



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA CHILD CARE CENTER OPEN FOR BUSINESS

MTA Chief Executive Officer Joseph Drew today officially dedicated the Authority's Child Care Center adjacent to the Gateway Headquarters Building.

"We are pleased to provide this new facility for our employees," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian. "Child care is so important for working parents in contemporary society."

The 15,800-square foot, two-story building features facilities for infants under age 1, for toddlers, ages 2 to 3, and for pre-schoolers, ages 4 and 5. The center includes playrooms, restrooms with child-sized features, spacious closets and cabinets for equipment and an outdoor play area.

MTA employees may enroll their children on a first-come basis at weekly rates ranging from \$46 to \$135, depending on the age of the child and the number of days of child care. The Center, which has a capacity for 84 children, is operated by the Prodigy Division of Children's Discovery Centers of San Rafael. The company also operates centers for several departments of the County of Los Angeles, IBM, TRW, Xerox, General Motors, and the U.S. State Department, among others.

"Based on building design and equipment, program quality and staff-to-child ratios, the MTA's facility aims to be among the nation's best employer-supported child care centers," said Drew. "The staff will spend much of the next two years working to gain accreditation by the prestigious organization, National Association for the Education of Young Children."

(MORE)

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Building security measures include controlled entry by special identity passes, surveillance cameras and perimeter security patrols. The children's zones are secured behind locked doors. Parents are encouraged to visit the center at any time.

The MTA, believing that commuting parents are more likely to use public transportation if child care is provided adjacent to transit stations, is a joint funding partner in two other community-based child care centers, in Sylmar and Chatsworth

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