

Early Childhood Care and Education Services

Newsletter Spring 2008

Early Childhood Care & Education Services

~Ready for School, Ready for Life

Relationships are the Heart of the Matter

Early childhood educators have long promoted healthy social - emotional development as integral to a child's growth in all developmental domains including cognitive, physical and creative. This outlook was validated during our annual "Kindergarten Perspectives" meeting held in January. A panel of principals, admissions directors and kindergarten teachers from seven local schools - private and public- discussed methodology, curriculum, expectations and the philosophies that define their schools. They each spoke to meeting and exceeding State standards for academic competencies and, without exception, they spoke of their goals for educating children to be 'citizens of the world'.

The issues of social justice, personal responsibility, kindness, service and conflict resolution were consistent themes put forward as underlying foundations for learning in kindergarten and beyond. Their presentations underscored the fact that the seeds of 'school readiness' are sown from infancy and are as dependent on the quality of relationships as they are on access to enriched learning experiences and

that these go hand in hand.

The significance of the role that relationships play in a child's overall long-term development has been succinctly stated by the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2004). "Growth promoting relationships are based on the child's continuous give-and-take ("action and interac-



Wearing their own Lion Masks , these boys bravely watched the enormous Lion Dancer during the Chinese New Year Celebration.

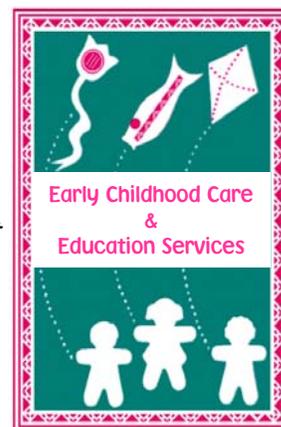
tion") with a human partner who provides what nothing else in the world can offer - experiences that are individualized to the child's unique personality style; that build on his or her own interests, capabilities, and initiative; that shape the child's self-awareness; and that stimulate the growth of his or her heart and mind."

They go on to say "Stated simply, establishing successful relationships with adults and other children provides

a foundation of capacities that children will use for a lifetime." and that "relationships engage children in the human community in ways that help them define who they are, what they can become, and how and why they are important to other people. "

These are not insignificant achievements for a child, indeed

for anyone. And yet, when you observe the daily happenings of the Children's Centers through this lens, you realize that each child is working towards these accomplishments every day in a myriad of ways. Examples abound, and in some, the benefits are self-evident; consider what was gained from the recent Chinese New Year Celebration in which Children's Center parents arranged for singers and dancers to perform on the eve of the New Year, followed by a *cont'd on page 2*



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Heart of the Matter

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dumpling snack prepared especially for the occasion. ~~Children learned that some fears can be confronted, managed and even conquered as they balanced the excitement and fear of the Lion Dance. ~~Children glimpsed new possibilities for whom they might become as they watched familiar adults engage in completely new roles -such as Jian, Tony's father from Orange Door, perform as a master of ceremonies and accomplished singer. ~~Children gained new and more complex understandings of one another, as well as an appreciation for how our celebrations, languages and food can be similar or different from our friends- adding to, not diminishing, our friendship.

Yet, it doesn't take a special occasion for these important lessons to

be addressed. Consider Grey Door: inspired by current life events -the impending arrival of new baby brothers and sisters- the Grey Door toddlers recently spent several weeks engaged with all things 'baby' as they learned about how to care for other living things. Role-playing 'baby care' at group time carried over to rich imaginative play with the baby dolls- holding, feeding, bathing and comforting them. Looking at family pictures generated discussion of family pets as well which engendered more thinking about and practicing how we take care of living things; cozy beds were prepared and fuzzy coats were groomed for the pretend pets. These playful activities are building foundations for understanding and responding to other's needs - reinforced through the very real daily problem-solving with their peers as they balance

their own needs with those of their friends. And so it is that empathy emerges as perspective taking, creative problem-solving and negotiation skills all begin to take shape.

We see here how skilled and caring teachers, who have developed relationships with children and families, are able to build and extend upon these relationships to create essential learning experiences. And, we see that when families are involved in the life of the school, they deepen and enrich the experience for all of us. Relationships, between children, teachers, families and the Center community form the bedrock for our experience here and are powerful vehicles for lessons that serve us all - children and adults- well... in school and beyond.

SAFETY FIRST: Rules of the Road

In order to consistently keep our children safe it is essential that all families observe these critical rules when arriving at or departing from the Centers.

