

'Childspace' day care initiated

By COLLEEN BURRITT
Collegian Staff Writer
Childspace, a new developmental day care program, opened Monday, with a variety of activities planned for pre-school children.

The program, which can accommodate 15 children, aged three to five, is taught and directed by Mike and Carol Howard, at their home on 141 E. Fairmont Ave.

The Howards said the Childspace program is for working parents and studying parents, parents who need some free time and those who want their children to have social contacts and open their social world.

The Howards said the emphasis of their program is on "sensory education." Mr. Howard said they are trying to help the children "explore

all the different senses." They do this through art and music experiences, games, nature study and social interaction.

Field trips and walks will be planned throughout the year. Ms. Howard said the group plans to walk to local parks and the public library in the near future.

The Howards prepared the first floor of their home for pre-schoolers' special needs. The dining room is arranged with many arts and crafts materials, puzzles and games.

The living room is set up for construction and dramatic play, gymnastics and music. A piano and guitar are among the instruments available for musical experimentation by the children.

There is a "quiet room" where the children can go to

sit on couches, listen to music or look at books.

The Howards have a large fenced-in yard, with a sandbox, sand climbing and swinging apparatus for supervised play.

The children also help bake cookies, make peanut-butter and cut up vegetables for soup.

Childspace provides a morning and afternoon snack, and milk at lunchtime. In the winter, the Howards, aided by the children, also will cook things such as vegetable soup and hot chocolate.

Cots are provided and time is set aside each afternoon for rest.

The Howards plan to involve the local community in their program. They said three kinds of "internships" are being planned for those interested.

Mr. Howard said one internship is for "someone who is really into childhood education." He said this will involve observing the children's abstract orientation, sensing discrepancies, and observing the social interaction between children and adults.

He said another type of internship will be for "people who have to create an experience for themselves in terms of getting a job." This would involve creating a project and working with the children.

A third internship is aimed at recruiting people with non-University, non-academic orientation. Howard said these are primarily people who have a skill they want to share with children, or who just want to meet children.

Ms. Howard said certain projects demand volunteer help, which these persons can provide.

The Howards both have extensive experiences with pre-school and elementary education. Ms. Howard received a bachelor of science

in elementary education from Boston College. She has previously taught in public schools in California and Massachusetts. Last year, she directed a pre-school program at the First School in Pennsylvania Furnace.

Mr. Howard holds a doctorate in education from Stanford University. He was an assistant professor at Penn State, teaching Cultural Foundations of Education 115, and a variety of history of education classes, from 1969 to 1972. Last spring, he received certification as an elementary school teacher in Pennsylvania.

Howard said he experimented with a flexible program, using language games, nature study. Howard said he experimented with a flexible program, using language games, nature study, teaching crafts and combining different subjects together, as a basis for stimulating enthusiasm among his sixth grade class. Children are still being accepted into the program.



Child's play

MIKE AND CAROL HOWARD teach children enrolled in Childspace, a new day care program that started Monday.

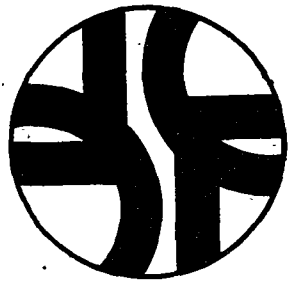
Photo by Greg Braun

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'Follies for fall'

GREENVILLE, Pa. (AP) — The major fall social event in this small northwestern Pennsylvania community is sponsored by Republican women. This year, they're calling the October affair "Watergate Follies."

Greenville is the home of the parents of John Dean, a key figure in the Watergate investigation.

"It's time to see some humor in Watergate," said Mrs. Harvey Childs, chairman of the dinner-dance organized by the Greenville Council of GOP Women. "There is no intention to ridicule."

President Nixon will get one of the 300 invitations and a free \$6 ticket.

"We sent him an invitation rather than a subpoena," said Mrs. Childs, who said she voted for Nixon in 1972 and added that she hopes he stops by in October.

Table decorations for the event will be created from "plumbers" tools and will include comode plungers, she said. Tape recorders and microphones will be part of the decor, appropriately set around the ball room of a restaurant, known only for that date as the Watergate Inn.

As patrons enter the room, they'll be greeted by host and hostesses identified by label labels as Lady Bug, Male Bug, Sir Bug, Lightning Bug and Bed Bug, she said.

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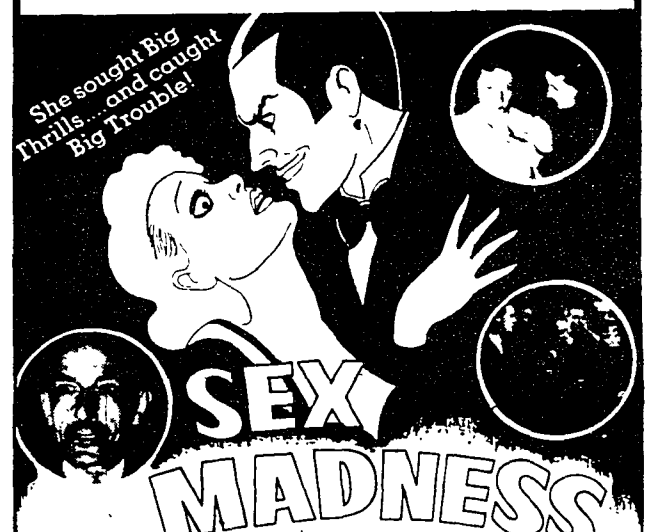
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