want their children to attend the OSU Child Care Program or the Campbell Hall Preschool in the future.

Currently, there is a waiting list for both programs. For the child care program the usual wait is one year to 18 months; for the preschool, the wait is one to two years.

Lynn Gallagher, program coordinator for the child care center, encourages people who are pregnant, or even thinking of getting pregnant, to apply now if they plan to use the child care program.

Choosing child care is a major concern of many students, faculty and staff at Ohio State who have children. The two programs are alternatives offered by the university.

The child care center accepts children from age two months to kindergarten for day care. At present, 190 children attend.

The cost for child care is based on a sliding fee scale that is based on income. People who make more than $30,000 annually pay $87.25 per week for an infant and $59 for a preschool child for all-day care Monday through Friday. Costs are lower for people with less income.

Arrangements can vary from two to three days a week, all day every day, ony mornings or only afternoons.

The center is located in a church building at 1855 Summit St. A new building near Buckeye Village is planned for completion by March 1987.

Currently, the day care center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. In the new building, the day care center will be open longer hours to accommodate hospital personnel working first and second shifts, Gallagher said.

The child care program also has a home providers service. This is a referral service that puts parents in contact with people in the community who offer child care in their homes, Gallagher said.

People who want to provide child care in their homes through this program must take a 40-hour training course and have health and safety inspections of their homes.

Then the provider’s names are placed on a referral list. A written account of why they want to provide child care and what they believe about discipline is kept on file for parents to read.

University students, faculty and staff who are interested in the home providers service can review the accounts, then choose three people to interview. Fees are negotiated with individual providers.

There is also a waiting list for this service. The usual wait is about one year to 18 months, Gallagher said.

Campbell Hall Preschool is the other university child care program. Program coordinator Beverly McVay emphasized it is not a day-care center.

The purpose of the preschool, she said, is to offer an exemplary program for children and their families through which students can learn.

The preschool is officially the Laboratory for Child and Family Studies in the College of Home Economics. It is taught by faculty, graduate associates, and undergraduate student teachers, McVay said.

The preschool has a morning (9-12) and an afternoon (1-4) session.

Monday through Thursday. Eighteen children, ages 3 to 5, are in each session.

The preschool operates from the second to the tenth week of fall, winter and spring quarters. Cost is $140 per child per quarter.

Parents can apply any time after the birth of a child to get on the waiting list.

The overflow of people that Ohio State cannot accommodate with child care services is referred to Action for Children, a nonprofit agency in Columbus that helps parents find reliable child care.

Susan Jakob, home network coordinator for the agency, said Action for Children has counselors who help parents determine what kind of child care they need based on the ages and needs of the children and the places where parents work and live.

Fees in the university area range from $45 to $75 per child per week, Jakob said.

Jakob said the agency has investigated and currently monitors about 300 homes with which it works in Franklin County. The homes are limited to five children, including the provider’s own children.

There is no state licensing of child-care homes in Ohio.

Things for parents to consider when choosing child care are discussed in a pamphlet distributed by the agency.

The pamphlet suggests visiting several child-care centers or homes before placing a child. Also to be considered are the qualifications of the providers, how much attention the child will receive and the convenience and costs. An open-door policy is also important — parents should be able to stop in at any time.

For information or an application, call the child-care center at 294-1681 or the preschool at 422-1187.
New daycare center will open in '87

By Manuel L. Silverio
Lantern staff writer

Construction of the new OSU Child Care Program building will begin Aug. 11 and will house 100 more children, said Richard Arnold, coordinator for the Office of Campus Planning and Space Utilization.

Opening date for the 300-capacity building is scheduled for June 1987. The center will be located west of Buckeye Village.

The $3.5 million cost will be financed by Target Construction Co., which will also build the facility, Arnold said.

"They will build the building, pay for it and then they will lease it to us (Ohio State) for a period of 20 years," he said.

The building will become OSU property after 20 years, Arnold said. The rent has not yet been determined.

Ohio State lost the lease of the building now in use when the Christ Church, owner of the 1895 Indianola Ave. property, decided not to renew it, Arnold said.

Judy Fountain, director of the OSU Child Care Program, said the existing building is operating under a grandfather clause that allows it not to meet current codes implemented after the facility was developed 15 years ago.

Current codes stipulate daycare centers must be one-story facilities and have 35 square feet of classroom space per child.

The Indianola center is a two-story house that needs to include hallway space to meet the stipulated 35 square feet, Fountain said.

The grandfather clause is a standard allowance for daycare centers, she said.

The new center is designed to meet all existing codes for child care facilities, she said. The codes are particularly strong on fire safety, Fountain said. All classrooms, for example, will have direct exits.

The center will be built with the children in mind, Fountain said. The inside doors will have plexiglass circles at the children's height so they can see where they are going, she said.

The facility will have surrounding playgrounds, one each for the three age groups of children, Fountain said. The playground equipment will be specifically designed for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Buckeye Village's existing child care program is scheduled to be terminated in June 1987, Michael White, the program coordinator said.

He expects the new OSU building will admit the 40 children currently attending the Buckeye Village center.

Fountain said she is not aware of White's plans and urged Buckeye Village parents to get their children on the OSU program's 12-month long waiting list.
Child care options provided for campus area

By Manuel L. Silverio
Lantern staffing writer

Ohio State employees have many options when it comes to choosing a daycare center for their children.

Finding a suitable place for the kids, however, is a serious task that should be given thought and time if the child is to be placed in a good daycare program, said a child care referral specialist Ruth Varner.

Varner, who works for Action for Children, a non-profit daycare referral service, said parents should closely investigate various child care programs before choosing one.

Jacky Byrer, coordinator of the OSU Child Care Program, said parents need not worry about the OSU program's quality.

Ohio State's child care center houses 209 infants and preschoolers. Children of staff, faculty and students can be placed in the center. The fee ranges from $40 to $80 per week based on the parents' income, Byrer said.

She said the waiting period to get an infant in the program is 12 to 15 months. For a preschooler it is nine months.

The program has 25 regular staff members and 40 part-time assistants, said Byrer.

The Kiddie Prep School North, another university area child care program, has a waiting list of two months for children under three years old, said secretary Angela Kortas.

The fees for Kiddie Prep are $58 a week for infants and $58 for children over 18 months of age, she said.

Doreen Stulke, director of the North Broadway Children's Center, said the waiting list in her program depends on the age and on the full- or part-time status of the children.

The price for all preschoolers is $548 a month. The North Broadway facility does not admit infants, she said.

Dennison Park Day Care Center has a capacity of 80, including infants, owner Lindi Miller said. She said Dennison Park will start a kindergarten program for 4- to 5-year-olds this fall.

Dennison Park fees are $100 per week for infants, $75 per week for 16- to 24-month-olds and $65 for older children.

Varner said Action for Children informs parents which child center best suits them by location or needs of the children. It is funded by federal revenue sharing and the United Way of Franklin County.

The service also keeps a tab on private individuals who provide child care in their homes, she said.

There are 200 homes in Franklin County, on the average, charging less than daycare centers. Private homes are not licensed.

Varner said private homes charge from $35 to $90 per week while fees for state-licensed centers are between $50 and $75. Parents who put their children in licensed daycare or full-time home care are eligible for a federal income tax deduction, she said.

Action workers first visit the homes and check for faults. If nothing is found wrong, the homes are put on a list with 300 others currently in good standing, Varner said.

Varner cautioned parents to visit at least three private homes before making a decision. A referral from Action for Children is not enough, she said.

Parents should particularly look for language development problems in private homes because, Varner said, in some houses, the attendants use baby-talk with infants, which might impair language skills development.

In addition, parents should consider diet, cultural activities, cost, field trips, staff qualifications and the child's feelings about the program, Varner said.

Parents should choose quality over geographical convenience when selecting daycare, she warned.

As with private homes, Varner suggested parents should visit and check thoroughly at least three licensed centers before choosing one.

For more information on daycare centers and home referrals call Action for Children, 224-0222.

Sarah Coffin, a teacher at the Ohio State Child Care, pushes three children on a tire swing on the playground of the daycare center at 1895 Summit St. Friday afternoon.

Chris Hanschmidt / The Lantern
NEWS ADVISORY

Some of Ohio State University's smallest Buckeyes will help with ceremonies Monday (8/11) when ground is broken for Ohio State's new $3.5 million child care center on Ackerman Road.

Children from the university's child care program will participate in ceremonies that begin at 3:30 p.m. The site is west of Buckeye Village and south of University City Shopping Center.

Completion of the 35,000-square-foot building is expected to take about a year. The new building will expand Ohio State's child care services from 200 to 300 children daily. The center currently is located at 1895 Summit St. and provides care for children ages two months to six years who are dependents of university faculty, staff, or students.

A special feature at the new building will be "second shift child care" for personnel at University Hospitals. Michael Covert, executive director of University Hospitals, will attend ceremonies to explain the new program that will make child care services available until midnight for the children of hospital personnel.

Ceremonies will take about 20 minutes and will include a welcome from Madison Scott, vice president of personnel services; a historical perspective on child care from Elaine Hairston, vice chancellor for academic and special programs at the Ohio Board of Regents; and comments by President Edward H. Jennings on future opportunities for child care services. Also participating will be Judith Fountain, who is the director of Ohio State's child care program. Following ceremonies, refreshments and cookies made by the children will be served.

Reporters should enter the construction site on Defiance Drive, off Ackerman Road. Parking is available on the east side of the Buckeye Village administration office.

For more information, contact Judith Fountain at Ohio State's child care program at (614) 294-1681.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

(P/211)
COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Some of Ohio State University's smallest Buckeyes assisted Monday (8/11) when ground was broken for the new $3.5 million child care center on Ackerman Road.

Children from the university's child care program participated in ceremonies with President Edward H. Jennings and others at the site west of Buckeye Village.

Completion of the one-story, 35,000-square-foot building is expected to take about a year. Project developers are Taggart, Marryott, Reardon of Columbus.

A special feature at the new building will be "second shift child care" for personnel at University Hospitals. Michael H. Covert, executive director of University Hospitals, said the innovative program will make child care services available until midnight for the children of hospital personnel.

"University Hospitals is proud to be an innovator among Central Ohio hospitals by providing child care for its employees," said Covert. "We believe this program will help our employees rest assured that their children are safe and secure and will help them to work at peak productivity.

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"We are especially pleased to be able to include our second shift employees in the program and are eager to see the program grow in the future," he added.

Judith Fountain, director of Ohio State's child care program, said the child care center will finalize Ohio State's 16-year dedication to daycare.

"It's an exciting commitment that will make child care a permanent program at Ohio State," Fountain said. "It will integrate child care into the mainstream of the campus."

Ohio State has offered child care services since 1970. The program began after students demanding daycare services left their babies on the desk of then-President Novice G. Fawcett. Since that time, the University has rented a building on the corner of 17th Avenue and Summit Street.

Today's program is the largest single-site daycare center in the Big Ten. About 200 children of students, staff, and faculty attend the non-profit program, where research and teaching is also conducted.

Fountain said the new facilities will expand the program to 300 children daily. Outdoor play areas will be available near each classroom.

Ceremonies also included a welcome from Madison Scott, vice president of personnel services; a historical perspective on child care from Elaine Hairston, vice chancellor for academic and special programs at the Ohio Board of Regents; and comments by Jennings.
OSU child care still lacking after opening of new center

By JoAnn Iven
Lantern staff writer

Although Ohio State's new $3.5 million child care facility will alleviate some of the university’s daycare needs, the center will only solve a small portion of the daycare shortage problem, said a university official. The facility, which is located on Ackerman Road, west of Buckeye Village, was started August 11. It will provide 100 additional spaces, but it will not come close to meeting all the child care needs of the university, said Steve Stoffel, associate vice president of personnel services.

"If you look at the demographics of the workforce, you will see a tremendous need, especially for infant care, in the coming years," he said.

Stoffel said infant care is extremely expensive and many private care facilities don’t offer it. There is currently about an 18-month waiting list for children under 18 months old. The waiting list for preschoolers is about two quarters, Judy Fountain, director of the child care program said.

"If you're thinking about having a baby, you’d better get your name in," Stoffel said.

When completed in June, 1987, the 34,000 square foot building will house the largest day care center on any university campus, Fountain said.

The building is designed to meet the needs of 300 children, ranging in age from 2 months to 5 years, Fountain said. This is 100 more children than the existing facility can care for.

Christ Church, owner of the building that houses the existing facility at 1895 Summit St., has decided not to renew the lease when it expires in June, said Dick Arnold, coordinator of campus planning.

Although the present space has served the university well, Stoffel said the new facility will be designed specifically for child care, rather than converting an existing building.

Fountain said when the new facility was designed, it was decided that the child care program would not take a step backward in the amount of space for the children.

Minimum standards require 35 square feet of play space per child. The new building will have 50 square feet, Fountain said.

The center is designed in three pods, each containing a small administrative center, classrooms, kitchen and play areas, Arnold said.

Each pod will have spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, Fountain said.

Fountain said the center is designed specifically for children. For example, the building has only one floor and venetian blinds between layers of glass. Each of the doors have plexiglass circles at child's height and open onto the playground.

The facility will be available to children of all faculty, staff and students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Fees are adjusted on the basis of income, Arnold said.

Fountain said the staff will consist of at least 22 full-time and 24 part-time staff members.
Concentration

Pre-schoolers Julie Haviland (left), Rachel Hollander (center) and Leandra Cardwell cut figures from a book Wednesday as part of the OSU Child Care Program. There is currently about an 18-month waiting list for the program, which provides care for the children of faculty, students and staff.
Child care limited, expensive

By Maryellen O'Shaughnessy
Lantern staff writer

Kitty O'Brien, a student and employee at Ohio State, is seven and a half months pregnant.

She wants to keep working toward her English degree, but problems locating affordable child care have put her education on hold.

"I'm trying not to get too discouraged," she said, "but the outlook for day-care possibilities for infants is limited."

She said she has found four day-care centers in the area that accept infants, including OSU's Child Care Center, 1895 Summit St.

"OSU day-care center is my first choice, but I have to wait at least a year to get in," she said. "I'm becoming a huge obstacle."

Judith Fountain, director of OSU's Child Care Center, said there are currently 400 children on her waiting list. Applicants for infant care are waiting 18 months to get into the program, she said.

"We're in the process of building a new building," Fountain said. The new facility will accommodate 300 children, 100 more than the program can now handle, but they still expect to have a long waiting list after it opens this summer, she said.