1. **ALWAYS keep your children with you when in the parking lots; hold hands, use a stroller, carry them... until safely inside. Please do not allow them to run ahead or**

cross the lots by themselves.

2. **Children (including school age siblings) are NOT allowed to remain unattended in vehicles under any circumstances. Car seats are the law.**

3. **Bicycles MUST follow the flow of traffic; you can safely walk your bicycle on the sidewalk once in the lots.**

4. **SLOW DOWN and please remind other drivers to do so also!!!!**

~~~~~

**If you have a soon-to-be kindergartner, ask Family Coordinator Diane Jones for information about the fun & informative summer program 'Safety Town'; sign-ups are available and spaces go fast.**

In the words of the distinguished developmental psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner:

*...in order to develop normally, a child requires progressively more complex joint activity with one or more adults who have an irrational emotional relationship with the child. Somebody's got to be crazy about that kid. That's number one. First, last, and always.*



## New name, new center: an exciting new phase in our history...

1. We have a new name: *Early Childhood Care and Education Services (ECCES)*! Our department name, officially "Child Care" has been synonymous with the Orfalea Family Children's Center (OFCC) name for years. The new name highlights all elements of our service with an equal emphasis on care (see cover article) and education. ECCES encompasses both Centers as well as our family support services which are available to the entire University community. And it leaves room for growth—and that's the business we're in!

2. After years of planning and a construction period that seemed to go on forever... we finally did it (with the help of many others). Our new center, the University Children's Center, opened its

doors to families on January 2nd, 2008.

The grand opening celebration on February 1st was well attended with over 100 members of the University and Santa Barbara Early Childhood Education community joining us for tours, refreshments and many congratulations. Two infant classrooms and one toddler classroom are open and fully enrolled.

They are taking full advantage of the setting visiting the Student Resource Building, including - the always fun ride in the elevator- as well as visiting the ducks at the nearby lagoon. Recruitment is underway for additional teaching staff necessary to open the final classroom.

Hats off to the wonderful teaching and administrative staff at UCC.



**"We've come a long way!"  
University Children's Center  
February 2006**

## Early Childhood Care & Education Services: Reaching Out

While our primary mission is to provide high quality care and education to the families we serve, as early childhood professionals and representatives of the University, teachers and staff at ECCES are also actively engaged in advocating and supporting high quality programs for all children and families. Some recent and upcoming efforts to this end include: ~placement of a Santa Barbara City College student teacher with Orange Door Lead Teacher Tamara Thompson (Tamara and Ana Dominguez are certified Mentor Teachers) ~accreditation support provided to local agencies and programs through presentations by Red by Red Door Lead Teacher Mary Hoffman, Program Coordinators Theresa Embry and Marina Nolte and Director Leslie Voss ~planning and providing accreditation trainings for the Santa Barbara County Office of Early Care and Education, ~hosting an infant-toddler care & development UCSB Extension class ~working

with the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education on a proposed Early Childhood Education minor and inter-departmental major ~Chris Pollock, Purple Door Lead Teacher providing local trainings on ECE Math curriculum through the California Department of Education-Preschool

Instructional Network, ~Coordinator Theresa Embry facilitating the development of a Child Development conference highlighting the Outdoor Classroom... and more. There is always something new and exciting happening around here!!!

MAGGIE AND MILLIE AND MOLLY AND MAY  
e.e. cummings  
maggie and molly and milly and may  
went down to the beach (to play one day)

and Maggie discovered a shell that sang  
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

milly befriended a stranded star  
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing  
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles: and

may came home with a smooth round stone  
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)  
it's always ourselves we find in the sea.



*Schedule of Events  
Spring Quarter  
2008*

- April 2 Welcome Coffee at OFCC
