

## AD HOC UNIVERSITY DAY CARE COMMITTEE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Ad Hoc University Day Care Committee, first appointed by Dr. W.R. Parks in 1971 and again by Dr. Wilbur Layton in 1972 (See attachment for history), is reinstating itself for the coming year. The following is a broad statement of our mission.

This committee assumes that the University should be involved in child care. Reasons for this assumption are:

1. Service for student parents. Good child care is a vital need for student parents, probably most basic next to housing and financial sustenance. Knowing their children are being well cared for frees student parents to study more productively. Subsidized child care (where someone picks up part of the bill) can help ease the financial pressures of many students. This also frees parents of some of the tensions that interfere with productive study.
2. Service for university faculty and staff. Absentee records of mothers of young children are often higher than desired. Mothers - parents - worry when they are not sure about the care of their children. Such stress interferes with productive work. Quality child care can set their minds at ease and lower absenteeism.
3. Service to children of the university community. Most children of faculty, staff and students involved in the university community are being cared for by untrained personnel. Many are good but many others provide only for the children's physical needs. These children are in their most formative and impressionable years. There is no excuse for their not having the best possible care when their parents contribute to making Iowa State University the fine, outstanding institution that it is.
4. Service to families who need child care on a short term basis. The university offers many cultural, recreational and personal contacts to the people in its community. Those families who do not have regular child care often face difficulty taking advantage of speakers, the gym, the counseling center, etc., particularly in the daytime hours when baby-sitting on a less-than-regular basis is hard to get.
5. Priority trends. Many colleges and universities are recognizing their responsibility to children and parents of the university community and are dealing with child care issues in a large, frontal way.
6. Education needs. After graduation many students in the Child Development Department will be working in day care programs since there is a dramatic increase in these programs. They need preparation for this very demanding work through participation and observation in existing day care centers.
7. Human need. Students, not only in child development, need to be around young children, both in preparation for their own potential parenting and in dealing with the scope of people who encompass the real world. Campus child care gives them the opportunity to volunteer and involve themselves.

Thus, we assume the university has a very large need area with which to involve itself. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to various arms of the University such as GSB, Department of Child Development, and central administration as to how to meet the needs. The bulk of our effort will be in assessing and reassessing the need situation, studying the alternatives for meeting needs and educating the university community as to both. We intend to keep active until the children and families of this community have quality child care with options - financial, locational and program-wise - that meet their own personal situations. We do not feel we are near that objective yet.

This coming year we will concern ourselves actively with the following tasks. These goals will be tightened and put in priority rank within the next month.

1. Providing a drop-in day care center for persons needing short term child care, particularly in counseling and student affairs area.
2. Providing infant and toddler day care which to date is nearly nil in Ames.
3. Providing day care for school-age children during the after school hours.
4. Providing assistance to the seven day care centers in Ames (which currently have full enrollment).



5. Breaking loose a large chunk of funds a) for day care subsidy, b) for expansion of present day care centers, and/or c) to establish new centers.
6. Providing some training and assistance for Ames babysitters (day care homes.)
7. Informing and educating the university community of the importance of child care.
8. Organizing an Ames 4-C Program (Community Coordinated Child Care).

Thus, we assume the university has a very large need area with which to involve itself. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to various arms of the University such as GS8, Department of Child Development, and central administration as to how to meet the needs. The bulk of our effort will be in assessing and reassessing the need situation, studying the alternatives for meeting needs and educating the university community as to both. We intend to keep active until the children and families of this community have quality child care with options - financial, locational, and program-wise - that meet their own personal situations. We do not feel we are near that objective yet.

This coming year we will concern ourselves actively with the following tasks. These goals will be tightened and put in priority rank within the next month.

1. Providing a drop-in day care center for persons needing short term child care, particularly in counseling and student affairs areas.
2. Providing infant and toddler day care which is nearly all in Ames.
3. Providing day care for school-age children during the after school hours.
4. Providing assistance to the seven day care centers in Ames (which currently have full enrollment).