

# Center News



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## Highlights from GSA's 15th Annual Child Care Conference "A Beacon of Excellence"

An enthusiastic crowd of over 400 participated in the 15th Annual GSA Child Care Conference in Boston, MA from July 20 - 22, 2004. Highlights included Administrator Stephen A. Perry, delivering a congratulatory letter from President George W. Bush and presenting Cornerstone and 15 Year Recognition Awards; keynote speaker, pediatrician, child psychiatrist and author, T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. speaking on "Stresses and Support for Families in the 21st Century"; noted educator and author Nancy Carlsson-Paige discussing "Children's Needs in Violent Times"; and PBS Commissioner F. Joseph Moravec recognizing the 21 Child Care Centers in our network that received accreditation and re-accreditation this year from the NAEYC.



## Governor Douglas Visits St. Albans Center

On August 4, 2004, Governor Jim Douglas visited the Y's Time Children's Center in the Gil Tabor Federal Building, St. Albans, Vermont. Y's Time, a NAEYC accredited center, is a collaboration between the federal government and the Greater Burlington YMCA. The center was honored to have been chosen for this visit as a result of its reputation for excellence. Sherry Carlson, director of Early Education Programs and Roseann Moore, Director of Y's Time, conducted a tour of the facility and discussed quality childcare with the Governor. Governor Douglas was made aware of the contribution the GSA and the YMCA make to the community. The Governor also had time to visit with staff and children. Y's Time Children's Center opened in July, 1995 and is home to 50 children ages 11 months to 6 years.



## *Color Me Happy*

### *by Staff Architect Ania Shapiro*

Let's talk about the meaning of colors. Colors have inherent meanings, and understanding what each color communicates is an important step when selecting colors for a child's environment. Color charts are a handy reference guide to selecting colors but designers rarely consider the deeper meaning and effect on each individual child and space. We might want to think about color in terms of - Color therapy: *Appropriate and Inappropriate uses of color.*

Let's look at a Color Chart published in a book by Nancilee Wydra about Children's Spaces:

#### Color Chart

COLOR	ELEMENT	POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE	CHALLENGING CONSEQUENCE
<i>Primary Colors</i>			
Deep red	Fire	Inspires activity	Inhibits falling asleep
Pink	Fire	Calms	Stimulates restlessness
Deep yellow	Earth	Secures clarity	Invites disassociation
Light yellow	Earth	Cheers	Summons risk taking
Deeply reflective	Metal	Fosters concentrating	Deters interacting
Lightly reflective	Metal	Energizes	Can unveil too many options
Deep blue	Water	Helps focus on self	Can exacerbate gloom
Light blue	Water	Aids in self-expression	May exacerbate self-centeredness
Deep green	Wood	Spurs exploring	Difficulties with completion of tasks
Light green	Wood	Aids emotional development	May intensify fickleness
<i>Other Colors</i>			
Turquoise	Wood/water	Envelops with confidence	Causes emotional divisiveness
Orange	Fire/earth	Stimulates family bonds	Promotes over-attachments
Purple	Fire/water	Activates internal conversation	Disconnects from being present
Brown	Earth/fire	Envelops with security	Muffles innovations and change
Black	Water/water	stimulates the imagination	Intimidates or frightens

#### *Simple, Inexpensive Ways to Alter Color*

Hem fabric over a dowel and mount the hanging across a window, from the ceiling, or on the wall

Use felt or fabric of a similar weight as a washable area rug.

Hang an umbrella upside down from the ceiling to test a new design motif.

Use blankets, sarongs, or ethnic fabrics as bedspreads.

Glue gift-wrapping paper on inexpensive window shades or over a mirror.

Mount a T-shirt with appropriate designs on the wall.

Cascade ribbons vertically from the tops of curtains to change a plain fabric into a striped one.

It's one thing to select a color, but deciding how much to use, where to apply it, and how long to keep it in a given space is more difficult. Most children need a mixture of colors in their surroundings. To select the dominant color, match a child's or a group's personality needs with a color's characteristics. What color brings the most benefit to the child? Other needs will be satisfied by lesser amounts of secondary colors. In nature all colors look good side by side. Only in extreme cases will it be advantageous to select only one color.