- April 2 Sponsor-A-Book begins
- April 3 Welcome Coffee at UCC
- April 8 Parent Council Mtg. at UCC
- April 9 Parent Support Group OFCC
- April 10 Parent Support Group UCC
- April 28, 29 Dancing Drum

## April 2008

| Sun | Mon       | Tue       | Wed      | Thu       | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----|-----|
|     | 1         | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b> | 4         | 5   |     |
| 6   | 7         | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b> | <b>10</b> | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14        | 15        | 16       | 17        | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21        | 22        | 23       | 24        | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b> | 30       |           |     |     |

## May 2008

- May 5 Classroom Auction Basket making at UCC
- May 6 Classroom Auction Basket making at OFCC
- May 7 Parent Support Group OFCC
- May 8 Parent Support Group UCC
- May 12 Silent Auction Begins
- May 16 -18 Hosting UC Child Care Directors
- May 16 End of the Year Party and Silent Auction for both sites at OFCC
- May 26 Memorial Day Holiday -

CENTERS CLOSED

| Sun | Mon       | Tue      | Wed      | Thu      | Fri       | Sat |
|-----|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----|
|     |           |          |          | 1        | 2         | 3   |
| 4   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> | 9         | 10  |
| 11  | <b>12</b> | 13       | 14       | 15       | <b>16</b> | 17  |
| 18  | 19        | 20       | 21       | 22       | 23        | 24  |
| 25  | <b>26</b> | 27       | 28       | 29       | 30        | 31  |

## June 2008

- June 11 Parent Support Group at OFCC
- June 12 Parent Support Group at UCC
- June 20 All-Staff Development (& Floor Renovation at OFCC)

CENTERS CLOSED to child care

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed       | Thu       | Fri       | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4         | 5         | 6         | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | 13        | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18        | 19        | <b>20</b> | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25        | 26        | 27        | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |           |           |           |     |

*Early Childhood Care & Education Services*

***Orfalea Family Children's Center (OFCC)***

***Teaching Staff***

***Infant***

***White Door***

Nancy Erisman, Lead Teacher  
Lupe Guerrero, Teacher  
Cherie Schroff, Teacher

***Yellow Door***

Kathy Sargent, Lead Teacher  
Holly Carlson, Teacher  
Kim Yong, Teacher

***Toddler***

***Green Door***

Thrisha Francia, Lead Teacher  
Ruby Martin, Teacher

***Grey Door***

Ingrid Elkin, Lead Teacher  
Alicia Trigueros-Cardenas, Teacher

***Preschool***

***Brown Door***

Terri Douglas, Lead Teacher  
Elena Lopez, Teacher

***Orange Door***

Tamara Thompson, Lead Teacher  
Jen Lewelling Winford, Teacher

***Blue Door***

Ana Dominguez, Lead Teacher  
Saameh Solaimani, Teacher

***Purple Door***

Chris Pollock, Lead Teacher  
Chelsea Aiello, Teacher

***Red Door***

Mary Hoffman, Lead Teacher  
Mike Peterson, Teacher

***Pink Door***

Jeri Vaccaro, Lead Teacher  
Alissa Johnson, Teacher

***Support***

Sukhi Sandhu, Teacher  
Sarah Richardson, Teacher

***University Children's Center (UCC)***

***Teaching Staff***

***Infant***

***Stars Room***

Tes Tarango, Lead Teacher  
Emily Burton, Teacher  
Ruth Jeppeson, Teacher

***Sky Room***

Jenny Greaney, Teacher  
Barbara Sanchez, Teacher  
Gina Ornelas, Teacher

***Toddler***

***Sun Room***

Linda Lafond, Lead Teacher  
Jennifer Convey, Teacher

***Support***

Shauna Warner, Teacher

***Administrative & Program Staff***

***Program Coordinators***

Theresa Embry, Preschool OFCC  
Marina Nolte, Infant Toddler OFCC  
Patricia Nixon, Infant Toddler UCC

***Family Support Services***

Diane Jones, Family Coordinator

***Business Office***

Autumn Ayala, Enrollment Coordinator  
Mia Birchfield-Shellabarger, Grant Coordinator  
Jesse Rosenzweig, Business Officer  
Lisa Vititoe, Administrative Assistant; UCC

Leslie Voss, Director

Orfalea Family Children's Center

UCSB

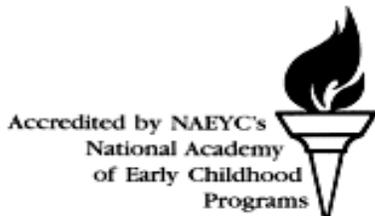
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from *Honey, I Love and other love poems*  
by Eloise Greenfield pictures by Diane and Leo Dillon

### THINGS

Went to the corner  
Walked in the store  
Bought me some candy  
Ain't got it no more  
Ain't got it no more

Went to the beach  
Played on the shore  
Built me a sandhouse  
Ain't got it no more  
Ain't got it no more

Went to the kitchen  
Lay down on the floor  
Made me a poem  
Still got it  
Still got it