"There is simply not enough child care," Fountain said. "Even if we had a center for 500 children, we still wouldn't have enough child care."

"We have a crisis in child care," said Susan Jakob, program director of Action for Children, a day-care information and referral service for central Ohio parents.

"Over 50 percent of the mothers who have children under one year of age are now in the work force," she said. "It is a crisis that is keeping pace with this.""Child care is expensive," O'Brien said.

One of the centers that she has contacted has many features she would like her child to have. "But it's $95 a week," she said.

"If I would have known the expense of day-care centers, I would have planned my pregnancy for a later time," she said. "It's too hard."

Non-traditional students

O'Brien said both the expense and availability of care might force her to stay at home with her baby for longer than she first intended. "I'm trying not to do that, but what am I supposed to do?" she said.

OSU's center gives care for children two months old and older and charges fees on a sliding scale depending on the parent's income, Fountain said.

Infant care is more expensive than care for children three years old and older. "Our lowest fee is $40 a week for an infant. The highest is $90 a week," she said.

Fountain said good planning and anticipating problems ahead of time may make finding affordable child care easier. "If a student is planning to return to school, they need to think of the services they need ahead of time," she said.

Paula Baker, a parent and a research assistant with OSU's Center for Human Resources Research, is planning to return to school this fall quarter for work on a doctorate degree. She wasted no time making arrangements for child care at OSU's center, she said.

"I got on the waiting list as soon as I found out I was pregnant," she said. "Then I was fortunate I was called just shortly before (her daughter) was six months old." Her daughter is now more than two years old.

Baker and her husband pay between $300 and $375 a month for services at Ohio State, she said.

Andy Thomas, a sophomore from Columbus, is putting off having children until he is in his junior or senior year, he said. Since he works full time and attends classes part time, that means another two to three years, he said.

Thomas is 26 and has been married five years.

"Definitely, cost is a consideration," he said. "My wife won't be working (when they have their first child) at least for the first few months," he said.

The question for Thomas and his wife is whether it is more feasible for his wife to stay home and take care of the children, or go back to work to increase...
Continued from Page One

the family income, he said. Covering all their expenses on only one income might make it difficult to earn money for school, he said.

Although federal funding was drastically reduced in 1981, some low-income parents are still eligible for federal funds through the Social Service Block Grant, said Cheri Sterman, director of the state office of Child Care Services.

"While a family might be eligible according to their income on a state income guideline, the situation is such now that there is not enough money available for day care for all the families that are eligible," she said.

Counties set a list of priorities to follow to decide who gets help from the limited resources available, she said. Families can be eligible for either free services or for partial help on a sliding scale, she said.

For a family of three, free services may be available this year if their income is at or below $11,286, Sterman said. A family of two may be eligible at an income of $8,964.

Single parent families are usually a high priority, she said.

Parents should call the Franklin County Department of Human Services at 462-4337 to ask more questions about eligibility, she said.

Sheryl Hansen, director of Women's Services at Ohio State, said finding adequate day care is a big problem with many of the women who come through her office.

"Many women who return to school see an undergraduate or graduate degree as a way of providing for their children, yet they're in that 'Catch-22' of making it happen effectively," she said. For some people, the toll is too high, while others become more determined to make it through, she said.

Hansen said many student-parents are trading off free time among themselves to look after each other's children, in order to overcome the expense and limited availability of day-care services.

Also, sometimes parents attempt to take their children to classes, she said. "It is frowned upon in some areas and very well accepted in others," Hansen said. "It depends on the department, the professor, the time of day, the time of the quarter, the size of the class."

Hansen, who returned to school after having a child, said single women with children especially need to know that the benefits of working and going to school outweigh the risk of spending limited time with their children.

This story is the fifth in a series of articles titled Non-Traditional Students. The articles will appear in the Lantern every Friday this quarter.
800 wait for child facility

By Denise Fuller
Lantern staff writer

It's a new building, but the old problems remain for Child Care Programs.

The center, originally located at 1895 Summit St., is now located at 725 Ackerman Rd. It is scheduled to open Aug. 31 and will provide services for 300 children, with 100 of those spaces set aside for the children of hospital employees.

Judith Fountain, director of the center, said University Hospitals conducted surveys for 10 years and found that its staff had a need for child care services.

“At the same time we were building our center they (Ohio State) were going to build one also,” Fountain said. “The most cost effective way for everyone was to build one center.”

Stephen Stoffel, associate vice president of personnel services said, “The university had funds to build a center to house 200 children. Since the hospital needed a facility, they gave $1 million to build 100 extra spaces to be used by their employees,” Stoffel said. “The hospital will also share maintenance costs.”

Bill Petty, of Somerset, on the floor, and Brian Carpenter, of Amanda, work on one of the rooms under construction at the new OSU Child Care Center located on Ackerman Road. The center is expected to open in two months.

Funding for the 200 spaces, which costs an estimated $2.5 million comes from Ohio State, Fountain said.

Even with the additional spaces, the center still has an 800-person waiting list.

“The list is misleading because some people put their names down before they have kids,” Fountain said. “The waiting list for infants is 18 months.”

The new child care center will stay open until midnight to provide evening child care only for the children of hospital employees, Fountain said.

Fountain said the center has 35 full-time employees and plans to increase its staff to about 50 to handle the increased enrollment.

The current center hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The center provides services for the children of faculty, staff, students and low-income families. Fees are based on income.

The 200 participants are placed into five groups according to the child’s age: 2 months to 18 months, 18 months to 2 years old, 2 to 3 years old, 3 to 5 years old, 5 to 6.

During the summer, the center expands its services to include an additional category for children 6 to 12.

Stoffel said no matter how many spaces the university provides the demand could never be met.
Introduction to fun

IT'S A WHOLE NEW GAME as Louis Jacobs and his son Ezra Thomas, 3, check out the University Child Care Center's new building. Jacobs, professor of law, and his wife, Robin Thomas, also have a younger son, Marcus Jacobs, at the center, which opened Aug. 31. A total of 300 infants, toddlers and pre-school children are being cared for by 65 full-time staff members, directed by Judy Fountain. There will be a ceremony and tours of the $3.5 million building at 725 Ackerman Rd. at 3 p.m. Oct. 8.

Photo by Lloyd Lemmernann
Child care center gains more room

By ALAN VANDERMOLEN
Lantern staff writer

Twelve months and five days after receiving a one-year lease and an eviction notice from Summit Church, the OSU child care center moved into a new $3.5 million facility on Ackerman Road.

During Thursday's dedication, director Judith Fountain said the project from start to finish in just twelve months shows how many people on campus are committed to child care.

The new facility solves the one problem the center has always had, said Fountain.

At Summit Church, 1895 Summit St., the child care center was filled beyond capacity with 200 children, Fountain said.

Now, space is no longer a problem, she said. With 35,000 square feet in the building alone, the center has more than enough room for its 300 children.

Along with a new building, the child care center offers new extended hours. Fountain said the center is now open from 6 a.m. to midnight to care for the children of faculty, staff and students of University Hospitals. This is in addition to its normal hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for other faculty, staff and students.

Fountain said the new hours of operation for University Hospitals employees are in response to three need assessment studies she participated in with the staff of the hospitals. The hospitals helped pay for the new facility with funds from its own budget.

Edsel Cotter, administrator for general services at University Hospitals, said the extended hours now offered by the OSU child care center allow the hospital to employ people that would not be able to work due to small children.

Fees for child care are based on a sliding scale system depending on the salary of the parents, Fountain said.

Speaking at the dedication, OSI president Edward H. Jennings said: "Several years ago when we (the child care center) were 85 youngsters, we rarely got a question about additional day care, but now that we have tripled the size of it, we get questions all the time."

Jennings said an important function of such a large day care facility is to combine its service aspects with education. He said the facility will provide experience for students in the College of Education.
What a playhouse

THE UNIVERSITY CHILD CARE CENTER'S new building is a nice place to show your artistic talents and meet friends. That's what two 5-year-olds, Kyaunna Cardwell, left, and Katie Squires, found out at the center's open house Oct. 8. The girls are talking with Dianne Reese, early childhood teacher 2, in a kindergarten classroom at the $3.5 million facility on Ackerman Road. Kyaunna is the daughter of Belinda and Leon Cardwell. Katie's parents are Jerry and Kathie Squires. For information about the University's program, call 292-4453.
OSU child care lacking despite increase

By Mary Murray
Lantern staff writer

Although the OSU child care program increased its capacity from 200 to 300 children when it moved to its new facility on Ackerman Road, a waiting list still exists for the children of faculty, staff and students.

The child care center, 725 Ackerman Road, moved from its previous location on Summit Street in August. Despite the move, the program still maintains a waiting list of more than 800 children for daytime care, director Judy Fountain said.

Child care at Ohio State grew from student unrest in the early '70s when students protested the lack of child care by taking their children to the president's office. The program began in 1972 with 85 children at the Summit Street building.

The average wait to place a child in the center during daytime hours is 18 months.

However, there is no waiting list at the center for evening hours, open specifically to accommodate University Hospitals employees. The center opens at 6 a.m. and closes at midnight.

Abby Haggard, a nurse at University Hospitals who uses the facility said her daughter enjoys the program.

"(The program is) more than a babysitter, but a learning experience. It is very structured," Haggard said.

The new facility is divided into three "pods," each with a capacity of 100 children. Because of half-days and different shifts, a total of 345 children are cared for from 310 families, Fountain said.

Fountain said the facility is one of the largest in the nation, but will never be able to care for all eligible children.

"It will never be able to accommodate all of the child care," she said. "We have to look at balancing the need versus what is possible (to manage)," she said.

"A center with 300 children is a very, very large center. We're larger than some elementary schools.

"Any expansion would be in services, that would be longer hours and services ... without physically increasing. To increase capacity, another separate facility would be needed," Fountain said.

While some employers transport children to day care or buy spaces at centers, the State of Ohio is the only other employer in Ohio to offer on-site service, Fountain said.

The OSU center offers a structured and varied program divided in separate age groups for children from two months old to 12 years.

The new, $3.5 million, 35,000 square foot facility is unique because it was built specifically for young children, Fountain said. Most child care programs are held in existing buildings.

The center also offers home-based care at 15 private homes which have been inspected and approved by local fire and health agencies. Each home can care for up to six children from the center, but most prefer to limit it to four, Fountain said.

Home day care providers determine their own hours.

 Fees, for the child care service vary according to the income of the family, as well as the age of the child.
Center makes evening care available to student parents

The OSU Child Care Center, located on Ackerman Road, will extend its child care services to fulltime student parents attending evening courses this fall, said Lynn Gallagher, program coordinator of the center.

"The evening program provided in the past was for hospital workers," said Kathryn Cochran, administrative assistant.

According to Gallagher, parents can drop off and pick up their children at anytime during business hours.

"The center is open Monday thru Friday. Regular business hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; extended evening hours for student parents are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and services to hospital employees are 2:30 to midnight," Gallagher said.

Cochran said children are accepted from age two months to five years and the fee depends on the family income.

Parents are charged $3.00 per child per hour if the family income is over $50,000 and $2.00 per child per hour if their family income is under $50,000.

Jacqueline Byrer, program coordinator of the center, said the center is licensed to care for 300 children at any one time, so the enrollment limit has not changed.

Cochran advises parents to visit several day care facilities before deciding where to take their children.

Jean Dodson, evening coordinator said the center has a waiting list of about 18 months.

"Some applicants get in soon and some later," she said.

The center was developed as a result of campus demonstrations in the 60's and 70's about the lack of child care at Ohio State.
OSU HOME CARE

Columbus man presents shining example of alternative childcare

By Patty A. Harden
Lantern staff writer

Tom Stone calls himself the "Cadillac of babysitters." Others call him Mr. Mom or Mr. Rogers. The two children he cares for call him Papa.

Stone and his wife, Dianne, reversed roles when he lost his job at the Timken Co. three years ago. He became a home care provider for children and his wife went to work at Community Mutual.

He now sees his wife doing a lot of things he used to do. "She would come home and do nothing while I would be cleaning and stressed from taking care of the kids all day," Stone said.

Stone, of Columbus, is an alumnus of the Home Based Care program offered by the OSU Child Care Center. The program teaches people how to provide child care in their homes.

"Most parents prefer to have their children in a child care home," said Judy Fountain, director of the Child Care Center.

Kelly Czarnik, left, and Alex Para, play on a treehouse built by their childcare provider, Tom Stone.
STON S TAKE CARE OF HIS OWN four children — two boys and 12, and two girls, 5 and 7 — in addition to two others.

Program coordinator Jackie Byars said many providers may care for more than three children under two years old, or no more than six children overall.

If the provider has children of their own, the restrictions are different. If their children are younger than six, they must be included in the limit. If their children are older than six, they are not included in the limit.

Stone is unique because he is the only man approved and registered as a home-care provider with the OSU Child Care Center and Access For Couples.

Stone provides 20 hours per week to care for two children, at least in part because the presence of these children has uncharged for his care. He was changing 200 a week per child, and planned to accept second child to bring in more income without a possible house payment. Even though they found out, they raised their weekly payment to $100 so more children would not be competing for Stone’s attention.

Before Stone’s wife went back to work, she gave him directions to the kitchen and then taught him how to use it, he said.

His CULINARY success is still the subject of some tongue-in-cheek debate, but he dismisses any objections to his cuisine with a smile, saying “Kids are pigs.”

Regardless of whether he will ever be mistaken for a master chef, he is in high demand nevertheless.

“A lot of people request me,” he said. “They love me.”

In order to become a home-care provider, applicants must go through an approval process, which includes a check of their police record, a physical examination and an inspection of their home by AFC and the fire and health departments.

AFC Program Director Susan Jacobs said candidates must also be submitted and the examinations and inspections are repeated upon renewal.

AFC is a Franklin County non-profit organization designed to help parents find care for their children. AFC is funded by the city of Columbus, a federal government food program, United Way, private contributions and contracts with employers, Jacobs said.

An AFC-approved home care provider must undergo a training period of 48 hours, a five-week process. Providers are taught how to operate a business in their home and make agreements or contracts with parents.

Diane had the training home care providers in areas such as child development, nutrition, first aid, discipline and activities.

After a home care provider is trained by Byars, they receive a brief biography of themselves and describe their home life.

- When parents come to the OSU Child Care Center, they have the option of placing their names on a waiting list, which only lets in one child per week, the program Byars said. From that list, the provider chooses whether they would like one child.

Diane, for example, emphasizes her ability to be a father figure and believes that especially appealing to single mothers. She prides herself on his ability to handle children.

