



"I'm dreaming of a green Christmas"

Saga of a day care center

Kari is learning

by CHARLES HARPSTER
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The battered cardboard box had just enough room for Kari, Luma and perhaps another 3-year-old child.

Hearing Kari giggle inside the box, no one could tell that she had never played with other children before coming to the University Day Care Center less than two weeks ago.

The box came to the center filled with cats to be played with by the children before morning and afternoon naps. Now it has become the most-used toy in the center, which is located in the basement of the United Ministries in Higher Education (UMHE).

Kari had little contact with other children on the farm where she lived, according to Virginia Schuerman, director of the center.

"After a few days, she really began to blossom, and now plays like she's been around children all her life," Schuerman said.

Any child between 3 and 5 whose parents are both university students, or whose

parent is divorced or unmarried, is eligible to stay at the free nursery while the parent is in class. If the father is a student and the mother is working, the child may be eligible if the parents meet financial requirements, according to John Ritchie, assistant director of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aids.

Kari's mother, Karen Payne, said Kari is much happier after being around other children at the center.

"Kari doesn't tell us everything she does during the day," she said, "but we know she's a lot happier now."

Only about six children were at the center Wednesday, but there is room for 25, Schuerman said.

"Since this is all so new, no one knows about it yet," she said.

Although the parents must pick up their children when class is over, the children can eat lunch at the center if the parents provide food, Schuerman said.

While at the center the children fingerprint, make

fabric and magazine picture collages, and work with modeling dough made at the center, she said. If weather permits, the children are taken outside. Trips to the Sheldon Art Gallery Christmas display, the Historical Society and Broyhill Fountain are planned in the future, she added.

The idea for the day care center originated with ASUN, which then began working with the office of financial aids, Ritchie said. He hired Schuerman, a graduate student, to work with the ASUN to find a location.

The UMHE donated part of their basement at 333 N. 14th St., and provided money for fire equipment necessary to meet city regulations, he said.

Part of the support of the center comes from the ASUN and part is from the financial aids budget, Ritchie added. The center was started to help University students who could not afford to leave their children in nurseries near the campus. The Financial Aids Department also helps pay for the education of student teachers at the center through the work-study program, he said.

Any donations of toys, clothes and educational materials are welcome, Mrs. Schuerman concluded.

840-hr. lab teaches home management

by PAT McTEE
Nebraskan Staff Writer

One University of Nebraska lab meets 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The lab, in home management in the College of Home Economics, lasts five weeks. During this time six women live together and do all their cooking, cleaning, and house-keeping.

Home management labs have existed at the University since the 1920's, according to Peggy Wahn, home economics instructor.

The original labs were in converted residences near the city campus, she said. They were intended to give students a chance to practice what they had learned in class.

Emphasis in the early labs was on the absolute right or wrong of situations and procedures, she said. These labs included the care of young children, but this portion of the lab has been dropped.

Today the labs are held in two specially built units on East Campus. Special attention has been given to incorporating as many modern conveniences as possible.

Participants in one lab are required to live in the lab building for the five-week period. The other lab is non-resident but includes all the projects and activities of the live-in lab.

"Today the emphasis is on practicing the theory of home management," Wahn said. "Instead of teaching the strictly right or wrong way to do something, we try to teach what is right or wrong in the context of the situation."

Grading of the lab comes from papers and projects and on how nearly the students perform to criteria set up before the lab begins.

Two entertainment projects, a formal party and an informal

party, are given by lab participants.

The formal projects have ranged from afternoon teas to evening dinner parties, according to Lynn Batie, a participant in one of the labs.

"For our informal project this semester we are having a Christmas tree decorating party," said Batie.

One house improvement project must be carried out also, she said. These projects have included making curtains, painting, making wall hangings and buying needed items for the lab.

After the labs moved to their new facilities several years ago, a program was established for married students. These students are allowed to substitute their own home management for actual lab practice.

The lab is required for all home economics majors, family economics and management majors, and interior design majors, said Wahn. State law requires all vocational home economists to take the lab before certification.



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