

co-operative venture

governing parent board consisting of elected parents who work in conjunction with the staff while making decisions. Even the two playgrounds where the kids can be seen romping on sunny days were built by parents.

The daycare center administrator Maria DeWit has 12 full time and three part time staff members on the payroll and they cover a full spectrum of children's activities.

Staff members spend hours in the playground, the Tait McKenzie pool, gymnasium and in the skating facilities. It's quite possible for York students to glance out a classroom window and view a line of toddlers walking across campus with some authoritative overseers not far behind. There is also a full kindergarten program which allows kids to stay here at York until grade one.

The daycare center's administrative assistant Jane Beach is one other full-time worker who has children enrolled. She says another unique part of the center is that it accepts children as young as



A junior Yorkite explores the carpeted terrain at the centre.

six weeks.

"In the infant sections the waiting lists are so long we're not even taking names," commented Beach on enrollment. "But occasionally one or two spaces will come up.

"In the summer the enrollment declines because the parents who are students often go away for the four months and then we take children from outside the university, but that's only in the summer."

Beach says that the center is strictly a non-profit organization.

It is a service that seems to work well with the York community. If ever a parent cannot come in to participate, the daycare center hires York students who have been screened and trained.

What do the parents think of the daycare service? "I love this place," says Jane Mount as a student on his way to classes glances toward the playground. "Is that your brother?" questions a small tot garbed in a furry winter coat.

"No," smiles Jane, "That's my husband." Jane was right. The York University Co-operative Daycare Center is indeed a community.



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