

Center News



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A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Spring 2004

The GSA Nationwide
Network of Child
Care Coordinators

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NCR Celebrates Two Child Care Center Openings

Innovation Station Child Development Center, located on the site of the new Patent and Trademark Office campus in Alexandria, Virginia, opened its doors on April 5, 2004. The 17,069 square foot center serves 138 children. The center has a modern and contemporary design with large windows in each room that provide a flood of natural light. The program is managed by Bright Horizons and offers a scientific and technological curriculum emphasizing science, mathematics, and technology.



*Infant Room,
Innovation Station Child Development Center*

On May 12, 2004, the United States Census Bureau celebrated the opening of Suitland Federal Child Development Center with an Open House and Dedication Ceremony. The 7,200 square foot facility is a pre-engineered center, complete with a state of the art playground, is designed to accommodate 68 children. The design and construction of the center was completed in 18 months. Children from families working in the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Navy, and NOAA share the facility. The center is managed by Angelic Care, Child & Dependent Care Solutions.



*L to R:
Scott Rayder, Chief of Staff, NOAA, Theodore Johnson, Associate Director for Finance and Admin., U.S. Census Bureau, Mrs. Gary Shepherd, wife of deceased MWR Director, Office of Naval Intelligence, US Navy C. Louis Kincannon, Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Ms. Terrie Henderson, President Angelic Care, Inc., Captain Vivian Turnbull, Deputy Commander, Office of Naval Intelligence, US Navy.*



Kevin's Corner

Letter from the "Corporate" World

I was recently assigned to a position in the newly created Office of Applied Science (incidentally, Child Care will be located in the same office), as the "Subject Matter Expert" for Workplace.

It's an opportunity to advance, on perhaps a larger scale, the core idea which the GSA Child Care has been pursuing for 10, these many years: *Space matters* - and not just because well-designed and well-appointed facilities are pretty to look at, or make for good press. Those things are nice, and highly desirable. But in a world of tight resources, the expenditures of taxpayer money must have a greater justification.

And here is that justification: Properly designed space is *essential* for creating those bedrocks of quality care: Nurture and trust between child and adult. When these occur, Federal families know it. This allows them to more fully dedicate themselves to the Public's business. Over the years, as GSA's Child Care program has established itself as World-class, we have come to know this hypothesis about the importance of space is true, and have (largely) convinced others that it is. This core belief has become part of our culture at GSA and contributes greatly to the Agency's National recognition in this field.

In the same way, the fledgling Workplace Program is founded upon the belief that properly designed space is an *essential* tool for optimizing worker's talents. We cannot expect top-notch knowledge workers to work at their best with outmoded technology that fights their efforts. Why should we expect excellence from them if they are housed, as is too often the case, in ill-considered facilities that fight them at every turn? If this belief of the Workplace Program sounds like the hypothesis on which quality child care space founded, that's because it is: **Space matters** - It is more than overhead. It is the silent partner of success.

So here is where it gets interesting: As part of my new duties, I recently attended a Conference in Chicago, The CoreNet Global Summit: all real estate executives -the movers and the shakers of the commercial real estate industry. *Very adult*. Imagine my surprise, when in a session I attended about a hugely successful case study on a very innovative and profitable company headquarters, the presenter identified *the provision of on-site child care as the lynchpin to the project's success and its resulting immense profitability!* Of course, we in Child Care know that, but it was intensely gratifying, and even startling to hear it in this context and from a source least expected: the money people! It made me realize that these two fields really are integrated and they collaborate toward providing an integrated world-class workplace for a world-class workforce, which is GSA's mission.

As for me and my future:, I will always be around for consultation even as the Office of Applied Science welcomes fresh (and yet-to-be determined) talent. The reason is simple. In my professional life I have had the opportunity to work for clients as "important" and diverse as developers, Federal Judges, and even King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. But nothing can equal the satisfaction of having made the journey of childhood in these turbulent times a little better. Ultimately, that's what appropriate, well-designed and beautiful space does: It *really* does it makes life better - or so I believe.

