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Gateway Child Center Celebrates 10th Birthday

The Gateway Child Care Center opened its doors Sept. 30, 1996. Thirteen children were enrolled. Ten years later, the center averages some 80 students, ranging in size and age from infants to pre-kindergarten types. Licensed to accommodate 86 students, today 18 staff members, all teachers, tend to 79 students, 40 of whom are children of Metro employees. "It's a great joy," said one parent, "to have your child in such excellent care and right next door within a minute's reach."

See here > [Making the scene](#)



Peek-a-boo > Metro Headquarters is backdrop for Gateway Child Care Center tree house, where children learn and play in proximity of the parents workplace.



Alumni Already: Graduates of Gateway Child Care Center attend the birthday bash and

remember the fun. They are, from left, Kevin Nugent, David Schlesinger, Amanda Dominguez, Kellianne Nugent, Adrian Kashay, Savannah Williams, Grace Newman and Michael Tomota.



Mad Hatters: At right, resident students prefer the tea party option to the podium scene, where Kathi Harper, HR manager who oversees the center contract, welcomes birthday party guests, including parents, staff and visitors. At left is Metro liaison Belen Marquez and the center's director, Esmeralda Ortiz. Also speaking were Thresa McDowell, child care district manager, Administration Executive Officer Don Ott, and Human Resources Director Stefan Chasnov.



Furthermore: Gateway Child Care Center Director Esmeralda Ortiz, at podium, with, from left, parent Diane Corral-Lopez, and Metro staff who oversee the center's contract, Kathi Harper, Don Ott, Stefan Chasnov and Belen Marquez.

Making the scene



Anne Flores with daughter Madison and surprise friend have been transformed for the occasion by roving artists.



Diane Corral-Lopez brings son Luke to the center every day, here attended to by the center's assistant director, Jamie Patrick.



Brittany Zhuang and the lovely Arielle.

Frances Impert with daughter Madeleine, now 10. Madeleine is an alumni from the very first class who enrolled in 1996.



Maya Emsden's son, Hayden, takes face art seriously even though artist Silly Sally may have been just clowning around.

And, many happy more!

Text and photos by Gayle Anderson