



N E W S

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | E-Mail: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

August 1, 2011

El Camino College Child Development Center Prepares Children for Kindergarten, Lifelong Learning; Open for Fall 2011 Enrollment

When Savannah Cooper completed her preschool career at the El Camino College Child Development Center (CDC) this past June, she walked across the bridge a confident, happy student who had become a “social butterfly” at the school. Her parents attribute this metamorphosis to the CDC program’s focus on developing well-rounded students.

“Savannah started at a preschool that was too rigid and too slanted toward ‘academic achievement;’ the social development part of school was not there,” said Savannah’s father John Cooper, whose second-grade daughter also attended the CDC. “At that school, Savannah was introverted, and found it hard to leave mom and dad.

“Once she was at the El Camino College preschool, she was a completely different person. Now, not only is she ready for kindergarten, but the teachers and the exciting learning environment really helped her come into her own. I can see that both of my daughters embrace learning, they realize that it is fun. To read something, to learn about something, or to figure something out – the CDC showed them how fun it can be.”

For the last 18 years, the El Camino College Child Development Center has been preparing youngsters to enter elementary school, setting the stage for a lifetime of learning. The school’s mission has become increasingly important in recent years, as kindergarten curriculum adopts more rigorous standards, with the bar of achievement rising higher and higher.

“Within the last decade, our state has created higher educational standards, which puts today’s kindergarten on par with the first grade of yesteryear,” said CDC Director Sandra Parvis.

“Children entering the kindergarten of today need to not only be able to spell and write their names; know, write, and recognize the alphabet; recognize numbers, shapes, and count; but they also must stay on task, follow directions, and be emotionally ready for this new adventure called school. This is why, here at the CDC, we stress social skills every bit as much as the academics.”

The El Camino College CDC’s fee-based, year-round preschool program is now open for enrollment for children ages 2 to 5 who are completely toilet trained. Located on the ECC campus, CDC enrollment is open to all children, including those of college students, employees,

and members of the community. Low child/staff ratios and an emphasis on social skills are hallmarks of the academic curriculum.

“We believe that children learn best when given many choices during the day in a mixed age-group setting,” Parvis said. “When children are comfortable in their surroundings and have a consistent routine fostered by caring staff, they feel free to explore new dimensions of learning. The CDC is a place where they can do exactly that. By providing choices within our child-centered learning environment, children gain exposure to academics in a fun, interactive setting.”

Teachers at the CDC are academically well prepared, all are mentor teachers certified by the State of California, and all have been on staff an average of 10 years. As a laboratory school, future preschool teachers are trained in best practices, and the CDC hosts students completing assignments.

“The staff members are wonderful people; they are so caring,” said Cooper, reflecting on his time as a CDC parent. “They are what preschool teachers should be. I will miss them next year. My wife and daughters make fun of me; I actually had a tear in my eye when we left there for the last time. It is a wonderful place.”

The developmental curriculum goes beyond basic ABCs, colors, and shapes: children are prepared cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically and linguistically for the next level of schooling and beyond. In addition, a welcoming “open door” policy is maintained throughout the center.

“Another great aspect of the CDC is that we are as diverse as our community,” Parvis added. “Children of all cultures feel comfortable here. We welcome parent participation; parents are welcome at any time. We invite parents to come and visit our great program!”

The El Camino College Child Development Center is licensed by the State of California, Department of Social Services. For more information, call the office at 310-660-3720, or go to <http://www.elcamino.edu/student-services/cdc/>

#