“Most men wouldn’t be able to handle the stress that comes with being around children all the time,” especially other people’s children, he said.

Stone said his key is simply being sensitive to the children’s needs. That means balancing their needs for hugs, attention and kisses with a child’s need for privacy. When adults are out of the program, for example, it’s important to pick sides, try to have the children work it out on their own.

The OSU Child Care Center met in Columbus to offer referrals to parents, but the program was created to encourage parents, such as discipline, police, politics, war games

Kelly Crasys, left, and Michael and Carol Para, son of OSU faculty member, Bruce Para, Tom Stone, center, and Kelly Crasys, right, daughter of OSU faculty member Anthony Crasys, press shapes out of Play Dough at Stone’s home. The trio are in the process of making worms.

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The OSU Child Care Center met in Columbus to offer referrals to parents, but the program was created to encourage parents, such as discipline, police, politics, war games

Alex Para, left, son of OSU faculty member, Bruce Para, Tom Stone, center, and Kelly Crasys, right, daughter of OSU faculty member Anthony Crasys, press shapes out of Play Dough at Stone’s home. The trio are in the process of making worms.

Kelly Crasys, left, and Michael and Carol Para, son of OSU faculty member, Bruce Para, Tom Stone, center, and Kelly Crasys, right, daughter of OSU faculty member Anthony Crasys, press shapes out of Play Dough at Stone’s home. The trio are in the process of making worms.

If SHE was accepted to a new child into her home, she would charge $75 per child per week. She said there is such a demand for infant care she could probably ask any price, but doesn’t want to take care of any more infants.

Jacobs said many providers don’t want to care for infants because it is more expensive and time consuming.

For Stone, the job has meant a substantial commitment.

He has fixed up his back yard, with a tree house and gravel so the children can play and not get muddy even if it has rained. He takes the children on a field trip each week.

He teaches the children the address, phone numbers, and mail names. He also teaches with the parents when he helps with the police training and weaning from bottles and pacifiers.

“You have to have a good working relationship, or it just doesn’t work,” he said.

- There is nothing more important than raising children,” she said. Child care needs to be recognized with more respect and professionalism.

Johnson said her husband makes a comfortable living and she offers child care out of concern for children and choice, not out of financial need.

“I should care as much as an executive. But I don’t and I won’t,” Johnson said.

She cares for two children and before agreeing to provide her services discussed various topics with the children’s parents, such as discipline, politics, war games

Kelly Crasys, left, and Michael and Carol Para, son of OSU faculty member, Bruce Para, Tom Stone, center, and Kelly Crasys, right, daughter of OSU faculty member Anthony Crasys, press shapes out of Play Dough at Stone’s home.
Child care available for night classes

By Greg Brown

Child care now is available to anyone who enrolls in night courses at Ohio State.

Faculty members who teach in the evening also can have their children cared for by professionals.

It's all part of a new program at the University's Child Care Center, 725 Ackerman Rd. The cost is $2 an hour per child for families whose income is less than $50,000 a year. Over that income level the cost is $3 an hour per child. In addition, there is a one-time $25 registration fee per family for each academic year.

“Our goal is for no one to be restricted from taking classes because he or she can't find adequate child care,” says Jean Dodson, coordinator of the evening program.

Children ages two months-12 years can be signed up for the time their parents or guardians are in class between the hours of 5-10 p.m. weekdays. People are given one-half hour before and after the class to drop off and pick up their children.

The center staff engages the children in planned, age-appropriate activities, including music, games and art, as well as supervises free time. Parents may bring their older children's homework. Snacks are provided as well.

Dodson stresses that parents who enroll their children in the center during the day and want to use the evening program must first pick them up at 5 p.m. and provide dinner before bringing them back. The evening and day programs are separate entities, she points out.

This evening class time service came about when the center began caring for children whose parents work at University Hospitals during the second shift.

“A needs assessment was conducted and it showed that students did need child care to attend evening classes,” says Dodson. “With support from the provost's office we then were able to begin the evening program.”

Being enrolled for evening child care will not give a person an advantage in the daytime waiting list. There are approximately 650 children waiting to become one of the 300 cared for at the center. That translates to about a two-year wait.

For more information or to enroll, contact the center at 292-4453 after 5 p.m.
Forum addresses child care qualms

By Tara Anne Powers
Lantern staff writer

In response to the growing problem of limited child care facilities that university students and employees are facing, a forum was held Wednesday to air grievances, suggest options and discuss possible solutions.

The forum, sponsored by the Council on Academic Excellence for Women, was attended by about 50 parents, child care providers and administrators.

"Child care is a community issue...There are nowhere near enough child care centers in this community, this state, or this country," said Susan Nilsson Weiskott, a board member of Action for Children.

The council sent a letter this week to President Edward R. Jennings addressing the need to reassess child care needs in the university community.

"We are the model...The university is in a leadership position in terms of child care...but that still does not solve our individual problem," said Judy Fountain, director of the OSU Child Care Center.

The OSU Child Care Center has a two-year waiting list with over 1,000 parents vying for slots for their children.

The new $3.5 million dollar center, a service open to about 74,000 employees of the university, can provide full-time care for only 300 children.

Ohio State and University Hospitals funded construction of the new facility, built west of Buckeye Village on Ackerman Road, but currently subsidizes only one-third of the facility's $1.6 million budget.

Parents expressed concern at the meeting about finding competent child care without having to wait for months. They also discussed how much responsibility the university should carry in providing child care and other options.

Becky Parker, associate director of the office of Residence and Dining, stressed that the university alone could not and should not have to find child care for its employees.

"I think there is more than one way to be supportive," Parker said.

"Child care is a community issue...There are nowhere near enough child care centers in this community, this state, or this country."

— Susan Nilsson

Some suggestions made during the forum were:

- that the university help recruit more home-based care providers.
- that the university provide some sort of child care referral service.
- that additional child care centers be built.
- that the university develop more flexible and creative ways to meet work and family demands.
- that students and employees encourage the leadership the university has taken and support further development.

Child care has become a university issue not only because it can affect employee attendance and productivity, but also might influence the university's employee recruiting process.

"A major problem I face in recruiting is child care," said James Naylor, chairman of the psychology department.

Naylor said about 40 percent of the psychology department have families with two working parents who either use or are in need of child care.
Success breeds a desire for more child care space

By Patricia Mroczek

As one mother put it, Ohio State’s Child Care Center is a victim of its own quality.

More than 1,000 faculty, staff and students are on a waiting list to place their children in the Ackerman Road center, the largest child care facility in the Big Ten.

The facility cares for up to 300 infants, toddlers and children up to age 5 during the day, and age 12 during the night and summer. Representatives from 60 universities visit the center each year to study its operation.

Apparently, it’s very successful at partially filling a need.

“We’ve created the problem by creating such a quality center,” Susan Fisher said at a forum on child care dilemmas May 10. An associate professor of entomology, she is chair of the Council on Academic Excellence for Women’s (CAEW) child care committee.

“There are still major difficulties in securing child care at Ohio State. Space for 300 children is inadequate for 74,000 faculty, staff and students,” Fisher said.

That was the consensus during the two-hour forum in the Faculty Club. About 50 people, mostly women, listened to a panel discussion on child care needs and options.

Fisher said CAEW submitted a position paper on care dilemmas to President Jennings on May 1. The paper indicated that while there is no clear measure of need, the 1988 Ohio State Poll winter

Continued on page 11.

Desire for child care space...

Continued from page 1.

quarter determined between 2,000-3,000 students had children under 12 years old. There is no accurate count of children among the 28,000 full-time and part-time workers at the University.

It takes a minimum of 18 months on the waiting list to get a child into the center.

One mother asked for a few “two-week emergency slots” for when an employee is suddenly without child care. Another asked for services when children are ill.

“It’s obvious the University needs a second child care center,” said Monica Fullerton, assistant to the director of international studies.

“There seems to be an interest in another center,” Fisher said. “There is an understandable reluctance on the part of the University (which committed $3.5 million in 1986 with the construction of the Ackerman Road building).”

Other comments included: the United States seems to be lagging behind the rest of the Western world in addressing child care needs; and that the Child Care Center is a tremendous benefit for only a few at Ohio State.

Becky Parker, associate director of residence and dining halls, agreed that the University can play a role in responding to societal issues. “I don’t have the expectation that Ohio State can provide child care for all faculty, staff and students.”

“I do think Ohio State needs to assist the community with this societal issue. But I don’t know it’s the responsibility of my work place to handle all my child care problems.”

Center is part of evolutionary process

Child care at Ohio State was born from the student unrest in the early 1970s.

Judy Fountein, director of the Child Care Center, said the service began after students left children in the office of then-President Novie G. Fawcett and went to class.

“She is any good administrator, he appointed a committee to study the issue,” Fountein said May 10 during a forum on child care needs. “The early minutes of that committee had a child’s fingerprints on them, verifying the need for child care on campus.”

The Child Care Pilot Program opened in March 1972 with 85 children, including infants, in the basement of a church at the corner of 17th Avenue and Summit Street. “Infant care was a radical idea in 1972,” she said.

“For our 10th anniversary, we got to drop the word pilot from our name,” Fountein mused. “In the 1980s, the best thing to happen to us was when we lost our lease at the church.”

That impetus led to the opening in August 1986 of the new $3.5 million center on Ackerman Road, near Buckeye Village. The 35,000-square-foot building offers space for 300 infants, toddlers and pre-school children and is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the country.

One-third of the center’s $1.6 million annual budget is from the University, including University Hospitals. The remaining funds are provided by a sliding fee scale from families using the center and federal support for low-income families. About 30 percent of the users, mostly students, pay levels below the going rate in Columbus, Fountain said.

For more information contact the center at 292-4453.
Disinfecting Day Care
Centers must wage germ warfare

By Laurie Losocco
Dispatch Medical Reporter

Kids get sick. Parents work. The two often occur simultaneously, and that can be stressful for all involved.

A 1987 survey by Action for Children found that 23,000 Franklin County households reporting a day-care or preschool, and the number probably is higher today. Nationally, an estimated 17 million children age 6 and under will attend a child-care center by 1990.

Some of those children will leave home in the morning with colds or ear infections. Some will come home sick. It's a fact of life that when young children come together, germs are passed back and forth.

Parents, who already may feel guilty about leaving their child with others during the day, face a double whammy with reports that say children in day-care situations get sick more often than kids who stay at home.

For example, the Food and Drug Administration recently cited studies that say children under 3 who are in centers suffer more diarrhea attacks than other youngsters. In the summer issue of FDA Consumer, food and drug commissioner Dr. Frank Young said, various studies have shown that bouts of diarrhea are 30 percent to 50 percent more common among children in day care than those cared for at home.

Some bouts can be serious, and the bacteria that cause these infections are associated with a form of arthritis and certain neuromuscular disorders, Young said.

Judy Heeg, a communicable disease specialist with the Columbus Department of Health, said diarrhea probably is the most common ailment among children in day-care centers. Other illnesses include chicken pox, conjunctivitis (an eye inflammation) and hepatitis A. Outbreaks of hand, foot and mouth disease have been reported recently in several states.

Judy Fountain, director of The Ohio State University Child Care Center, tells parents upfront they should expect their child to have a health problem at least once a month. "That's a tremendous burden on them," she said.

But does this mean parents must be worried and anxious each time they drop off their child? Absolutely not, according to health and day-care experts.

"It's true, there is more illness in day care," said Heeg, a registered nurse. "However, it's just that the children are exposed to it earlier. They will get exposed anyway."

Action for Children consultant Judy Toug said most of the reports she has read have cited extreme cases. "They paint such a bleak picture, and that just tightens the screws of guilt on these parents."

Tough and others said there are ways for centers and parents to lessen the illness and the guilt.

The keys to preventing disease are good sanitary practices and isolation of children who are infectious. Neither can be achieved 100 percent of the time, but the goal is to make a concerted effort every day, experts said.

Dr. Steven Merahn, a pediatrician and consultant to the Bureau of Day Care for the New York City Department of Health, visited day-care centers there to see how infections are spread and how best to control them.

During a recent visit to Columbus, Merahn said germs are transmitted through respiratory secretions, feces and direct contact. The hands almost always are involved, he said.

For that reason, Merahn and others advocate that children and staff wash their hands frequently, particularly at centers where children are in diapers. "We do not let hand washing. It's one of the least expensive and most effective ways to control the spread of germs," said Judy Chosy, owner and director of Smokey Row Children's Center in Worthington.

Merahn also mentioned a number of "high risk" surfaces in the day-care centers he visited. They include the backs of chairs, the sides of tables and the tops of counters. Such surfaces should be wiped and disinfected regularly, he said.

Merahn and a nurse developed a series of steps called the "Germ Patrol" to help eliminate germs. The "Germ Patrol" is designed to be carried out with a minimum of interference in the day's activities.

Merahn said it requires additional effort, but there is a payoff. "Although he doesn't have hard data to back it up, he feels there will be".

Although he doesn't have hard data to back it up, he feels there will be. He also said when a visit to Columbus in New York reported that illnesses were cut in half when the program was followed scrupulously.

Parents shouldn't leave precautions

Please see GERMS next page

Teacher Amy Rush cleans table after changing Sarah Lamp's diaper at OSU Child Care Center.

Germ fighting

Pediatrician Steven Merahn offers these tips for judging the hygiene of a day-care center:

• Examine children's and staff's access to running water, soap and paper towels. Look at the way contaminated materials, such as diapers and tissues, are disposed of.

• Ask when hands are washed, how disinfectants are used and where the first aid kit is.

• The more hand-washing, the better. A minimum schedule would be upon arrival, before handling food, after diapering or helping a child go to the bathroom and after contact with secretions or lesions.

• The day-care center should have written guidelines for when children should be excluded because of illness. If it's not possible to exclude sick children, they should be isolated.

• If a child sneezes on a tabletop or mouth a toy, the object should be disinfected. "That doesn't mean you have to wash every Lego every day," Merahn said, but if a sick child contaminates a toy, take it out of circulation.

• Disposable paper sheets should be placed on the diaper-changing table each time; the table surface also should be disinfected. The national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta recommends that centers use either a commercial disinfectant or a solution of one-fourth cup of bleach to a gallon of water. The solution should be made daily.

Dispatch graphic by Julie Berry Def
Sean Markle, 3, kills germs by washing his hands at The Ohio State University Child Care Center
up to child-care centers, however. Infection control varies, "and I think you'll see all extremes. Parents should check, not just dump their kids off," Heeg said.

