

Affordable Day-Care on Campus Offered through Accredited Program

BY SHARON GERRIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Here's something you might not know.

UNLV has a licensed, accredited preschool, located at Room 102 in the William D. Carlson College of Education building. Doesn't sound like much? Look again. The UNLV preschool is one of five nationally accredited early childhood education facilities in the state.

The National Academy of Early Childhood Programs gives the accreditation. This Academy is a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the nation's largest organization of early childhood educators.

Accreditation means the UNLV program has voluntarily undergone a comprehensive process of internal self-study and has had invited external professional review to see that the center was in compliance with the Academy's criteria for quality early education programs.

When everything was found to be in compliance, the center was awarded accreditation in July, 1994. To maintain this plumb in the preschool world the school will have to undergo complete re-evaluation, including new fee schedules, every three years.

What does this mean to UNLV students and faculty with 2 1/2 to 6-year-olds? First off, it means

one of the highest quality programs for early childhood education is available right on campus.

Second, it's cheap. Fees for full-time students (12 or more credits) is \$1.90 per hour, part-time and graduate students, \$2.10 per hour and faculty and staff, \$2.30 per hour. To parents who have shelled out \$3 plus to the teenage daughter of a friend for baby-sitting, this is a miracle.

Terry Kohlmeir, director of the preschool, says the center was started in 1971 by csun. It started as a loosely organized baby-sitting service for students with children, and was housed in one of the dormitories. Since then, with continued moral and financial support from CSUN the center has grown to its present facility offering services to 166 children.

All classes are currently full with a waiting lists for openings. Eighty-three percent of the children belong to UNLV students, 10% are from faculty and staff with the remainder coming from the general public. The UNLV preschool has a co-operative agreement with the Clark County school system. Some special needs children are placed with the UNLV facility, and Clark County makes special services, like speech therapy, available to the center.

And the good news keeps on coming. In addition to the ac-



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD
Catherine Lyons does the Hokey Pokey with preschoolers Talla, 4 (l); Kyle, 5; and Christopher, 4.

creditation and the moderate fees, the hours are tailored to meet the needs of students and faculty on a tight schedule.

The preschool is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays. Meals are provided by the parents and served family style in the classrooms. Nutritious snacks are provided by the center, and served at both the morning and afternoon sessions.

"Perhaps the best part of our program is the staff," says Kohlmeir. "We have a teacher-child ratio of 1-to-8 in most sessions, and a lower ratio in others. Our lead teachers are certified

in early childhood education, and I personally train the teaching assistants. All the staff has to have a health card issued by the state and a sheriff's card."

Kohlmeir speaks about the preschool with well deserved pride. "We are a quality program. Everything we do is child centered. And each child that participates in our program has an iep (individual education plan) to meet their special needs."

And what to the kids do all day at this preschool? Just like their student parents, these youngsters have a planned curriculum that is followed everyday.

The curriculum is designed to

help children develop and maintain positive feelings about themselves and about their own abilities to create and learn. Everyday, the learning experiences include creative art, dramatic play, literature and language arts experiences, large and small muscle activities, mathematics and socialization.

Lesson plans and parent notes are even posted outside the classroom, allowing parents to keep up on their child's activities.

All in all, Terry Kohlmeir and her preschool get an A+ for their efforts in creating and maintaining this center.

Students SCOPE out solutions for campus waste

BY TIERRA GRIFFITHS
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How about those lovely grassy areas on campus? You're probably aware of them,

but what you might not be conscious of is the great amount and high cost of the water needed to maintain these areas.

A number of students are conscious of these factors that affect

the environment, so that they've included "conscious" in their name.

Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment, or SCOPE, is a student organization dedi-

cated to improving the environmental practices of UNLV and the community through pro-active projects.

The projects also target student environmental awareness. "We wanted to create projects that would provide job and educational opportunities for students," says Tara Pike, founder of SCOPE.

The group of volunteers recently began converting a 4,200 square foot piece of sod covered land—near the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building—into desert landscape.

The effort is part of SCOPE's Project Desert Landscape, a plan to convert 18.14 acres of campus turf to water-conserving desert landscape over a period of five years.

The conversion will save approximately \$200,000 per year in water and maintenance costs, and has the potential to reduce water usage by as much as 50 percent.

SCOPE raised \$2,000 last year to help fund projects such as Project Desert Landscape, and continues to raise money through donations, bake sales, tee-shirt sales and other efforts. "We're hoping to at least double that this year," says Pike.

The organization also aims to improve UNLV's recycling program through seeking funds for capital costs and lobbying the

university administration for passage of fees to support the programs operation.

"UNLV has about a 6 percent recycling rate," says Pike. "We want to increase that to about 20 to 25 percent."

SCOPE is teaming up with the Endangered Species Coalition to help lobby for the protection of the Endangered Species Act, which is currently up for re-authorization by congress.

"People don't realize that the Endangered Species Act can be taken away," Pike says. "It is something that is negotiable constantly, and unless you have public support focusing on it, it's pretty easy for ultra-conservative groups to successfully lobby against it."

Pike encourages students to write letters to their congressmen, sign petitions or volunteer with SCOPE's public speaking programs.

Students interested in becoming more environment and ecology conscious can do so by volunteering in any one of SCOPE's projects, or by becoming a member. Students may reach a SCOPE representative by calling 895-4495 or by stopping by room 333 of the Bigelow Health Science Building.

SCOPE has a booth in the MSU every three weeks on Tue., Wed., and Thu. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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-Dick Bryan has been on the forefront of efforts to "reinvent government". He has worked to reduce wasteful government spending by cutting wool and mohair subsidies and a program that searches the skies for space aliens.

-Dick Bryan is committed to environmental issues. He has worked to bring solar power development to Nevada and he has worked to increase automobile fuel economy standards.



Paid for by Friends for Bryan, 1130 E. Desert Inn, Las Vegas, NV 89109

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