

MTA's Kindergartners Score at Top of Nationwide Test

By AMY HOWELL

(June 13, 2002) Six Gateway Child Development Center kindergarten students recently took the Terra Nova, a nationally administered standardized test. Four students placed in the 99th percentile.

"We've always had at least one student in the 99th percentile, but never four," said Chiquita Waters, Executive Director of the center.

Kindergartners Danielle Duran (daughter of center teacher Blanca Gutierrez), Garibalde Figueroa (son of Division 3 operators Ronald and Martha Figueroa), Anai Finnie (granddaughter of Waters), Raquel Freeman (granddaughter of Program Control Senior Secretary Darleen Flores), Aaron Martinez and Kevin Nugent (son of Personnel Medical Standards Compliance Administrator Mary Nugent) took the Terra Nova.



Gateway Child Development Center kindergarten teacher Lisa Johnson, along with kindergartners Aaron Martinez, Garibalde Figueroa, Kevin Nugent, Anai Finnie, Raquel Freeman and Danielle Duran, take over the playground. PHOTO: BILL HEARD

Danielle, Anai, Raquel and Kevin placed in the 99th percentile on the test, which included vocabulary, language arts, math and science sections.

Each section of the test focused on "everything [that was taught] throughout the school year," said kindergarten teacher Lisa Johnson.

"She strategically went about preparing them for the exam," Waters said of Johnson. "She got them ready. They were ready."

The test was administered at the center over a three-day period. The students were given one hour to complete each section. Center Assistant Director Esmeralda Ortiz served as proctor during the test.

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