State licensing laws spell out certain standards for hygiene and safety, and parents should learn about those. For example, Ohio licensing laws require that at least one person in a center complete a six-hour course on childhood illnesses and first aid.

Other provisions include hand-washing after diapering, separating toilet-trained children from those who are not, and using cleaning and disinfectant solutions. The law also indicates when children should be excluded from centers, such as when they have rashes, diarrhea, a fever of 101 degrees or higher, or are vomiting.

Chosy said.

Directors know it can be difficult to tell a single parent with no sick leave that a center cannot accept the child that day, or to call the parent away from work to come pick up a sick child.

But parents usually are understanding when they learn the precautions will protect other children from getting sick, and that other children have been excluded for the same reason, directors said.

The state guidelines apply to licensed centers. However, Action for Children estimates only one-third of children are in such environments. The rest are in private homes, where parents may be afraid to ask questions of the operator.

"Parents have the right to ask," Tough said. "A lot feel uncomfortable because they are in somebody's home. But what: they have to remember is it's also somebody's business."

Parents should ask operators about such things as diapering techniques, use of disinfectants and steps taken when a child becomes ill during the day. "They (operators) should know those things off the tip of their tongue," Tough said.

Child-to-adult ratios also are important, Chosy said. Generally, a ratio of one staff member for every eight 3- to 4-year-olds is optimum. "Any more than that, and you're so concerned with safety that you can't help with the health and the hygiene," she said.

Center directors said common sense also has a place. A recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that children in diapers be given hard-surface toys rather than plush toys is laughable, they said. So is the CDC guideline urging that children use a paper towel each time they turn off a water faucet, they said. "It's just not going to happen," OSU's Fountain said.

The state is developing guidelines for special centers for ill children. The "ill day cares" may be part of existing centers but would require more advanced training and staffing.

Opinions are mixed on such centers, with some saying that children too sick for regular day care belong at home.

That may be the ideal, Fountain said, but it's not always realistic. "The question is not what was best when I was a child but what is best for a child today,"
Children live it up at OSU Child Care Center

Not all Ohio State teachers assign problems and textbook readings. Teachers at the OSU Child Care Center help their students put together puzzles and listen to storybooks.

Cheryl Boyd, an early childhood teacher at the center, said her biggest challenge is redirecting children or finding something new for them to do when they become bored or frustrated with their present activity. She is one of four teachers of about 35 children ages 3 to 5.

Boyd's day begins at 7 a.m. when she picks up the children who have arrived early and takes them to the blue pod, her area of the facility.

The children play with puzzles and do art activities until breakfast at 8 a.m. which usually consists of cold cereal, milk and juice. After breakfast is group time. Drama, creative movement, art, science and pre-math and matching exercises are included during this period. Boyd also emphasizes music by occasionally playing records during mealtimes. She uses music to teach concepts such as loud and soft and rhythm.

At about 11:45 a.m. lunch is served. Yesterday it consisted of spaghetti, salad, mixed fruit and milk. After lunch the toddlers usually head outside. When the weather is bad, the children play in the large muscle area where they have access to tumbling mats, a balance beam and jungle gym.

Naptime begins at 1 p.m. After a two-hour rest, the children often go out to play again to work up an appetite for snack. Apples or cheese and crackers and milk or juice are usually served.

OSU Child Care was started in 1972 when students demanded child care among other reforms. A pilot program began that spring with 25 children in a church at 1885 Summit Street. In 1973 the program expanded to 138 children and five years later to 190 children.

In August of 1987 the new facility at 725 Ackerman Road was opened. The $3.5 million facility serves more than 300 families and houses $412,000 worth of equipment. The center is the largest university child care centers as well as one of the largest in the United States.

Four-year-olds Jane Harrison and Allison Landoll, and 3-year-old Christopher Dolin cuddle next to Cheryl Boyd as she reads them a story Monday during group time. The children at the OSU Child Care Center receive as much individual attention as possible, said Boyd, early childhood teacher at the center for three weeks. She is one of the newest additions to the center's teaching staff.
ABOVE — Children are taught one subject in week-long units to focus their attention on different experiences. Lucia Franccone, 4, and Katie Roberts, 4, explore the different sounds produced by musical instruments on Monday as part of this week’s unit on music and dance.

LEFT, FAR LEFT — Mood swings of 3- and 4-year-old children in her section are a common occurrence according to Lisa Eitson, an assistant teacher at the center and '94 OSU graduate in psychology. Robbin Eitson, 3, began crying after his father dropped him off, but within three minutes the tears disappeared after comforting words and attention from Eitson. “We try to meet each child’s needs and focus in on them when they need the attention,” she said.

Story by
Jane Schmucker
Photos by
Jim Criswell
OSU child care facilities full; 1,000 children on waiting list

For nearly every child in a Columbus day care center, three are waiting to get in, estimated the state child care coordinator, Fran McCaffrey.

The Ohio State University Child Care Center is no exception. The three-year-old, $3.5 million facility, boasts a capacity of 300 children, and 338 families currently use the center for full-time and part-time care.

True to the 5-to-1 ratio, there are 1,000 children on the waiting list. Most centers have extensive waiting lists for infant care, but OSU has a larger number of older children on the list.

"We have space for 60 infants under 18 months and 150 toddlers," said Judy Foutain, director of the Child Care Center. Because younger children move into the preschool slots, it's difficult for four-year-olds to get into the program, she said.

"OSU can not be responsible for providing all of the child care needs for every one at the university," said Foutain.

The child care program at Ohio State has been in place since 1971. The program has added a service every year since then, she said.

"Every decision we've made is based on what parents need," she said.

In addition to the on-site facility, the Child Care Center has a network of day care homes, and now offers a second site for a summer program for school-age children.

"We continually seek cost effective ways to expand," Foutain said. "This year, we added night service."

Students taking night classes, and faculty teaching those classes, can take their children to the center for an hourly charge, she said.

Ohio State is among the two percent of the businesses in Ohio that provide on-site child care for children of employees, McCaffrey said.

According to a national poll conducted by the Gallup Organization, Inc., one in 10 of the nation's workers receive child care benefits from their employers.

Parents in Columbus seeking child care can turn to Action for Children, a non-profit information and referral service funded in part by the United Way.

The agency fields about 8,000 questions per year, said Sandy Dubin, a spokeswoman for the organization.

"In addition to referrals, we get questions about issues such as separation anxiety," she said. The referral counselors who respond to inquiries are child development specialists. Counselors use a computer system that lists names of day care providers, both home-based and center-based. Parents seeking information can request geographical preferences or a specific type of care, Dubin said.

In addition to referrals, the agency provides workshops for home care providers and day care center employees, she said.

"We also co-sponsored a Child Care Fair on April 8, with the National Council of Jewish Women and the Columbus Association for the Education of Young Children," said Dubin.

Awareness of the need for better child care information is growing in the workplace according to the Gallup poll.

In addition to the development of programs for state employees, McCaffrey said her office is working on programs to provide better quality and more affordable child care for all employees.

"It doesn't matter if there are a zillion slots available for care if no one can afford it," she said.

"There are a full range of possibilities," said McCaffrey, "On-site facilities are only one choice."

Choices in employer, dependent, care benefits include the use of a resource and referral network, the voucher program and the flexible spending account.

Some companies will also provide paid and unpaid leave in order to care for dependents," said McCaffrey.

Resource and referral networks provide information to parents seeking choices in dependent care.

Voucher programs involve the provision of a lump sum payment paid to parents who can verify the amount of money spent on day care services.

Flexible spending accounts deduct a specific pre-tax dollar amount from the employee's pay check. Employees are then reimbursed for dependent care with their own dollars.

OSU has a flexible spending account option as part of the benefits package for university employees. Employees must determine if a pre-tax fund is more beneficial than utilizing the child care deduction on the regular tax form.

Dependent care can address not only child care, but also elder care. Most of the people who need dependent care benefits are past child-bearing years; they have older parents who are living longer and developing more complicated health needs.

"Child care represents only the tip of the iceberg," said Foutain.

"Children First," located in the Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., is a non-profit day care center which provides care for state employees and the general public.

The center utilizes volunteers in addition to the regular staff, and also has a foster grandparents program.

The changing labor force will cause facilities to include older citizens in day care, said McCaffrey. Employers recruiting and retaining reliable employees will be driven to provide flexible dependent care programs, she said.
Ann Kremer, a student aide, teaches children how to combine ingredients while cooking.

Photos by Shelley A. Vigder
Story by Melissa L. Randles
Ben Letvin, 3, listens carefully to a story read by volunteer Tory Harper.

Iared Corrler 5, carefully cuts pictures from a magazine to paste together.
Katie Roberts, 4, and Patrick Hewitt, 4, experiment in wine-making using water.
The play's the thing — that hurts!

Robert Behrens, fight coordinator and lead in the Actors' Summer Theatre production of *Hamlet*, recently showed stage-fighting technique to children from the Ohio State University's child-care center. Getting his ears theatrically "yanked" on the Schiller Park stage was Houman Babai, 8. *Hamlet* runs at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.
More childcare facilities needed at OSU

By Jim McCoy
Lantern staff writer

Childcare is one of the highest hurdles facing working women today.

"Sixty-five percent of mothers with children under 18 are in the workforce," said Barbara Otto, director of program and public affairs for 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women.

"We need to realize that the workplace is just not made up of married males with a woman at home who maintains the home and children," Otto said. "We have working parents that need more flexible policies. Less than one percent of American businesses have childcare facilities or childcare policies."

The fastest growing segment of the workforce is married women with children under the age of two, Otto said.

OHIO STATE HAS a childcare program, but only a limited number of children are accepted.

"It just is not adequate," said Virginia Midkiff, administrative secretary in the OSU student enrollment office and president of the local chapter of 9 to 5.

"We have some big issues here at the university and one of the big issues is childcare," Midkiff said. "We need a lot more childcare facilities here."

Connie Jameson, secretary for OSU daycare, said the university is licensed to care for 300 children. This number includes children of OSU employees and students. Currently, 340 children are enrolled, but this includes children who are in daycare part-time and evenings. There are never more than 300 children in the center at one time.

"IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING that when you become pregnant you put your name on the waiting list and hope there's an opening by the time the child's 2 to 3 years old," Midkiff said.

As of July, the waiting list totaled 1,200 names, which translates into a two year wait.

"It's one of the biggest and best childcare facilities in a university setting. But we have so many employees here, it's just not big enough," Midkiff said. "I would like to see more on-site daycare."

Midkiff said this is not just an issue for clerical workers, but it involves faculty women, too. She would like to talk with new OSU President E. Gordon Gee after he is settled into his office, she said.

"THERE ARE SEVERAL companies, large companies, around the country, that are being very innovative in dealing with this issue," Midkiff said.

The Childcare Development Improvement Act, which was written to help alleviate childcare problems, has been passed by both sides of Congress, Otto said. It is now in committee to figure out how the government will pay for it.

"The public has to contact their legislators and say, listen, women have just as many rights in the workplace as anyone else," Otto said.

"What other position in our country is more important than motherhood?" she said.

CONSIDERING CHILDREN ARE our future, mothers need to have a respected role in our society, Otto said.

Employees can help working mothers in several ways, Otto said.

"Employers can offer flex-time for women who are mothers. They can also have family leave policies," she said. Also, employers can stop discriminating against pregnant women and new mothers.

"New mothers' wage rates are $1.40 per hour lower when they return to work," Otto said.

"Ten years down the line I hope to see our society realizing the value of the role of the mother and of women in the workplace," Otto said. "Frankly, we have a society that doesn't allow women to reach their full potential."

SOCIETY INSISTS WOMEN must be full-time caretakers, she said.

"It won't change until our society changes, and society is really reluctant to change," Otto said.
Child care wins award for quality

By Bret Crow
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State received the 1991 Citizen Award for its commitment to quality child care Saturday in Franklin Hall at Columbus State Community College.

The Columbus Association for the Education of Young Children presented the award to Lynn Gallagher, program coordinator for the OSU Child Care Centers.

A representative from the child care center then presented the award, Tuesday, to Steve Stoffel from the Office of Personnel Services.

Ohio State received the award for being a model child care organization for the community, Gallagher said.

Strong staff-child ratios, benefits and good wages for the child care staff contributed to the decision, Gallagher said.

The child care center began 18 years ago to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff, Gallagher said.

The three groups use the services equally, she said.

The cost of the services varies from $60 to $107 for one week, based on the age of the child and the income of the family or adult, Gallagher said.

Care is provided day and night by the center and also during the summer for children.

The center handles 300 children during the day ranging from six weeks old to kindergarten age, Gallagher said.

The center is open from 6 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday.
Leggo my Leggo!

CREATIVITY IS THE IDEA for children at the Child Care Center, who are celebrating the “Week of the Young Child.” Activities include a week-long creativity fair and a reception. With Georgiann Martin, early childhood teaching assistant, center, kindergarteners Chioma Ayogu, left, Colin Rader-Morse and Jon Michael McCoy create “Cars and Buildings,” a sculpture from plastic blocks.
Gee seeks improved OSU child care

By Hope Spangler and Samantha G. Haney
Lantern staff writer

In an attempt to reduce the 12- to 18-month wait for child care openings at Ohio State, OSU President E. Gordon Gee has charged two separate commissions with the task of figuring out where the university stands on the issue of dependent care.

Recognizing the need for affordable quality child care and elder care, the university will try to reduce the burdens of employees who must care for their children and elderly parents.

"A president has to use his own moral compass when considering allocation of resources and development," Gee said. He said he is driving for a comprehensive look at the dependent care issue through the commissions he has established. He said although the university faces budget constraints, the commissions will try to design an affordable and responsive system.

"If we can do it right, we can take a leadership role on a number of these issues," Gee said.

The dependent care commission is looking into the university's current child care system and into the possibility of initiating an elder care program, said Al Davis, co-chair of the commission and department of family relations and human development chairperson. "I know we're very excited because we're going to have more information on this issue than has ever been collected on this campus," Davis said.

-- There are currently 1200 children on the child care center waiting list and there is only one child care space for every 53 OSU employees. "There's no way any single employer can meet all of the expected needs of its employees," said Judith Foutian, OSU child care center director. "There should always be a waiting list. The question is how big should it be?"

Fountain said a combination of child care adjustments and institutional flexibility will provide possible solutions to care. The child care center could expand its home child care and subsidize child care at outside centers. The university could also offer flex-time, job sharing and seasonal staff positions, she said.

"We look at Ohio State as the model," said Mary Schiffer, director of child care programs at Pennsylvania State University. Penn State has one child care space for every 204 employees, Schiffer said.