Treasure House Child Development Center Receives a New Look

The Treasure House Child Development Center in Covington, KY recently received a new look in their multi-purpose area. An impact-absorbent carpeted surfacing was installed by Safe Landings to provide the necessary fall zone for the climbing equipment located in the area. Treasure House, a NAEYC accredited center, is operated by Children, Inc. and recently received it's second 3 STAR rating by Stars For Kids Now, Kentucky's voluntary child care rating system. Stars for Kids Now is a part of the Governor's Early Childhood Education Initiative. It defines and rewards quality standards for children in child care settings.



15th Annual GSA Child Care Conference

Now is the Time to Register!!

The 15th annual GSA Child Care Conference will be held at the Seaport Hotel at the World Trade Center, One Seaport Lane, Boston, MA July 20-22, 2004. The conference will open with a luncheon at noon on Tuesday, July 20 and end with a luncheon on Thursday, July 22.

One of the highlights of the conference will be a presentation by Dr. T Berry Brazelton, one of the most renowned experts on child development. Other featured speakers include Kim McClennahan Means, Acting Senior Director NAEYC Academy Early Childhood Program Accreditation, and Charlotte Blake Altson, Master Storyteller, and Diane E. Levin, PhD, Professor of Education, Wheelock College.



Dr. T. Berry Brazelton

This year the room rate is \$159 plus tax, single/double occupancy (each additional adult is \$25 per night). Children 18 and under are free. This rate is available three days pre and post conference (based on availability). The Seaport Hotel is a smoke free environment. To make a reservation call 1-877-SEAPORT (1-877-732-7678) and ask for the "GSA Child Care Conference" room block. The deadline for reservations at the hotel is June 28, 2004.

Conference rates are as follows:

	Early Bird <i>(before 6/28/04)</i>	Regular rate
Caregivers	\$140	\$165
Directors and Assistant Directors	\$200	\$225
All other attendees	\$250	\$275

***Early Bird Deadline 6/28/04**

Conference participants may register on line, by fax, or by mail. Visit our website at www.gsa.gov/childcare for further information about registration, conference sessions and speakers. For more information, please call Nancy Norris on (404) 331-1851.

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 76% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent accreditation:

- **Jamaica Kids Early Learning Center, Jamaica, NY*
- **Healthy Environments, San Francisco, CA*

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent re-accreditation:

- **Stars & Tykes, Dallas, TX*
- **Rainbow School, Honolulu, HI*
- **White Flint Country Day, Rockville, MD*
- **Future Stars, Austin, TX*



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(For additional copies call 415-522-3472)

Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.

Check out these Websites

<http://nccic.org>: National Child Care Information Center. There are a number of affiliated sites that can be linked to through this site including:

<http://nccic.org/pubs/goodstart/gsgs-intro.html>: Good Start Grow Smart: President Bush's early childhood initiative.

<http://nccic.org/cctopics/literacy.html>: resources on early literacy and learning.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/geninfo/ccfdesc.htm>: Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), funding, and Quality Investments

www.childcareaware.org/en/operationchildcare/: Operation Child Care is a program through which centers can offer to provide a few hours of free child care for National Guard and Reserve members on (R&R) leave from Iraq or Afghanistan.

www.boardcafé.com: a board resource and referral site and email newsletter.

www.nieer.org: National Institute for Early Childhood Education

Courtyard Kids Child Development Center Receives Scholarship Fund Donation

Recently, Judge Leonard D. Wexler of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York designated a portion of unclaimed funds from a class action settlement to Courtyard Kids, Inc., the child care center Board of Directors. Courtyard Kids, Inc. will use the funds to benefit their scholarship fund for families with children enrolled at the center. This is the first major contribution to the scholarship fund.

Parents and center staff are encouraged to check the following website regularly: **www.recalls.gov**