

## Child Development Center

## ULV Alliance Sets CDC Apart

A pioneering alliance formed in 1992 between the Child Development Center (CDC) at Fairplex and the University of La Verne (ULV) changed the nature and tenor of early childhood development and placed CDC firmly at the vanguard of Southern California child development centers.

The CDC-ULV partnership is an almost perfect circle of shared learning: CDC is a laboratory school and hands-on training site for ULV students seeking a bachelor's or master's degree in child development. In addition to their on-campus coursework, ULV students act as observers and student teachers at CDC, participating in curriculum preparation, classroom agenda planning and teaching.

Simultaneously, CDC staff has access to best practices from ULV faculty based on the latest research in early childhood education. Seasoned CDC instructors also mentor ULV students in the hands-on daily education of CDC schoolchildren.

Completing this symbiotic circle, CDC staff members learn from their association with ULV educators, keeping the CDC on the leading edge of early childhood education.

The vision of two great educators brought the CDC-ULV partnership to fruition. The late Ruth Hersch was the founder and first director of the ULV child development center. She and Shirley Griffis, founding director of the child development program at Fairplex, provided the leadership that joined the Child Development Center at Fairplex and the University of La Verne in this successful



ULV student Laura Escalera enjoys hands-on learning at CDC.

and lasting partnership. Working with the late Ralph Hinds, Fairplex president and CEO, and his wife, Diane, a child development professional, Hersch and Griffis coordinated the CDC's evolution into a center that provides meaningful, quality early childhood education.

Through this partnership with the University, CDC has helped train hundreds of teachers who are now making a difference for children and families in dozens of communities as teachers, administrators and other professionals in the field of early childhood education.

## Putting Out the Welcome Mat • • • Foundations to host Open House Thursday May 24th

Call it spring gleaning. The foundations at Fairplex are opening up their doors, inviting people in and laying everything out on the table for all to see.

The first Foundations at Fairplex Open House will present 2007 programming for each entity – the Child Development Center (CDC) at Fairplex, Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex and the Fairplex Education Foundation.

"It will be a day of simultaneous learning from each foundation, disguised as fun," said Development Director Susan Dowler. "It is an opportunity for our donors and their guests to see what we are currently doing and what our future plans are, and will serve as our official launch of the educational programming planned for the 2007 Fair."

The open house is set for Thursday, May 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Avalon.

With the swirl of activity happening within each foundation, it can be challenging to disseminate information for those with crossover interests. With the Open House, it's like one-stop shopping.

Growing one child, one parent, one teacher at a time—the CDC keeps busy with all this development. The CDC has a new program focusing on family literacy. What better way to promote reading than through an interactive book? Participants at the Open House will create a literacy packet including information on age-appropriate reading techniques and the materials to produce a personalized book for their favorite youngster.

Finger painting always looks like so much fun when toddlers are doing it. Adults will get an opportunity to indulge with a hands-on art project courtesy of the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex. And after a little artwork, how about a story? The intriguing account of artist Millard Sheets' life will be a prelude to the center's Fair exhibit, which will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its namesake's birth.

Some adults still haven't decided what to be when they grow up, so why not tag along with the FairKids Discovery Club field trip program to the Fair's America's Kids *When I Grow Up* exhibit. FairKids offers school children a free trip to the Fair, where they can explore the career of their dreams, pet a goat at The Big Red Barn®, and possibly get a chance to see a baby animal born before their very eyes. Information on the exhibit and the FairKids program will be available at the Open House, along with the Education Foundation-sponsored Junior Fair Board program.

So many wonderful projects, such limited time. The Open House is a great chance to experience everything that's going on – in one location. If you would like to attend this fun-filled event, please contact Wendy Schwartz at (909) 865-4207 or [schwartz@fairplex.com](mailto:schwartz@fairplex.com).

## Foundations At Fairplex

## Elbow Room New classroom provides room to grow

Growing one child at a time, as the Child Development Center at Fairplex does, requires a bountiful field, where development can be nurtured and seedlings can bloom. With a new classroom, the CDC is ready to harvest a new crop of youngsters ready to face the world!

The latest addition to the center, Preschool 4, provides a fourth classroom on the preschool side, reducing class size from 32 to 24, with a teacher to child ratio of 1:8. Children and teachers are excited about the new spread and the extra space in each room.



CDC students with thank you banner.