Infant and toddler care is not available at either Penn State or the University of Michigan. "Yeah, it's a problem, and we don't have a clue about how to solve it," said Schiffer.

If Ohio State is half-way successful, then everybody will take notice," she said. "It will have an impact on higher-education institutions."

Margaret Hull, assistant professor of nursing, has released a study on the effects on families who care for dying relatives at home with help from hospice home care programs.

"Families are often very reluctant to let formal institutions work in that role of care-giving," Hull said. She said many caregivers feel it adds a negative light on them if they relinquish any responsibility to an outsider.

Penn State has refrained from providing assistance outside of a referral service and Michigan also provides a referral service. "I don't think employers will ever be able to provide direct care for parents because it's about 20 times as expensive as child care," said Leslie DiPietro, University of Michigan family care coordinator.
STAFF The center is staffed by trained competent personnel. Program Coordinators have M.S. degrees in child development or related training and experience. Early Childhood Teachers have B.S. degrees in child development or related areas and/or equivalent training and experience. The teachers are assisted by full-time classroom aides who have been trained by the center. Field work students and work-study students also assist in the classroom. Home providers have successfully completed a training course developed and taught by the Child Care Center staff. In addition, the providers continue to participate in workshops.

STAFF-CHILD RATIOS in the center vary throughout the day depending upon the needs of the group. However ratios are always at least:

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<th>Number of spaces at any one time</th>
<th>1/4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Infant (2-18 mos.)</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Older Infants (18-24 mos.)</td>
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<td>Toddler (24-36 mos.)</td>
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<td>Preschool (3-5 yrs.)</td>
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<td>Kindergarten (5-12 yrs.)</td>
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In home based care, the provider can care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time, regardless of child’s age. Children may range from infants through school age.

MEALS are prepared in the center. A hot lunch and two snacks are served daily. Dinner is provided after 6:00 p.m.

ILL CHILDREN in the center are isolated from other children until parents are reached. Children may not return until well.

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE is made up of parents, staff, and University representatives. It provides input into the policies of the center.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT includes parent meetings, opportunities to observe, and parent/teacher or parent/provider conferences.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or to arrange a visit contact:
Child Care Center
725 Ackerman Road
Columbus, Ohio 43202
292-4453
PURPOSE The Child Care Center is a non-profit unit attached to the Office of Personnel Services. The primary purpose of the program is to provide quality child care for children of University students, staff and faculty. The second purpose of the program is to facilitate educational experiences for students and faculty members.

Children are provided care that will encourage the development of each child, based on individual physical, emotional, social and cognitive needs. Each child's needs are met in a group setting.

Individualized activities are offered to infants to stimulate development. Toddlers have an opportunity to participate in relaxed group experiences. Preschoolers are offered varied experiences planned on a weekly basis. Kindergartners are offered activities which prepare them for school. Schoolagers have appropriate recreational activities.

PHILOSOPHY The Child Care Center serves as a support to University families by assuring that their children are receiving quality care while the parents participate in the University.

Through a secure and warm environment that encourages the total development of the child, the program will help children know their individuality, understand their special worth, and develop self-discipline, tolerance, and understanding of individuals different from themselves.

ELIGIBILITY University students, staff, or faculty who have legal custody and/or are the primary care-givers for their children are eligible for child care services.

All children are eligible regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap.

OPTIONS Parents may select center based care or home based care.

Center Based Care
Monday-Friday M-W-F
All Day All day
AM only All day
PM only
T-R
All day

Hospital Employees may select enrollments based on work schedule and availability of space.

Home Based Care The days of care are negotiated between the parents and the home day care provider.

FEES Fees in the center are determined on a sliding scale based on total income of family. The center also serves Title XX eligible children.

Fees for home based care are determined by each home provider.

A WAITING LIST exists in all areas. The waiting list may be as long as 15-18 months depending on the type of enrollment and age of the child.

FACILITIES The center is located at 725 Ackerman Road just West of Buckeye Village. The space includes classrooms, large muscle areas, several enclosed playgrounds, kitchen and administrative offices.

Home based care takes place in homes that have been inspected and approved by local fire and health agencies.

HOURS AND DATES The center is open 52 weeks a year, Monday through Friday except when University offices are closed. The center is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with half day sessions ending and beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Hospital employees may arrange care for their children at the center until midnight based on the employee's work schedule.

Home day care providers are independent and determine their own hours of operation. Information regarding each home is available.
OSU threatens to slash subsidy for child care

Some users fear they couldn’t afford increased fees

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

Ohio State University might eliminate up to $200,000 a year from a subsidy to its child care center, prompting fears the center will become unaffordable for some people who use it.

Founded in 1972, the university-owned center at 700 Ackerman Rd. cares for about 370 children — ranging from infants to kindergarteners — of university students and faculty and staff members. The center has a waiting list of more than 1,000 families.

To save money, the university is considering cutting the $338,000 subsidy, which comes from the general fund and represents about 18 percent of the center’s annual $2 million budget.

Saying the center benefits only a limited number of employees and students, a university task force has recommended that the subsidy be removed over the next three years.

However, Linda Tom, OSU vice president for human resources, said the university is looking to cut only between $150,000 and $200,000 a year of the subsidy.

She said the action is just one of many moves under consideration to help with OSU’s budget problems, but nothing has been decided.

“People may be getting a little ahead of themselves,” she said. “We will take into consideration the ability of people to pay. It is very important to make child care available to faculty, staff and students. We don’t want to move to hurt that.”

The decision to reduce the subsidy rests with the OSU Board of Trustees.

Cutting the subsidy could force the center to eliminate a sliding fee scale for low- and middle-income families, said Rebecca A. Wilkins, an administrator of the center.

“We would have to raise the parent fees substantially. I don’t think we would be able to keep the sliding-scale fee,” Wilkins said. “We see this as having a serious impact.”

The sliding scale is based on family income up to $70,000 a year. For example, a family with an income between $20,000 and $30,000 a year is charged $98 a week to place an infant in the center. The full rate is $110 a week.

The subsidy also helps support the $6.48-an-hour base salary for child-care workers. Staff members in many child-care centers typically make minimum wage, Wilkins said.

Parents received fliers Friday night telling them the university is considering the move.

Maryann Keisel, a secretary in the University Center for International Studies who has a 2-year-old son, Ken, said she would have to “quit my job and move” if child care costs increase.

“I can barely afford to have him there now,” Keisel said. “But it is the best place in the state, so that is why we go there.”

Monica B. Fullerton, an assistant to the director of OSU’s Study Abroad Program, has two sons, Alexander, 3, and Austin, 7 months, in the center.

“It would make it difficult for me if the prices went up because it is all I can do to afford the price they charge me now,” Fullerton said.

Adequate child care is critical for students and employees of the university, said Deborah A. Ballam, an associate professor of finance who had a child in the center for several years.

“To be able to come to work and know your child is safe and in a nurturing environment does wonders for your ability to do your job,” Ballam said.

Ballam fears it will turn into a “child care center for the wealthy people at the university.”

The Women’s Grassroots Network, a group of women faculty and staff members and students pushing for better conditions for women on campus, is planning a rally at noon Monday at Bricker Hall to discourage the university from reducing the subsidy.

The biggest concern is among students, whose children make up 38 percent of the enrollment at the center, said Barbara Snyder, a professor of law and member of the network.

“Those students may not be able to attend school if there is no affordable child care service available,” Snyder said.
Gee meets with those riled over possible day-care cuts

By Felix Hoover
Dispatch Human Services Reporter

Ohio State University President Gordon Gee met yesterday with about 250 students and staff and faculty members who are fighting a proposed cut in funding to the OSU Child Care Center.

Chants of “More not less — our kids deserve the best” were voiced by some of the rallyers, who gathered in the lobby of Bricker Hall before heading to the second floor. There they met with Gee, who assured them the center wouldn’t close.

A university task force has proposed that OSU slice its $385,000 subsidy to the center as part of efforts to cut the university budget. The task force said the center benefits a limited number of people and recommended the subsidy be eliminated over the next three years.

Some rallyers said such a cut would make the child-care center less affordable for low-income users, while others said they feared the quality of care would decline.

The center, 700 Ackerman Rd., serves 370 children and has a long waiting list.

The crowd yesterday included some parents who introduced their young children to Gee or showed their children’s pictures to him.

“The child-care center is not going to close down,” Gee said.

The university is reviewing options, including revising the sliding-fee scale for center users, but no decision has been made, he said.

Gee added, “Maybe we ought to turn a Cadillac into a Chevrolet and open it up to more people.”
Parents, kids rally to protect child care center

Task-group says $338,000 subsidy doesn't benefit all faculty, staff, students

By Tom Spring

About 140 people met with President Gee at the conclusion of a rally Jan. 25 to protest the Ohio State Child Care Center from subsidy cuts.

The rally, organized by the Women's Grassroots Network, was held inside Bricker Hall.

A University task group has recommended that the center on Ackerman Road become self-supporting and that Ohio State remove, over a three-year period, the $338,000 operating subsidy.

"I think I've been very open about my commitment to child care," President Gee told those assembled. "What we need is more. We're concerned about the quality of life on campus, and that people, wherever they are, have access to child care."

A decision has not been made, on the proposal, one of many submitted by a variety of task forces charged with analyzing the University budget. A list of measures designed to erase a $7.5 million imbalance in this year's budget is to be presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting Feb. 3 and 4.

The trustees will not take action on the child care proposal at the meeting, according to Linda Tom, vice president for human resources. The savings from eliminating the subsidy would not be realized until the next fiscal year.

The center provides for 371 children of faculty, staff and students. Under center rules, all children must have at least one parent who is a faculty or staff member or a student.

Gee told the concerned parents that the child care center would not be allowed to deteriorate. Noting efforts to solve a $7.5 million budget shortfall, he defended the process of having task forces identify and propose for discussion methods to save administrative costs.

He noted that low-income parents who qualify for reduced-cost child care will still qualify even if the subsidy is cut.

According to Judy Fountain, director of the Department of Work and Family Programs, 349 families have children enrolled. Of the parents, 21 percent are faculty members, 41 percent are staff and 38 percent are students. Parents are charged fees according to income, age of the child, and time the child spends in the center.

"In addition to our sliding fee scale, the Child Care Center receives federal funding to help families below $30,000 (income)," Fountain says. "The majority of our low-income parents are eligible for federal funds. ... 87 children have all or some of their fees paid by federal funds."

Gee said parents are upset that they have to apply during pregnancy and still don't get into the program. More than 1,000 children are on a waiting list.

"In order to have a University community, we have to have access and opportunity," Gee said. "I think your case is well made and well heard."

Prior to meeting with Gee, the group heard from a number of faculty and students.

Suzeanne Damrion, professor of educational policy and leadership, and chair of the University Senate Committee on Women and Minorities, said that the Commission on Dependent Care and the Commission on Women both addressed issues of child care in the past 18 months.

The commissions concluded that the University should support a balance between work and family and develop additional and cost-effective child care services, Damrion said.

"It's nothing short of appalling to learn that subsidies are threatened in any way," said Andrea Lunsford, professor of English and chair of the Commission on Women. "A cut in dependent care will mean a cruel and severe cut to women. This only supports the widely conceived perception that when it comes to women's issues, words and deeds do not match."

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Continued from page 1

"There has been a strong reaction on the part of many people at the University that (cutting subsidies ) is not appropriate and that the University should be a leader in child care."

Gay Hadley, assistant vice president for human resources, told Campus.

Fountain notes that the Child Care Center itself had had no role in organizing the rally. "The response has come from broader constituencies across the University," she says.

Hadley says part of the concern is that the reductions in subsidy would most affect the women and men who are at the lower end of the income scale at Ohio State.

Part of the rationale for the task force's recommendation was that not all employees can use the facility. The task force felt that when costs are subsidized, employees who have children in the center receive a benefit not available to others.

Advocates of the child care subsidy say that there are many other University-subsidized services not used by all employees. They cite the recreation facilities and the Faculty Staff Assistance Program.

They also say the Child Care Center has made it easier for women to work and for students with young children to get a college education.

The Staff Advisory Committee at its Jan. 14 meeting discussed the child care proposal and decided to seek more information on the impact. The committee suggested that no action be taken without further investigation.

Undergraduate Student Government also is looking into the issue. President Jon Hilbert says USG discussed the issue. A bill urging the University to protect the subsidy failed because it bypassed the normal committee review process, he says.

Karen Duncan, chairperson of the Council of Graduate Studies, says her group opposes the proposal to cut the subsidy.
Trustees shelve subsidy cuts for child care center

By Tracy Rees
Lantern staff writer

Parents with children at the OSU Child Care Center can breathe a little easier now after the Board of Trustees postponed the decision to cut funds that subsidize the center.

However, cuts might be imposed in fiscal year 1994.

Earlier last month, Ohio State announced it was considering cutting child care subsidies as one of the options to offset part of Ohio State's $7.5 million state budget shortfall.

William J. Shkurti, vice president for Finance, said there are many things that the university had to consider before reaching a final decision on eliminating the child care subsidy.

"The child care center has a symbolic presence on campus that is greater than just money," Shkurti said. "If the subsidy is done away with entirely, there are some federal monies that the center may lose as well."

The program is funded with federal money, which pays for a child's care when a student earns less than $1,062 a month, works more than 25 hours a week and is a full-time student, said Rebecca Wilkins, program coordinator.

Eighty percent of OSU's subsidy goes toward salaries, Wilkins said. The other 20 percent goes toward janitorial services, food, operating equipment and basic overhead costs.

Wilkins said cuts in the center's subsidy would push the cost of child care to levels that many people could not afford.

"It will become a center for the elite and wealthy and they (the center) will lose a lot of diversity," she said.

Maryann Keisel, a secretary in the University Center for International Studies, said the center offers high-quality care for her child. However, if rates increase, more than one-half of her income will go toward child care.

"If anything, they should increase the subsidy to the center," she said.

The center is in high demand. Thirty-eight percent of the center's 370 children belong to OSU students. It currently has 1,000 families on a waiting list and it usually takes two years to get into the center, Wilkins said.

Keisel said it took her two years to get into the center. She signed up one year before she got pregnant and her child was finally accepted at six months of age.

"If I had to move my child, it would put a psychological burden on him," Keisel said.

The center is open to anyone needing child care and is licensed for 300 children, Wilkins said. However, the current enrollment is 370, some of whom are part time.

Discounts are offered to families.

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with two or more children in the center.

The center's fees are based on a sliding-fee scale, depending on the parents' income and the age of the child, Wilkins said.

