

Dr. Douke

Child Care Center
at Florida International University Inc.
Tamiami Trail, Miami Fla. 33199

(Signature)

ANNUAL REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1975 - JUNE 1976

The need for a Child Care Center on the campus of Florida International University was discussed by many from 1972 to 1974 and was documented by the collection of data by a student, Barbara O'Nan and a faculty member, Dr. Juel Janis during 1974.

The facility, land and a trailer, was rented from F.I.U. to house the Center. Grant requests were then submitted to United Way to fund the operational costs, the Student Government Association to fund the set up (furnishings) costs, and the F.I.U. Foundation for the renovation of the trailer.

The Child Care Center became a reality with the allocation of \$30,000 from United Way, approximately \$8,000 appropriated by the Student Government Association, and the costs for the renovation of the trailer being covered by an F.I.U. Foundation member. The Center opened in September 1975.

The administrative body of the Center consists of a Board of Directors with representatives in the categories of students, staff, faculty, the Deans from the Schools of Health and Social Services, Education and Student Services, a Student Government representative and community people. The Board meets once a month to review the progress of the Center and to deal with policy.

The operation of the Child Care Center is funded by the grant from United Way, approximately \$6,272 from the College Work Study Program, and a projected tuition revenue of \$20,098.



The Center is open from 7:45 am to 6:15 pm serving forty-five children selected on a non-discriminatory basis with choices of part-time or full-time scheduling. The parents are assessed a fee by the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors on a sliding scale according to a financial statement submitted at the time of registration.

The following charts review the components comprising the enrollment of the Child Care Center 1975-1976.

ages	CHILDREN OF			
	#	FACULTY	STAFF	STUDENT
2 1/2 - 3 1/2	22	2	5	15
3 1/2 - 4 1/2	16	3	4	9
4 1/2 - 5	13	1	4	8

	# of MALES	# of FEMALES
WHITE	13	15
BLACK	0	8
SPANISH	5	4

RANGES OF INCOME LEVELS

0-5000	5-10	10-15	over 15
12	27	11	4

The main concept of the Child Care Center at Florida International University is for children between two and one half through five years of age to develop self esteem, a sense of responsibility and independence through the verbal communication of feelings, thoughts, opinions and observations.

With the use of special communication techniques, such as the Magic Circle, the children develop a positive self-concept and are able to verbally express their thoughts and feelings freely. Their confidence and independence are enhanced by the freedom to be individuals and accepted as such.

With three certified Early Childhood teachers, a teacher assistant and four student assistants, the children are introduced to weekly concepts through art, music, science, cooking, creative movement, inside and outside free play. The weekly concepts range from the family, senses, seasons, community helpers and environment to circus and farm animals, food groups, transportation, etc. Using this method of learning, the children can examine different sides of the concepts and use their imaginations. For example: the concept of food might be introduced through an art activity of fingerpainting with chocolate pudding, a science activity of planting lima beans, discussing, watching it grow, and caring for their plant, a creative movement activity of pretending you are a seed being very small and growing to music, a cooking activity of preparing and baking pizza.

The children are encouraged to experience their way of being creative in each aspect of the activities.

Along with the varied daily activities, the children are also able to take advantage of programs on campus such

as visiting the library and viewing films, visiting the cafeteria to see how the food is prepared, have a picnic lunch while listening to a concert, viewing art exhibits, having the Fine Arts Department perform children's plays and having the Home Economics Organization plant a garden with them.

The children also have had the opportunity to benefit from a local Girl Scout Troop adopting the Center as a project bringing in games and cookies made by the girls, giving us parties, playing with the children and donating a wagon to the school.

Specialists such as technicians from the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and The Hearing and Speech Center of Florida were brought in to screen the children's speech, hearing and eye sight.

For many of the children, our field trip to the zoo was their first visit. They were able to enjoy feeding and petting some of the animals.

The quality and diverse activities combined with the encouragement of verbal communication lend to an atmosphere of creative movement and growth for each child.

Staff meetings are held once a week to discuss parent and class interaction, upcoming events, scheduling etc. At this time, the teachers gather and share ideas on concepts to help prepare their individual weekly lesson plans. This discussion is essential as it gives each person direction in working with their specific age group.

To enable the parent to be aware of their child's involvement at school, a weekly highlight information sheet and a monthly calender listing our special events and weekly concepts are sent home. The parents are invited to visit

the Center throughout the day and to participate with their child at our special functions. A time is set aside mid-year to conference with each parent about their child, to review developmental evaluations and to discuss any situations at home. By their active participation, the parents have had the opportunity to see their child functioning in a role outside of the home and to observe different methods of working and being with their child.

The Center is housed in a trailer divided into three classrooms, an office and bathrooms which opens onto a large playground. So that we are prepared to serve all the people within the University setting that require our services as well as community wide people, I see the need to look into the possibilities to expand our facility.

From the positive response of the parents, professors from the University of Miami, Miami-Dade South and Florida International University, I feel the quality program we have offered during our first year of operation has been very successful.

Respectively Submitted,

Nancy Ponn

Nancy Ponn
Director

Attachment

STAFF

Virginia deVarona	Bachelor of Science in Education	Teacher
Libby Kirsch	Masters in Early Childhood Education	Teacher
Dolores Kloo	Bachelor of Science in Education	Teacher
Roma Sullivan	Student - School of Education	Teacher Assistant

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