

## Groundbreaking to be held on February 5 for UCSD Child Care Center

**January 24, 1991**

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GROUNDBREAKING SLATED FEB. 5 FOR UCSD CHILD CARE CENTER

Three tiny tots in hard hats will join University of California, San Diego dignitaries Feb. 5 in turning the first shovel of dirt symbolizing start of construction on the Early Childhood Education Center.

The 11:30 a.m. groundbreaking celebration will be held on the future site of the center, on UCSD's east campus, off Regents Road in the Mesa Housing Complex.

The youngsters, students at the current UCSD child care center, will lift miniature shovels and join Rita Atkinson, wife of UCSD chancellor Richard C. Atkinson; Josephine Foulks, director of the center; Jennifer Sternbach, president of the Parents Advisory Board, and Ruth Covell, M.D., representing the building advisory committee, in the traditional dirt-turning ceremony. Refreshments will follow brief talks by the officials.

The long-sought facility will enable enrollment of 125 students upon its completion in late 1991, compared to 75 now housed in three trailers on the UCSD campus. Future expansion, incorporated into the facility's design, ultimately will allow an enrollment of 260 children.

A task force commissioned by the chancellor in 1988 found the demand for child care on the campus exceeded supply by sevenfold; further increase was projected due to both socioeconomic factors and increased campus populations.

The new center will have five classrooms designed to hold 26 students grouped by age. A feature of each will be an adjacent observation room where parents and academic professionals can watch the children through a one-way glass panel. Also incorporated in the \$1.6 million building is a staff lounge, a seminar room and a kitchen for preparing the children's breakfast and lunch menus.

Neutral colors will be used throughout, providing a gallery-like background for the displays of children's framed artwork planned for the walls.

The Early Childhood Education Center includes a building area of 8,700 gross square feet, an outdoor activity space of 15,200 square feet, and a covered court yard/play area of 4,200 square feet.

"Now that we're finally getting our lovely new building," said Foulks, "what we desperately need are donations of inside furniture and outside climbing equipment."

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