

TO: All CFD 376 Lab Students

FROM: Robin Judd, Director

Welcome **to the SDSU Children's Center, a quality service provided by Associated Students.** We are very pleased to have you join us this semester. You will soon find out how important you are to the program. We would find it difficult to provide such a high quality program for our children and families without help from you and your fellow student teachers.

The mission of the SDSU Children's Center is to provide high quality childcare for the children of students, faculty and staff of the university. Our primary focus therefore, is the care and development of the children and their families. Secondly, we are committed to providing you, the lab student with "a learning laboratory" experience working with children who are under 5 years of age.

We realize it is difficult to establish rapport with children when only working with them 3 hours a week. In order to build better relationships please remember to keep your attention focused on the children and not converse with other adults. When talking or working with the children, bend your knees; sit in a chair or on the ground - anything to get on their level. Be actively involved in their activities as you supervise at an activity table or any other indoor or outdoor area.

During the first busy weeks of the semester you will be assigned to work at various areas indoors or perhaps work outside in the yard. It will be important that you understand the purpose of any materials in the area you are assigned to work. Do not be afraid to ask a question. If you are excited as the "teacher" and involved with the materials/activities offered, the children will mirror the same enthusiasm. We hope these early experiences provide you examples of the types of curriculum you might plan as the semester progresses.

When planning your curriculum activities, try to keep in mind the wide variance in the developmental levels and abilities of the children enrolled in the program. It is important to try to plan your activities with a broad scope. Consider how to adapt this activity for children who have higher level thinking skills and for children who still is developing these skills.

Finally, we wish you a very productive and rewarding semester working with us. Please feel free to ask questions about a particular child, staff member, situation or activity. Please keep the lines of communication open. Do not hesitate to question us or seek advice, we are all learning with and from each other everyday. We look forward to working with you. Perhaps this volunteer lab experience will turn into a paid position next semester or at some time in the future. We look forward to working with each of you this semester.