

UCSD dedicates its new Early Childhood Education Center April 5 in UCSD Mesa Apartments area

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UCSD DEDICATES ITS NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER APRIL 5

The new Early Childhood Education Center at the University of California, San Diego will celebrate its twenty-second year with the dedication of a new facility, from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 5, in the area of UCSD Mesa Apartments, off Regents Road.

There will be remarks by UCSD Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson, Joan Stiles-Davis, a member of the UCSD Department of Psychology and director Josephine A. Foulks, who has led the center since its founding in 1969.

In 1970 the UCSD Day Care Center opened for 20 children of UCSD students, operated by a part-time director and parent volunteers. What began as a parents' co-operative, struggling over the years for financial and physical resources, has evolved into a UCSD-operated organization serving more than 130 children of UCSD students, faculty and staff members.

The center provides on-site programs for three separate age groups--infants (11-24 months), including classes for toddlers (2 and 3 years of age), and preschoolers (ages 3 to 5 years).

In addition to the UCSD facility, funding was provided for the start of an off-campus infant referral program. More than 100 providers are in the program, which provides quality, licensed child care to infants and toddlers belonging to members of the UCSD community.

The new UCSD Early Childhood Education facility has five classrooms designed to hold a total of 134 students grouped by age. A feature of each classroom is an adjacent observation room where parents and academic professionals can watch the children's activities through a one-way glass panel.

The building area contains 8,700 gross square feet, an outdoor activity space of 15,200 square feet and a covered courtyard of 4,200 square feet. Also incorporated in the \$1.6 million building is a kitchen for preparing the children's meals at breakfast and lunchtime, a seminar room and a staff lounge. Neutral colors have been used throughout, providing a gallery-like background for the display of children's artwork.

Previous to the opening of the new facility, the center was housed in three trailers on the UCSD campus.

For more information on the UCSD Early Childhood Education Center, call 534-2768.

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