

CHILD AND DAY CARE – BENCHMARK INSTITUTIONS, 1999 - 2000

With the University of Kentucky striving to be a top-20 research institution, and with national attention to early childhood development, a child care center at the University of Kentucky would move us forward in attaining our goal. Studies have shown that quality early childhood education is the foundation for adult success. The University of Kentucky needs to build a high quality child care center as a benefit for its faculty, staff and students.

The child care center would serve as part of our mission statement in attracting and retaining quality faculty, staff and students by enhancing the quality of life, and providing a diverse environment for our children. Additionally, it would serve to facilitate teaching and study schedules, commuters, continuing education, evening meetings and the university calendar. In Lexington, most centers close at 6:00 p.m. and use Fayette County Public School's calendar that does not correspond with campus.

It is increasingly evident that high quality child care is becoming a priority to our nation. In January 1998, President Bill Clinton proposed an initiative to improve child care for America's working families, and in January 2000, Governor Paul Patton, joined the President by implementing his own early childhood taskforce for Kentucky. In response to Governor Patton's initiative, the University of Kentucky's Department of Family Studies sponsored a two day conference in December, 2000, "Children and Families 2000: Bridging Research and Practice", to discuss the future of Kentucky's families and children - early childhood development and family issues.

In 1990, the Senate Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women conducted an extensive campus-wide survey and as a result, put forth the following recommendation for child care at the University of Kentucky:

The University has an obligation to provide benefits which meet the needs of ALL personnel and address the different family responsibilities of employees. To best meet those obligations, the benefit structure should:

5. *Include a coordinated institutional child care policy which:*
 - a. *Allows employees to pay for child care with pre-tax dollars;*
 - b. *Expands the number of on-site daycare slots;*
 - c. *Includes drop-in sick child care; and,*
 - d. *Establishes a child care voucher subsidy for us at UK-contracted centers.*

In 1999, Dr. Ramona R. Rush, Chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women conducted a campus-wide survey on women's issues. Again child care came to the forefront as an important issue and concern across the University. President James Kerley forwarded the survey to Lexington Community College, and concerns regarding child care were received there as well.

After reviewing the 1990 Senate Council Ad Hoc Committee of the Status of Women report, and Dr. Rush's 1999 survey results, an informal survey was done on Benchmark Institutions to learn what child care services they provide. Included in the survey were:

North Carolina State University
Ohio State University
Penn State University
Purdue University
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona*
University of California-Los Angeles
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana

University of Iowa
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill*
University of Texas-Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison

*No child care center

All Benchmark Institutions except for University of Arizona, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and North Carolina State offer a child care center for their faculty, staff and students. Several universities have an Early Childhood Development Center in addition to a child care center, while others have more than one center. The University of Arizona is planning a child care center and North Carolina State University is exploring child care since there is an obvious need. All centers indicate long waiting lists with a majority having at least 100+ on their list. The University of Kentucky has an Early Childhood Center that serves 84 children, ages 6 weeks-5 years. The Center offers a half-day program and is closed in the summer. They are in need of expanding their location to a larger site, but face financial constraints.

In response to the growing demands and needs of families, and in educating parents most universities are providing: referral services, mild sick child programs, dependent care programs, financial aid, scholarships, child resource services, and parenting information.

In an environment of dual income families and single parenting at the University of Kentucky, a child care center is needed to align itself with the university environment, and to keep abreast of essential needs of its community. The University of Kentucky needs to build a high quality child care center.

Status of Child Care Centers at Benchmark Institutions

Benchmark Institutions	Child Care Center	Information on Web Site					
		Child Resource Service	Referral Services	Parenting Information	Sick Child Program	Financial Aid	Web Site Links
North Carolina State University*	No -looking into child care		yes			yes	
Ohio State University	Child care center	yes	yes				
Penn State University	Several child care centers	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes
Purdue University	Child development lab	yes	yes	yes			yes
Texas A&M University	Child care center	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes
University of Arizona*	No -planning one	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
University of California-Los Angeles	3 child care centers	yes	yes	yes		yes	
University of Florida	2 child care centers					yes	
University of Georgia	Child care center		yes				
University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign	Child development lab	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes
University of Iowa	Several child care centers	yes	yes	yes	yes-referral	yes	yes
			Newsletter last issue, Spring 98				
University of Kentucky	Child development lab + discount @ KinderCare			yes			
University of Maryland-College Park	Child development lab	yes		yes			
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*	No		yes		yes	sick child	
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	3 child care centers + lab	yes	yes	yes	yes-referral	yes	yes
University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill	child care center + lab	yes	yes	yes		yes	
University of Texas-Austin	Child care center						
University of Virginia	Child care center						yes
University of Washington	2 child care center	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes
University of Wisconsin-Madison	7 child care centers	yes	yes	yes		yes	

Information compiled from web sites.