

CDH comes through for kids

Story and Photos by JOHN SULLIVAN, MWR Marketing

During recent events, Yokosuka's Main Child Development Center came through in a pinch for many local parents, but there was only so much they could do given the number of children who need daily care. Fortunately, the Child Development Home (CDH) program stepped in to share the load. CDH provides care for up to six kids between the ages of six weeks and 12 years old, in the on-base home of each certified home care provider. Throughout the heightened force protection, CDH providers were crucial in providing care for the children of Auxiliary Security Forces Personnel who were having to work 12 hours or more a day. "[The CDH workers] can provide the after-hours care and the hourly care and the special needs care that CDC isn't set up to provide," Capt. Michael Seifert, Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, said. The providers are well trained to ensure their homes are loving, learning environments for the children in their care. "These providers have undergone rigid background checks, they have training for 36 hours total, we inspect their homes, the fire department (and) preventative medicine also inspect their homes for safety, health and fire measures," described Child Development Home Director Belle Balanag. The staff of the CDH office also conducts monthly, unannounced inspections of providers' homes to make sure they meet the standards set by the Navy.



During the recent heightened force protection, Yokosuka's Main Child Development Center received much-needed help from Child Development Home providers.

Currently there are 29 homes on Yokosuka base, 20 on Ikego and none on Negishi. In order to accommodate all the children who need care, the CDH staff is always looking for new people who would like to become providers. "Right now there is a high need of infant and shift work providers," Balanag explained. With the addition of new benefits, becoming a Child Development Home provider is more inviting than ever. "We are always on the lookout for additional people who would like to become Child Development Home providers," Seifert said, adding, "And to make it financially inviting, or attractive, for those people to want to become providers in their homes, we're offering some recruitment and retention incentives to personnel who would like to become CDH providers." In order to become a certified provider, at least two months of background checks, family interviews, housing inspections and training in child abuse prevention, CPR and first aid are required. However, unlike the States where off-base residents can use their homes to provide care, in Yokosuka, only on-base residents can become CDH providers. In addition to the initial instruction, providers are required to attend two hours of ongoing monthly training, and must also have a fully certified, back-up provider in case of emergencies. Parents are also responsible for adhering to the rules and regulations of the CDH program, like signing children in and out when they are dropped off or picked up, and providing personal items, such as a change of clothing and disposable diapers, for their children.

To enroll a child in the CDH program or for more information on becoming a CDH provider, feel free to stop by the CDH office in room 201b on the second floor of the MWR building or call 243-5478/3222.



Child Development Home Director Belle Balanag, left, goes over teaching materials with in-processing provider Genedina C. Francia in the CDH Office. Francia is awaiting completion of her application prior to becoming a certified home care provider.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Story by CHRISTINE JACKSON, International Program Department



Babyface "Face2Face" Japan Tour: Here's the perfect opportunity to see a Babyface performance right here in Japan. The show is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, October 26. Tickets, available at ITT, are Y9,000 and limited to two per customer. Transportation is an additional \$10.

Tama Tech Amusement Park: Enjoy the fun rides and fine restaurants at this exciting family attraction. Passport tickets are now available for Y2,500 per person (3 years of age and older) at ITT. Tickets are valid through February 28.

Information for the following events must be obtained directly from the facilities indicated, not from ITT.

Ballet Nacional de Espana Performance: This world-renowned ballet company is coming to Yokosuka. The performance is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday, October 14, at the Yokosuka Art Theater (YAT). Tickets are available at the YAT Ticket Office on the first floor of More's City near the west exit of the Yokosuka Chuo Station.

Flea Markets: The flea market at Fleet Activities Yokosuka is held on the first Saturday of each month beginning at approximately 7:30 a.m. in the Community Center parking lot. The flea market at the Ikego Housing Community is held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at approximately 7:30 a.m. in the parking area in front of Club Takemiya.

Ikego Artifacts Museum: This fascinating museum, sponsored by the Zushi City Board of Education and located at the Ikego Housing Community, offers changing exhibits about archeological items found in the Zushi area. Admission is free for everyone. For more information please contact Ms. Takahashi at 246-8379 or e-mail her at gakyuu@city.zushi.Kanagawa.jp.

International Theater Group: The Yokosuka International Association is seeking a few good amateur or professional actors, dancers and musicians interested in participating in the 2002 Cosmopolitan Theater event. It is scheduled for January 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Yokosuka. This multicultural event will include a mini play, festive music, ethnic dancing and group dancing. If you are interested in participating or if you'd like additional information about the event, please call the Yokosuka International Association at 27-2166.

Sogo Museum of Art (Bijutsukan): This unique museum located on the sixth floor of the Sogo Department Store in Yokohama is open from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily. Admission is Y1,000 for adult/university students, Y800 for high/junior high school students and Y600 for elementary school students. For additional information call 045-465-2361.

Yokohama Museum of Art (Bijutsukan): This museum, with changing exhibits, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday. Admission is Y1,300 for adults, Y900 for university students, Y600 for high school students and Y400 for junior high/elementary school students. The museum is located near Landmark Center. Its current special exhibit, on display through Sunday, October 14, incorporates the contemporary work of Nara Yoshitomo, and is entitled "I Don't Mind If You Forget Me".