For example, if a student's gross income is between $10,000 and $20,000 a year, parents are charged weekly fees of $83 for infant care, $77 for toddlers and $73 for preschoolers.

A subsidy cut of $200,000, for example, could push those costs to $103, $97 and $93, respectively.

Parents making $70,000 or more a year are charged between $110 and $97. Their fees would increase to $130 and $117 respectively.

The center employs 55 full-time people, 24 head teachers and 29 teaching assistants, caring for the children at the center.

The center pays its workers $6.48 an hour, which is higher than other child care centers because Ohio State requires head teachers to have a bachelor of arts degree in early childhood development and teaching assistants to have a high school diploma, Wilkins said.

Kinder Care, 2001 Bethel Rd., hires employees with no previous experience at minimum wage, which is $4.85 an hour, said Tricia Palm, assistant director for Kinder Care.

"If they have experience, we base their salary on their experience," Palm said.

The center has about 20 teachers caring for 100 full-time children. Their fees are about the same as OSU's child care services. They charge $109 for infants, $98 for toddlers and $87 for preschoolers, Palm said.
OSU still may cut funding for child care, 5 other groups

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

Ohio State University's child-care center and five other groups that receive subsidies from the university still may have to do more with less.

OSU is exploring ways to save about $250,000 by reducing or eliminating the subsidies next year.

The university provides a total of about $1 million to the child-care center, the Alumni Association, the Air Transport Service, the University District Organization, the Community Crime Patrol and a summer internship program.

In December, the university began looking at the subsidies. But the help remained untouched by a recently passed budget plan that included about $18 million in cost-saving and revenue-generating measures over the next two years.

However, the university will continue to study the subsidies and ask the organizations involved to provide existing or improved services with less money.

The child-care center, which received a subsidy of about $338,000 this year, is no longer in danger of having its money eliminated, but it could be reduced, OSU says.

The center serves about 370 children of OSU students, faculty and staff members and has a budget of about $2 million. It is looking at cutting administrative costs, doing more fund raising and charging its upper-income users higher fees.

"We do want to protect students and low-income families," said Rebecca Wilkins, an administrator at the center. "These are things we think we can do."

The Air Transportation Service lost about $165,000 last year, which OSU covered from the general funds subsidy.

The service has two seven-passenger King Air 200s, each of which operates with a two-pilot crew. Its personnel include two pilots, two co-pilots and an administrative assistant who schedules flights and handles billing.

The service is being asked to spend less and generate more money, but that may not be easy, said Loren A. Duddro, one of the pilots and director of operations.

"The only way to reduce expenses would be to get rid of some people, and that reduces our capability to do business," Duddro said.

"It is difficult for us to increase revenue in that the university is going through budget cuts and people have less money to spend on travel, and that is where our revenue comes from."

The Community Crime Patrol, a citizens safety group that patrols the off-campus area, has not received assurances that OSU will match the $75,000 subsidy next year.

OSU wants to continue its subsidy but is checking whether the service overlaps or duplicates efforts by the student-run Crimewatch Escort Service and other campus security.

Crimewatch operates primarily on campus, although it offers van rides to people to and from campus, said Mark Hatch, director of the Community Crime Patrol.

"I will work with anyone interested in streamlining, but the specific issue of overlap of the organizations are inherently separate," Hatch said.

The subsidy represents about one-third of the patrol's budget with equal funding coming from the city and the state. The patrol has 23 part-time patrollers with someone working every night.

"If a significant funding partner were to cut back or cut out funding, it would be detrimental to providing the service we do now," Hatch said.

The OSU Alumni Association also has been asked to find ways to continue assisting the university with less of its $205,000 subsidy. The association has a budget of about $2.7 million and 40 staff members.

"You lose a chunk like that, and you take a few steps back," said Dan Heinen, director of the association.

"I doubt it would mean the loss of staff, but... I don't know how we would be affected."

OSU also is looking at reducing the $45,000 subsidy to the University District Organization, a civic group in the campus area, and eliminating a $34,000 subsidy to the Governor's Summer Intern Program. In that program, 35 to 40 Ohio college students work as paid interns in some agency or area of state government.

OSU provides room and board.
Decision will spare child care subsidy for now

But program is among 6 units that still must cough up total of $250,000

By Tom Spring

It’s not exactly a reprieve from the governor, but the Child Care center has been spared from having its subsidy eliminated. University administrators, however, do plan to consider a reduction in the $338,000 operating subsidy.

A proposal to drop the subsidy entirely has been scrapped, according to Joan Huber, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, and William Shikurti, vice president for finance. "We do not feel this action would be in the best interest of the University," they told President Gee in a letter earlier this month.

"It could cause the program to lose federal subsidies that, combined with necessary fee increases, would then make care unaffordable for a significant portion of the University community," they said, would undermine Ohio State’s commitment to working parents.

Eliminating the subsidy was one of the many recommendations made by task forces studying ways to reduce expenses to help balance the University budget.

Many recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees on Feb. 4 are expected to save nearly $7.7 million through June and another $5.4 million in fiscal 1994. Others, such as the subsidy issue, are still being studied.

These proposals could save an additional $2.2 million next year.

Administrators say the Child Care Program — and other agencies receiving subsidies — should be expected to continue or improve services with fewer resources, just as the other academic support units have done.

The Office of Human Resources is evaluating ways to reduce administrative overhead costs, increase private fund raising, or increase charges to those most able to pay.

In the letter to Gee, Huber and Shikurti added, "We feel the time is long overdue for the University to address the growing disparity between the demand for human resources support services, such as child care and elder care, and the institution’s dwindling financial resources available to meet that demand."

The Child Care Program, Alumni Association, Air Transportation Service, University District Organization, University Community Business Association, and the Community Crime Patrol receive more than $1 million from the General Fund. The overall goal is to recuse the subsidies by $250,000.

In regard to the crime patrol, the Office of Business and Administration will determine whether there are overlapping or duplicate services that could be eliminated.

Huber and Shikurti have recommended that all funding be discontinued for the Governor’s Summer Internship Program. Ohio State had provided free housing for the interns who work eight-week stints in state government.

Ohio State also will look at the $334,000 annual rent subsidy it makes to the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Affairs (MUCIA).

Officials dropped a proposal to reduce commencements to twice a year. The vice presidents noted that 83 percent of students eligible to graduate attend commencement.

An idea to reallocate savings from bonds that were recently refinanced at lower interest rates was scratched. Officials expressed concern about arbitrarily reallocating savings from bonds to the General Fund instead of to the units that paid for the bonds.

Other proposals also are being studied by the vice presidents, who will report back in April with their recommendations on cost-saving measures. Proposals are:

- Eliminating payment of fees and tuition by credit card and adopting a new tuition payment plan.
- Reducing services duplicated by more than one office, or adopting alternative methods of delivering the services.
- Instituting a $20 per quarter fee for bus service, if there is enough interest.
- Raising money through a surcharge on athletic tickets. A fee on basketball tickets raised about $400,000 this year.
- Reducing General Fund support for the Development Office.
- Adding a surcharge on tickets to the Farm Science Review, which attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually. However, the College of Agriculture, which is in debt, was considering a similar plan.
Father and son

Campus Rabbi Areyah Kaltman and his son Yitzchok Dovid spend some quality time together at the OSU Child Care Center.
CHILD CARE CENTER TO INTEGRATE MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN

COLUMBUS -- The Ohio State University Child Care Center will soon become the first in the nation to integrate medically fragile children into a child care center for normal children.

On Friday (2/4), the university's trustees authorized construction of a 4,500-square-foot addition to the Child Care Center at a cost of $500,000. The new construction will allow 15 medically fragile children to be enrolled at the center and will also enable the center to enroll 18 mentally retarded/developmentally delayed (MRDD) children and increase the capacity of typically developing children to 316 from the present 300.

Because of Gov. George V. Voinovich's Family and Children First Initiative, the Ohio Department of Health provided a $250,000 grant to develop and implement programming for the center.

"Without this grant and the governor's personal interest and support this very important program would not have been possible," said E. Gordon Gee, president of Ohio State. "This is an excellent example of how the university and the state can work together for the betterment of all Ohio citizens."

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The program, which will be phased in over the next 18 months, is a cost-effective solution to a growing national health care problem, said Linda Tom, Ohio State's vice president for human resources.

"Based on our experience in analyzing the health care needs of these children, it is anticipated that the university will save $218,000 a year by providing this alternative form of care rather than the one-on-one home health care covered by the university's health insurance plan," she said. "This approach will reduce costs to the university while giving assistance to our employees and students who struggle to meet the complex demands of caring for children. Parents are better able to focus on their jobs or studies when they are satisfied with their child care arrangements. This is an even greater concern when the child's health is fragile."

Medically fragile children rely on prolonged use of medical devices to compensate for the loss of vital bodily functions and require substantial daily skilled nursing care to avert death or further disability. For example, they may be dependent on tube feeding by pump for all their nutrition or they may be able to breathe only with the assistance of a mechanical ventilator.

Previously in Ohio, the only available care for the children was through the medical system. Initially, they are cared for in hospitals, then discharged to their homes, where they may require one-on-one nursing care up to 24 hours a day. When insurance coverage runs out, they are permanently placed in Medicaid-funded nursing homes.

- more -
Governor Voinovich's Family and Children First Initiative funded two pilot projects. One, at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, provides services for medically fragile children in a separate portion of a child care center. The Ohio State project is the first to integrate medically fragile children with typically developing children.

"It is appropriate that Ohio State University and the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo be leaders in creating new models for child care," said Judy Fountain, director of the university's Work and Family Office. "To date, all care for medically fragile children has been based solely on a medical model rather than a child development model. The universities, in collaboration with state and public agencies and private business, can bring together resources to meet the children's developmental and medical needs within a single site."

A 1992 study by the Metropolitan Human Services Commission estimated that there were approximately 118 medically fragile children under the age of 18 in Franklin County. Of that number more than half were younger than 5, reflecting advances in medicine and increases in birth defects related to drug abuse.

The program will be phased in gradually, Fountain said. One medically fragile child, a girl with a feeding tube, has already been successfully integrated into the center as pilot. She entered at age 4 and has now left the center and is a first grader involved in the same activities as her classmates at a local school.

- more -
The center, located at 725 Ackerman Road between Kenny and Olentangy River Roads, currently serves 300 typically developing children whose parents are Ohio State students, faculty or staff members. A few MRDD children already attend the Child Care Center, but must be transported to other facilities for their developmental services. When the new program is fully integrated, they will be able to get "seamless" care -- all at one location. As before, priority for admission to the center will be given to children of Ohio State students, faculty and staff members, Fountain said.

The expansion project also involves some renovations in the existing building to make better use of space. The new construction includes 2,000 square feet dedicated to 15 medically fragile children, 1,000 square feet for 12 additional toddlers, 1,000 square feet of common space to be used by all children for large muscle activities, and 500 square feet for offices, storage and adult restrooms. The $500,000 construction cost of the project will be funded through external sources and user fees and will not involve any university general funds.

Contact: Judy Fountain, (614) 292-0393.
OSU day care to be unified

Medically fragile to attend with other kids

By Alan D. Miller
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

Preschoolers with special medical needs soon will join other children at the Ohio State University
Child Care Center.

OSU officials believe it is the first day-care center in the country to integrate "medically fragile" children into the general day-care population. Officials also say it could cut health-care costs for the children, their families and OSU.

"We cannot afford any longer at OSU to have initiatives that meet a single need, so we looked at how we can do something that meets multiple needs," said Judy Fountain, director of OSU's Work and Family Office, which helps employees balance work and family responsibilities.

Ohio State trustees are expected today to approve spending $500,000 for construction of a 4,500-square-foot addition to the child-care center at 725 Ackerman Rd. Construction money would come from a variety of sources, including day-care center user fees, state funding and third-party payments such as those from insurance companies, officials said.

The building should be ready in a year to 18 months, but integration of students already is happening, Fountain said.

About 300 children of OSU employees and students now attend the center. A new wing will allow 16 more general population children, 18 children with mental disabilities and 15 medically fragile children — those confined to wheelchairs or connected to feeding tubes and ventilators.

Some children with special mental or physical needs have attended the center but were bused to other schools or centers for special programs suited to their needs.

A goal of the enlarged center is to avoid having to bus children, Fountain said. Another is to reduce the need for home nurses to spend each day with medically fragile children.

OSU officials estimate the savings to the university health plan could be $200,000 a year if the seven medically fragile children it covers are in day care and not under the daily care of nurses.

More importantly, she said, the children should benefit.

Medically fragile children often live in isolation from other children, she said. Even at centers designed for children with special needs, they are isolated from their more mobile counterparts.

"The other centers are very good, but they are not integrating kids," she said.

Socializing with other children at preschool age helps the medically fragile children move into mainstream schools more easily, Fountain said.

"The child starts to look normal," she said. "She or he goes to child care with other children. Parents start to have more normal relations with other parents. A community effect starts to happen."
Children kept alive by devices at OSU’s Child Care Center

By Cecilia Lazinsky
Latern staff writer

When Heather began day care at Ohio State she had a nurse by her side to give her injections and take care of the tubes that were necessary for her survival. Heather is considered a medically fragile child because she is kept alive by one or more mechanical devices.

The university’s trustees recently authorized construction of a 1,660-square-foot addition to the OSU Child Care Center on Ackerman Rd. to accommodate medically fragile children like Heather, said Judy Fountain, director of Ohio State’s work and family office.

Fountain said studies have been going on for the past two years to determine the needs of these technologically dependent children and their families. Recent advances in treating premature babies and babies with medical problems, at units like Ohio State’s high-risk neonatal clinic, have resulted in medical intervention that can keep them alive, she said.

That’s really very wonderful, but the result may be that they’re on some form of technology. When they leave the hospital they have home and have a medical device that needs attention. They are on one-on-one home health nursing care," Fountain said.

She said two concerns associated with these children are the economic aspect of caring for them and the isolation of children who need around-the-clock care. There needed to be a center in which children could have their medical needs met and not be separated from other children, Fountain said.

"Heather was born with Hirschsprung disease, which left her without a rectum in her entire large intestine and half of her small intestine, said Beth Deely, her mother. Heather is dependent on a machine called TPN, total parental nutrition, that provides her with the calories and vitamins she needs to grow. She also has a tube that is used to "empty her stomach when she can’t empty it herself or put feedings in there," Deely said.

