



a Place For kids (& turtles)

story by Laura Leake
photos by Vic Post



Students have about 1500 children.

The Centre can take 45.

Children's posters and child-sized sinks, bright walls, turtles, birds, and Sophie the guinea pig all contribute to the atmosphere of the new Student Day Care Centre opening officially this Sunday with open house from 2:30-6:00.

Ideas of a Student Day Care first originated 3 years ago when concerned students formed a Day Care Commission and gathered necessary support from different areas of the university.

The centre opened Sept. 18 and is currently filled to its capacity of 60 children between the ages of 2½-6 years. It cares mostly for students' children with: 50% sole support student parents; 30% one student parent, one working parent; 10% non-academic staff; 10% community, no association with university.

Costs for the building and permanent equipment are met by an interest free loan from the students and the three levels of government. Minimum operating costs per child, per day total \$5.60 which includes

staff salaries. The staff consists of 6 full-time workers, two part-time child care workers, a full-time cook and housekeeper, a social worker one day a week, and Director Diane Dally who all work to keep the centre open from 7:30-6:00

A home room is provided for each child with 2 staff workers and 20 children to a room. Director Diane Dally stated that "We could fill another unit right now," and sees the centre not as a destructive force upon family relationships but as "a thing that can strengthen families. When a child is in a warm, happy setting it takes guilt off the parents' shoulders and the parents can be more productive. I see the day care centre as a supplement to the family - as much a parent's place as a child's."

Diane Dally has had several years of experience with Day Care Centres and "hasn't seen anything but positive results." She went on to say "its unfortunate that the woman's movement is looked down on and that day care is looked down on as part of it. When I see people walking to class with babes on their backs, the need for more day care centres with facilities for younger children becomes even more evident."