

The Family Enrichment Center and the Students' Long Struggle for Childcare on Campus

Attempts had been made all the way back to 1976 to offer childcare for YC students. In that year a survey of students indicated a need for child care. A grant was applied for to the Az. Dept. of Vocational Educ.; \$25,000 was received through that grant.

The grant was intended to get a program started. It was hoped that the college or the revenue generated by fees would sustain the program. The YC Children's Center was opened in the 1st Southern Baptist Church Building (corner of E. Gurley and Va. Streets).

It was originally run by 2 teachers Anita Boughton and Jean Peacock & 2 work-study students. The cost was \$1.50/half day. Parents enrolled in the Parent Participation Class had the option to work 3 hours a week which would waive the \$1.50 fee and give them 1 credit hour.

It ran successfully for 3 semesters and then fell into financial difficulties. The grant money was cut by 50%. An appeal was made to the Board of Governors for \$15,000 but the Board only offered \$5,000 because of budget constraints. The Center was closed at the beginning of Spring 1980 and \$12,000 of the grant money needed to be returned (Ruff-Riter 8/27/79 and 3/26/80).

Numerous other attempts to provide a child care program were made over the years with no success until the opening of the Family Enrichment Center.