When it was time to plan for Heather starting school, Deely was concerned about her going from a full-time nurse at home everyday to dropping her off at school. Deely, a university employee, spoke with Dr. Patricia Temple, medical director of OSU’s Managed Health Care Systems, about her anxiety.

Fountain and others became involved in trying to find a way to help Heather and her family. They worked out a plan for Heather to enter OSU’s Child Care Center as a member of a trial project intended to determine the feasibility of a program for medically fragile children.

"It was, very, very successful, and it was wonderful to be able to have a university family work with us on this," Fountain said.

Heather’s nurse traveled to day care with her. When Heather was not having a medical treatment, the nurse was out of the room and Heather would be just like the other kids, Deely said. "Before that (day care at Ohio State), Heather was mostly by herself or her nurse would take her places. But it still isn’t the same as getting into the groove of going to school."

Sophia C. Antjian/The Lantern

Patrick Hanish, 3, climbs a ladder in Ohio State’s Child Care Center, located on Ackerman Road. The center cares for children of all ages.

The program for medically fragile children at Ohio State will save money for the university by reducing the insurance costs, Fountain said.

"When we started this four or five years ago, there were three technology dependent children on the university health plan, all of the children of faculty and staff. Over the years it grew to five, and the last time I looked, there were seven of these kids. That’s not a large block of numbers, but the home health care alone for these children can be very, very expensive," Fountain said.

"Until we had a center like this available, we were putting one-on-one nursing in the home, and the health plan had to pay for these highly skilled nurses to be with the child in the home. This allows the child to get out of the house and decrease our cost because we have a little different ratio; 1-to-3 nurses to children," Temple said.

The addition will accommodate 15 medically fragile children and will add a few new spots for typical children. Fountain said there are over 200 on a waiting list to get into the child care center.

"When we proposed this, we did not feel we could create anything that reduced the number of typical children, and in fact, our goal was to increase the number. The facility will add 16 new spaces for typically developing children. That represents one full classroom of typical children," Fountain said.

In the event that there is no longer a need for services for the medically fragile children, the addition is designed to be converted back to space for typically developing children, Fountain said.

"The medically fragile child care is going to be managed by an outside company. They’re taking all of the financial risks, and basically they will be leasing space," Fountain said.

She also said that no new university money could go into this project, and development and implementation costs are being covered by a $250,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Health.

Ohio State’s program and one at the Medical College of Ohio were identified under Gov. George Voinovich’s Family and Children First Initiative for integrated projects that meet the needs of more than one population, Fountain said.

The program will be gradually put into place over the next 18 months.

Heather started the pilot program when she was four. She is now seven and a first-grader at Liberty Christian Academy.

"I think it’s due to the day care because, without that, she would still be by herself doing things, not learning how to share, not learning that it’s OK that she has all these tubes and nobody cares about them. It just really worked out," Deely said.

doing book work, sitting with other kids and not feeling ashamed that you have these tubes...just made her comfortable,” Deely said.

At the center Heather became more independent, Deely said. "I think being around other kids, she learned to do for herself."

"I’m very positive about this, both as the medical director of a health plan where I have to look at cost containment and make sure every dollar counts, and also as a pediatrician. I think that this is really important for children who are technologically dependent to be able to get out of the house into a much more normal environment," Temple said.

Fountain said the costs of home health care are high, and some people in the insurance industry classify these medically fragile children as “bad babies” because they will exhaust the total amount of coverage allowed for one person by the time they reach the age of five.

See CARE / Page Two
Smallest ‘students’ find care at 4 centers

By Gemma McLucie

Not all the students at Ohio State are adults. Four centers at the Columbus campus have a different enrollment — children from birth to puberty, both average kids and those who need extra encouragement.

The child care services are building a collaborative effort, the Network for Young Children. The centers will mark their joint effort by celebrating the Week of the Child, April 17-23.

The network includes the Rogers Laboratory for Child and Family Studies, the Language Enrichment and Acquisition Preschool (LEAP) at the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, the Nisonger Center Early Childhood Education Program, and the University Child Care Centers.

The move comes as both President Gee and Richard Sisson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, are urging campus units to form multidisciplinary bonds.

“The network will create effective links among the groups and maximize their connection with teaching and research,” said Rachel Rillero, clinic demonstrator for speech and hearing.

“Networking will streamline communication between child care service providers, make referrals for families more efficient, and enhance the quality of care,” she said. “Additionally, faculty will have an efficient way to assist their teaching and research efforts.”

The Rogers Laboratory in the College of Human Ecology has long offered high-quality care of preschoolers. Now the school runs programs for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. The facility in Campbell Hall is a place where University students test their skills as teachers and where researchers may observe human growth and adaptation.

The Child Care Center also offers a helping hand. From 6 a.m. to midnight, staff watch over children from 6 weeks old to 12 years old. The center on Ackerman Road now cares for some “medically fragile” children. Students majoring in early childhood education serve internships in the facility.

“We love it,” said Andrea Kortenhoven of Columbus, whose 3-year-old daughter, Jordan, has attended the center since she was 6 months old. “It’s nice to know that we have reliable people to care for our children."

Kortenhoven is a senior majoring in linguistics. Her husband, Matt, is a senior majoring in international studies. Their older child, Peter, attends the center’s summer program for school-aged children.

“I don’t think you can overstate the importance of the child-care benefit,” said Sandra Tannebaum, assistant professor of allied medical professions. Tannebaum and her husband, Will Batstone, associate professor of classics, put their daughter, Leah, now almost 5, on the waiting list even before she was born.

A new entry into child care services is the LEAP preschool, which is enrolling a dozen children, both those who are developing typically and those who have language disorders. Beginning this summer, the program in Pressey Hall will emphasize language and communication enrichment. LEAP will be a teaching site for graduate students in speech and language pathology and audiology. “And will provide a unique context for the study of language and communication development,” Rillero said.

The Nisonger Center provides opportunities for students who are interested in special education, said Mary Beth Paul of Westerville. Her son, Peter Ben, 3, is a child with Down syndrome.

“It is vital that students get a really good experience (as interns) because it can make or break them” (as special education teachers), she said. Paul has had a career in social services, and her husband Peter is associate professor of educational services and resources.

The University setting, where teachers, directors and supervisors are under close scrutiny, means that “people are ‘on’ 100 percent of the time,” Mary Beth Paul added.

Play mingle with learning. Children who are developmentally or mentally delayed learn beside their typically developing peers. LuAnn and Ty Jacobs of Hilliard have enrolled Jacob, 6, twins Kyle and Tyler, 4, and Micah, 3. Jacob and Kyle have a genetic condition, fragile X syndrome. Children with fragile X syndrome show behavioral difficulties, ranging from mild learning disabilities to severe autism with mental retardation. Tyler and Micah do not have the damaged gene.

LuAnn Jacobs, whose brother has the abnormal X chromosome, said she realized when her sons were diagnosed that “early intervention is the key to success.”

Ninety-six children from 18 months to 6 years old are assigned classes with eight children with special needs and four typically developing children.

“In a program with a university setting, parents can expect teachers to be using up-to-the-minute resources, techniques and philosophies,” Paul pointed out.

The University should continue its involvement in special education, Jacobs said, because “if we put more kids in programs (such as Nisonger) and make them more able (to care for themselves or hold jobs), they’ll be less of a burden on society in the long run.

“Investing now will pay off later.”
Network for Young Children

Rogers Laboratory for Child and Family Studies, Department of Family Relations and Human Development; Rebecca Kantor, 292-5622

Ground floor, Campbell Hall

Full-day child care for 6 weeks through 5 years old

Infant-Toddler Lab, 10 children, 6 weeks through 3 years old; Preschool Lab, 20 children, 3-5 years old

Language Enrichment and Acquisition Preschool (LEAP), Department of Speech and Hearing Science and the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic; Rachel Rillero, 292-6251

134 Pressey Hall
Now enrolling for preschool to start in summer 1994

12 children, both typically developing children and those with language disorders

Language and communication enrichment

Nisonger Center Early Childhood Education Program; Nisonger Center University Affiliated Program; Eva Rase, 292-9605

325 McCampbell Hall

98 children, 18 months to 6 years, both typically developing children and those with developmental delays

Facilitate language and communication skills, cognition, socialization, motor skills and self care

University Child Care Center, Office of Human Resources; Becky Wilkins, 292-4453

725 Ackerman Rd.

550 children, 6 weeks through 12 years old, both typically developing children and those with special needs; open 6 a.m.-midnight, full- and part-day enrollments

Also home-based care arranged with providers, and school-age summer program
Rare bacteria infects children at care center

By Michelle Schaner
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Child Care Center received a scare when several children were diagnosed as carriers of a rare form of the E. Coli bacteria.

The type of E. Coli discovered at the center last month is a contagious, potentially fatal bacteria found in beef products, said Judy Heeg, communicable disease program administrator for the Ohio Department of Health.

Unlike most forms of E. Coli, the kind of bacteria found in the children at the center is not easily destroyed by thorough cooking, said Herbert Ockerman, professor of animal science in the college of food, agriculture and environmental sciences.

Symptoms range from stomach cramps and acute diarrhea to hemolytic uremic syndrome, a life-threatening disease affecting children under five that can lead to kidney failure, Heeg said.

The center contacted the Ohio Department of Health a few weeks after Memorial Day, when a two-year-old child in the center was diagnosed by a family doctor as a carrier of the rare bacteria, said Becky Wilkins, program director of OSU Child Care.

Two more children began showing symptoms similar to those of E. Coli carriers about the same time, Wilkins said.

Once the ODH confirmed that E. Coli was causing the illnesses, all 300 children were tested, Wilkins said.

A letter to parents was mailed on June 21, describing the nature of the disease as well as precautions being taken by staff members to contain the bacteria.
NEWS ADVISORY:

VOINOVI CH AND GEE TO BREAK GROUND FOR CHILD CARE FACILITY

Gov. George V. Voinovich and Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee will be among the officials wielding child-size shovels in a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday (9/29) for an addition to the university's Child Care Center. The addition will allow the center to enroll 15 medically fragile children, the first time such children have been integrated into a child care center for typically developing children. The 4,500-square foot addition will also allow the enrollment of 18 mentally retarded/developmentally delayed children and increase the capacity of typically developing children from 300 to 316 -- for a total enrollment of 350 children.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. Thursday on the east side of the Child Care Center, 725 Ackerman Road. Voinovich and Gee will make brief remarks, as will Linda Tom, vice president for human resources at Ohio State, and Dr. Mary McIlroy, director of medical student education at Children's Hospital, member of the Ohio Day Care Council, and chair of the Committee on Child Care of the American Pediatric Association. Several parents and their medically fragile children will attend. Following the groundbreaking, there will be tours of the Child Care Center.

Medically fragile children are defined as those who rely on prolonged use of medical devices to compensate for loss of vital bodily functions and who require substantial daily skilled nursing care to avert death or disability. It is estimated that there are about 120 medically fragile children in Franklin County, half of whom are under 5 years of age.

The Ohio Department of Health, through Voinovich's Family and Children First Initiative, has awarded the Child Care Center $375,000 to develop and implement programming for medically fragile children at the center. The grant also covers the cost of equipment and nursing services and will fund an Ohio State research project to measure the financial and other costs to a family with a medically fragile child.

Contact: Judy Fountain, director of Ohio State's Work and Family Office, 292-0393, or Ruth Gerstner, University Communications, 292-8424.
GROUND BROKEN FOR FACILITY FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN

COLUMBUS -- Ohio Gov. George V. Voinovich and Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee joined other officials today (9/29) in a groundbreaking ceremony for an addition to the university's Child Care Center. The addition will make it possible for medically fragile children to be enrolled in the center.

Medically fragile children are defined as those who rely on prolonged use of medical devices to compensate for loss of vital bodily functions and who require substantial daily skilled nursing care to avert death or further disability. For example, they may be dependent on tube feeding by pump for all their nutrition or they may be able to breathe only with the assistance of a mechanical ventilator.

The $500,000, 4,500-square foot addition to the center on Ackerman Road will allow 15 medically fragile children to be enrolled at the center and will also enable the center to enroll 18 mentally retarded/developmentally delayed (MRDD) children and increase the capacity of typically developing children to 316 from the present 300.

The new construction includes 2,000 square feet dedicated to 15 medically fragile children, 1,000 square feet for 12
additional toddlers, 1,000 square feet of common space to be used by all children for large muscle activities, and 500 square feet for offices, storage and adult restrooms.

The Ohio Department of Health has provided a $375,000 grant to develop and implement programming for the medically fragile children at the center. The grant also covers the cost of equipment and nursing services, and will fund an Ohio State research project to measure the financial and other costs to a family with a medically fragile child.

The project is one of two pilot programs funded through Voinovich's Family and Children First Initiative. One, at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, provides services for medically fragile children in a separate portion of a child care center. The Ohio State project is the first in the nation to integrate medically fragile children into an existing child care facility.

"The Family and Children First Initiative strives to make government do a better job of listening to parents," Voinovich said. "Today's groundbreaking demonstrates that we can give these children with special needs a chance to play and learn with others, give their parents a much needed break from providing around-the-clock care, and avoid costly nursing home bills. Today we celebrate a positive partnership of government and parents, with these special children being the real winners. As the Family and Children First Initiative progresses, you'll be seeing a lot more of these kinds of positive solutions."

Care for medically fragile children is typically only
available through the medical system. Initially, these children are cared for in hospitals, then discharged to their homes, where they may require one-on-one nursing care up to 24 hours a day. When insurance coverage runs out, they often are permanently placed in Medicaid-funded nursing homes.

Judy Fountain, director of Ohio State's Work and Family Office, says placing the children in a center with typically developing children places more emphasis on the families' and children's total development rather than just their physical health.

"To date, all care for medically fragile children has been based primarily on a medical model rather than a child development model," Fountain said. "Ohio State University, in collaboration with state and public agencies and private businesses, can bring together resources to meet the children's developmental and medical needs within a single site."

Although construction of the addition will not be complete until September 1995, the child care center has begun to phase-in enrollment of medically fragile children. The university is completing negotiations with Children's Homecare Services of Children's Hospital to operate "Children's Express at OSU," which will provide nursing and developmental services for medically fragile children.

"Partnerships such as these are truly an investment in the well-being of our citizens and the future of our community," said Gee. "Our center has long been known for its excellent services and the important educational opportunities it provides. This
facility will allow us to build on that fine tradition while offering state-of-the-art care for these special children and their families."