Placement of colors is equal in importance to what the colors are. There are several important places to consider in any room. They are (in this order) the wall seen directly ahead when entering a room ( generally has windows, so is best left a light reflecting color) in the places of frequent activity ( game table, or the floor, etc.), and other play surfaces including playgrounds. The color that needs to be dominant should have good coverage in at least one of these areas. Excessive use of multiple colors is confusing and should be avoided.

## HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY

At this year's conference we celebrated staff and centers that have been operating under the same management for the last 15 years. Congratulations to the following centers:

Lutheran General Children's Services at the FAA in Desplaines, IL.

Treasure House Child Care Center in Covington, KY

A Child's Place Child Development Center in Fort Worth, TX

Future Stars Child Development Center in Austin, TX

OSC Child Care Center in Ogden, UT

Joyful Noise Child Care Center in Portland, OR



*Administrator Perry and 15 year child care center staff.*

## KIDS CAMP MAKES TIME CAPSULE

On August 17, the Ziggurat Child Development Center held a gathering to celebrate the beginning of construction of the new space for the California Kids Camp, their school age program. To mark the occasion, each child in Kids Camp made a time capsule that they placed in the wall, which will be sealed by the contractor later in the month. The children included pictures of themselves and their families, drawings, newspaper clippings, toys, and stories.



The California Kids Camp, managed by Bright Horizons, provides after school and vacation care for 75 children.



## Oak Street Child Development Center and Congressman DeFazio Host News Conference on GSA/Army Partnership

Oak Street Child Development Center in Eugene, Oregon was honored by a very special guest at their news conference to announce the GSA/Army Partnership on subsidized child care for active duty Army Personnel. Congressman Peter De Fazio was on hand to sanction the partnership which is truly a win-win situation for all parties. Through this agreement active duty Army personnel (including ROTC, recruiters, reservists, and National Guard) will pay the same rates as they would pay at on base child care centers and the Army will subsidize the difference in tuition rates directly with the provider. This is an excellent opportunity to increase both Federal and overall enrollment. The successful event was coordinated by Oak Street Director Cindy Bellamy. It was extremely well supported by parents (past and present) and by the media.





## Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 75% are now accredited.

*Congratulations to the following center on their recent accreditation:*

FAA Little Flyers Child Development Center, College Park, GA  
Managed by Angelic Care Child & Dependent Care Solutions

*Congratulations to the following center on their recent re-accreditation:*

Uncle Sam's Place Child Development Center, Louisville, KY  
Managed by Buttons and Bows



### Motivating Adults to Learn

In her *Exchange* article, "Motivating Adults to Learn," (January, 2002), Karen Miller offers these strategies for motivating teachers of infants and toddlers...

- \* Locate quality conferences in your area that have an infant track and request that the staff attend. Hearing what other centers are doing, especially if it is innovative, usually motivates staff. They develop a sense of collegiality and realize they are not the only ones asked to practice in a certain way. They can gain insights and conviction.
- \* It's great if you can close your program and send the entire staff to conferences. This is one way of supporting them with time and money and shows you value them. Plus, the break from their ordinary routine can give people new energy.
- \* Put one staff person in charge of keeping track of in-service training. Peggy Yackel does this for her program and is forever bringing in announcements of classes, conferences, and reading -- urging others to take advantage of them.
- \* Ask staff for input as to what kind of training they'd like brought in to the center.
- \* Arrange a visit to another center, perhaps where people could see others using a new method or implementing interesting ideas.
- \* Provide staff with the newest books on infant and toddler care.
- \* Identify one or two staff who may be the least resistant and ask them to do a little research/reading on the issue. They will help the others to understand what you are trying to do.
- \* Build on what is known and commonly done by the group and use long-time teachers as class mentors. Ask people to share ideas and questions in writing on group charts. This helps people feel valued and heard.
- \* Hold a team building workshop at your center. It is a good way to ensure that new people on staff feel supported and included.
- \* Appeal to staff self-interest. Show them how the new practice will make their jobs easier or more effective.

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Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.