Linda Tom, vice president for human resources at Ohio State, estimates the university will save over $200,000 a year by providing this alternative form of care rather than one-on-one home health care for the medically fragile children of employees covered by the university's health care plans. "This integrated approach will reduce costs while assisting our employees and students who struggle to meet the complex demands of caring for children with severe needs," she said. "We believe it's truly a win-win opportunity to provide better services for medically fragile children and to manage our health care funds more effectively."

A 1992 study by the Metropolitan Human Services Commission estimated that there were approximately 120 medically fragile children under the age of 18 in Franklin County. Of that number, more than half were younger than 5, reflecting advances in medicine and increases in birth defects related to drug abuse.

Contact: Judy Fountain, 292-0393.
Child care unit to cater to medically fragile children

By Amy Perry
Lantern staff writer

Gov. George V. Voinovich and OSU President E. Gordon Gee broke ground yesterday for an addition to the OSU Child Care Center.

Construction on the 4,500 square foot addition, which will double the center's space, will finish by September 1995.

Most of the addition will be devoted to medically fragile children.

It is the first facility of its kind in Ohio, Gee said.

"Upon its completion, this integrated unit will provide innovative and cost effective services for 16 medically fragile children, 18 developmentally delayed children," said Linda Tom, vice president for human resources at Ohio State.

The addition will provide full day care, including physical and speech therapy and other educational services for children from the age of six weeks to six years. The center defines medically fragile as any child who relies on medical devices, such as feeding tubes or respirators, or require daily nursing care.

The Ohio Department of Health will provide Ohio State with $375,000 during a two-year period to build the new addition, Voinovich said.

The children will receive the highest level of care, costing $345 dollars a day (compared to $540 for home-based care and $800 for hospital care), Voinovich said.

The university will save more than $200,000 a year by providing this center rather than paying the high cost of home care covered by university health care plans, Tom said.

"By this initiative today we are not only doing something special for these families but we are also conserving the dollars so we can do more," Voinovich said.

This addition reflects the kind of partnership that adds to both Ohio State and Ohio's qualities, Gee said.

"Without the governor's personal interest and support, this very important program would not have been possible," Gee added. This shows a positive example of the state and university working together to serve the community, Gee said.

"This facility will allow us to build on that fine tradition while offering state of the art care for these special children and their families. It will be the best of its kind," Gee said. In the addition, 2,000 square feet will go to medically fragile children, 1,000 square feet will get used by all the children for group activities, and the additional 1,500 square feet will become open and office space. The addition will create room for 12 more children, Gerstner said.

The project began more than 5 years ago, with Judy Fountain driving force in making this center a reality, Tom said.

Care for medically fragile children has used a medical model as a base, but this facility uses a child development model, Fountain said.

Dr. Mary McIntyre, medical advisor to the center, said medically fragile children need to interact with children outside the home and gain a sense of independence.

"This exciting concept of group child care will help meet the special medical needs of these children and at the same time address the developmental needs that they have," McIntyre said. McIntyre said she hopes this integrated group childcare concept will exist in all day-care centers and eventually the school systems in the future.

"This new venture provides an endless possibility for teaching and research in child development," McIntyre said.

Opportunities for training those in the medical profession who will deal with children and families are endless, she said.

"As part of the university, the center will provide unique research and educational opportunities for faculty, staff, students and professional care givers," Tom said.

Ohio State's Office of Human Resources and College of Human Ecology will conduct a research project to study the impact of caring for a medically fragile child on the family, Tom said.

"The addition to the OSU Child Care Center will enrich our lives with daily opportunities for children, parents and staff to play and interact with children of different abilities and needs," Tom said.
Child care wait can be unending

By Greg Sowinski
Lantern staff writer

Students, faculty and staff are forced to plan at least two years in advance if they want to use the OSU Child Care Center.

A person who recently had a baby and applied for OSU child care today probably won't be accepted into the center anytime soon, said Lynn Gallagher, program coordinator for the center. The wait is two and a half years, she said.

The older the child, the less likely it is they will be accepted, Gallagher said.

The university does not have the money to add to the program and accommodate more children sooner, said William Shkurti, vice president for finance.

Gallagher said any member of the OSU community wanting child care must first fill out an application at the center. The application is dated and a number is assigned to the parent.

Then the waiting begins.

The program is set up on a first-come, first-served basis. The only special enrollment circumstances are for members who have a child enrolled, or for mothers in the Access Program.

The Access Program recruits and retains minority mothers. These women are usually single, Gallagher said.

Terri Meyer, a senior from Fostoria, has a 1-year-old daughter and is on the waiting list. She said she knew OSU had a child care program, but did not realize there was a long wait until she tried to sign up.

"I need the facility now, but I will graduate before I get to use it," Meyer said. "It's ridiculous."

Meyer is using a private day care center that costs $425 per month.

Ohio State should support students who have children, Meyer said. The university needs to expand the program and build a facility closer to central campus, she added.

The OSU center is located on Ackerman Road, about two miles from central campus.

The center has an average of 750 children on its waiting list each quarter, but accepts only 300, including children already enrolled in the center, Gallagher said. Children range from infants to kindergarten age, she said.

The cost ranges from $68 to $139 per week, depending on the child's age and family income, Gallagher said.

There is one teacher per eight children. Each teacher must have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education or an associate's degree in

See CHILD CARE Page 3
University, state reach out to serve medically fragile kids

By Ruth Gerstner

President Gee and Gov. George V. Voinovich joined other officials Sept. 29 in a groundbreaking ceremony for an addition to the Child Care Center. The addition will make it possible for medically fragile children to be enrolled in the center.

Medically fragile children rely on prolonged use of medical devices to compensate for loss of vital bodily functions and require substantial daily skilled nursing care to avert death or further disability. For example, they may be dependent on tube feeding by pump for all their nutrition or they may be able to breathe only with the assistance of a mechanical ventilator.

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The new construction also includes common space to be used by all children for large muscle activities, and offices, storage areas and adult restrooms.

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The project is one of two pilot programs funded through Voinovich’s Family and Children First Initiative. One, at the Medical College of Ohio at Toledo, provides services for medically fragile children in a separate portion of a child care center. The Ohio State project is the first in the nation to integrate medically fragile children into an existing child care facility.

“The Family and Children First Initiative strives to make government do a better job of listening to parents,” Voinovich said. The Sept. 29 groundbreaking “demonstrates that we can give these children with special needs a chance to play and learn with others, give their parents a much needed break from providing around-the-clock care, and avoid costly nursing home bills. Today we celebrate a positive partnership of government and parents, with these special children being the real winners.”

Care for medically fragile children is typically only available through the medical system. Initially, these children are cared for in hospitals, then discharged to their homes, where they may require one-on-one nursing care up to 24 hours a day. When insurance coverage runs out, they often are permanently placed in Medicaid-funded nursing homes.
New center could relieve child care shortage at OSU

By Tiffany C. Miller
Lantern staff writer

A new child care center on Lane Avenue could help provide the service needed by many members of the OSU community.

The Child Nurturing Center, which opened Monday, is located at 1610 W. Lane Ave. The center is now accepting children to fill 90 openings on a first-come, first-serve basis. This could mean the end of a lot of the worries of some parents at Ohio State who have been struggling with the lack of quality child care in the campus area.

"Just by talking to people in the community, I know finding child care has been a problem for student parents in Columbus," said Marla Hurst, director of the new center.

The OSU Child Care Center currently has a two-and-a-half-year waiting list. Every quarter, 750 applications are received by the center, with room for only 300.

"We receive a number of calls each week from parents who are unable to find care," said Jean Dodson, administrator of the OSU Child Care Center. "We try to refer them to other programs, but beyond that we can only offer to put them on a wait list."

The high demand for child care has drawn students to centers in Dublin, Gahanna, Worthington, Hilliard, and downtown.

"One major issue for these parents is security," said Kristen Barriga, director of City Kids Daycare-Downtown. "Many of the centers that do exist on campus don't offer care that is of a high enough quality for most parents."

Terri Meyer, a senior in landscape architecture, is a parent who got stuck on the OSU Child Care Center's waiting list and had to look elsewhere.

"Our child care center is on King Avenue," Meyer said. "We have to drive there before class, drive home to park the car, and then walk to class because it is too hard to find a parking space by that time. It would really have helped to find a quality center within walking distance."

According to Dodson, the OSU Child Care Center has no plans to expand the number of spaces for children.

"It is clear there is a need for additional child care in our community," Dodson said. "Any new centers would be helpful."

When Upper Arlington officials approached several area churches and asked them to consider helping to solve the child care problem in the Upper Arlington area, Lane Avenue Baptist Church took the challenge.

"We may not be able to meet anything other than a fraction of the need, but hopefully other churches will become aware and open their own centers," said Wayne Nicholson, pastor of the Lane Avenue Baptist Church.

The center, located at 1610 W. Lane Ave., has been in the planning stages for about four years. It was built on funds donated by the church, which will pay back with money made through child care fees. The center will then operate self-sufficiently, offering care on a full-time and part-time basis.

"This is a very convenient child care solution for OSU students," Hurst said. "We are close to campus, and have competitive rates. Many centers don't allow part-time care, which is exactly what most college students need."

Meyer said although having another child care center will help meet the high demand, she would rather see OSU implement more of its own child care programs.

"I would much rather see OSU supporting me as a parent than another child care facility," Meyer said.
Grant enables fragile kids to play on special equipment

By David Tull

Ohio State’s Child Care Center will use a $125,000 Board of Regents’ grant to add and adapt playground equipment for children with medically fragile needs or developmental delays, according to Rebecca Wilkins, program director of the child care program.

Ohio State is one of 19 state colleges and universities that will benefit from a $2 million grant for child care facilities. The Board of Regents May 12 approved distribution of monies, which the Ohio General Assembly and Gov. George V. Voinovich approved last June.

The grant requires matching funds, which will come from the Ohio Department of Health grant for Medically Fragile Child Care, and from the child care budget, Wilkins said.

“A primary aim of the Board of Regents was to improve existing child care for the children of students,” Wilkins said. “About 33 percent of our population are children of students.” The Ohio State facility cares for up to 450 children.

The Board of Regents cited as priorities those institutions without child care facilities, centers where children of enrolled students make up a portion of the population, and centers used as classrooms and training labs.

Ohio has committed a total of $4.5 million over six years to place child care facilities on campuses to meet student needs. Regents Chancellor Elaine H. Harrison called it “a journey that began six years ago to ensure that children have the opportunity for high quality care,” noting that there are now 42 campuses where child care is available.

“Today’s college student is very likely to be 22 years of age or older, in the work force, and the parent of one or more children,” she said. “To these students, the availability of child care facilities is as important as the availability of courses and money for tuition and books.”

“We don’t want child care to be a barrier to student access,” said Liz Lanier, secretary of the Board of Regents. She also called for a “reasonable timetable” to provide facilities at the remaining 15 state colleges and universities.
OSU center to care for 'medically fragile' kids

By Kristine A. Sulak
Lantern staff writer

Construction of a $500,000 addition to Ohio State's Child Care Center should be completed by the end of December, said Jean Dodson, program coordinator at the center.

The Integrated Child Care Center Addition, located on Ackerman Road, will serve nine "medically fragile" children, said Barbara Koehl, of the Office of the University Architect and Physical Planning.

The addition will consist of a gym, two classrooms and a restroom, Koehl said.

The project originated to better suit the needs of children who require nursing aid, Dodson said.

This project will help them integrate with the other children at the center, Dodson said.

The project also will allow the medically fragile children to go with their nurse to the other classroom to socialize, Dodson said.

"All the children benefit because children are able to see and understand children that have special needs," Dodson said.

The new classroom will be staffed through Children's Hospital, Whittton said.

The nine occupants will come off of a waiting list that is at least two years long, Dodson said.

The Child Care Center serves children ages six weeks to 12 years old, Dodson said.

Children beyond kindergarten are cared for in the evenings and in a summer school-age program, Dodson said.

The program began in March 1972 as a result of a demand for child care, Dodson said.

Before moving to Ackerman Road in August 1987, the center rented space from United Methodist Church on 17th Avenue and Summit Street, Whittton said.

This will be the first addition to the 22-classroom Child Care Center, Whittton said.

About 70 full-time staff members care for children of 450 families at the center, Whittton said.

About 300 children can be in the center at a time, Whittton said.

Although no one has priority on the waiting list, 100 spots are subsidized for hospital employees and 200 spots are subsidized for university staff, faculty and students, Dodson said.

Mindy Starcher, administrative assistant in the registrar's office, was on the waiting list for three years before her son Cody entered the program.
Child care hard to find at Ohio State

By Tina Daniel
Lantern staff writer

The wait is about one year.

No, it's not this fall's financial aid line at Lincoln Tower. It's the amount of time families hold out for an open space at the Ohio State University Child Care Center.

While OSU students, staff and faculty are all eligible for child care at the center, 725 Ackerman Road, access to the facility is another story.

Since the early 1970s, when OSU opened its center, there has been consistent demand for child care on campus. For many parents, this has meant pursuing other means of care for their children while waiting in line.

Fatme Hassan, an OSU graduate student, put her daughter's name on the list when she turned 1 month old. That was April 1992. Three years later, the center informed her there was a space available in the infant room.

"By that time, my daughter was 3 years old," Hassan said. "Every time I asked for an update on the situation they gave me excuses."

Hassan was working on her master's degree in early childhood education when she needed help. She finally gave up and took her daughter to Kiddy Prep Christian School on King Avenue. A year later, she transferred her to a facility in Worthington, which is a 20 minute drive from campus.

"It was a bit of an inconvenience in that respect because the whole idea of the child care center on campus is to serve mothers and parents at the university," she said.

Amy Rush, an early childhood teacher at OSU Child Care, said the center's goal is to provide appropriate care in a secure environment.

"When that environment can't be here, we try to accommodate parents and children the best ways we know how," she said.

Jean Dodson, program coordinator of the center, believes the waiting list is not accurate and can be deceptive.

"The problem was people kept their names on the list as a safety net," she said. "Some of them aren't even pregnant."

Changes were made this year to address wait list overcrowding. Parents received an update card to confirm their status and to help reduce the wait list.

The list dropped from 752 to 496, a more manageable number, said Becky Wilkins, the center's program director.

Families relocating, students graduating and parents who have found a satisfying alternative also created a reduction, Wilkins said.

Rush, who has been with the center for nine years, said quality child care providers are always in demand.

"There are nearly 300 children here," she said. "It's very hard to meet everyone's needs these days."

While the ratio of teacher to child varies depending on daily needs, it is generally one to four for infants, one to five for toddlers and one to nine for preschool age. The older children are roughly 12 children per teacher.