

MEET SANDY JONES: New Director of the Children's Center



As the new director of the WCU Children's Center (I started in November) I'm pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself. I am a graduate of West Virginia University with a BA in Psychology and an MS in Child Development. My professional career has revolved around the education of parents and children in a variety of settings including supervision in a 10 county Head Start program, development of parenting classes, and direction of a Kinder-Care Learning Center. Now it is turning in a new and exciting direction with West Chester University.

My excitement stems from the growth of the Children's Center over the past few years. Initially a drop-off center for children of students only, it is now a fully staffed, state licensed day care facility available to faculty and staff as well as students. Although many people are not yet aware of us here in the basement of

Killinger, we affect the lives of many WCU students. The Center provides a site for volunteers, work study placements, and graduate assistantships, as well as field placement and testing opportunities for students in the fields of education, psychology, speech, and physical education. This is where my enthusiasm really takes hold: in creating a positive and effective environment that directly and indirectly touches the lives of all members of the WCU community.

My ultimate goal is to provide the "ideal learning center" for children and university students --a high quality lab preschool. With an on-campus facility of this sort, WCU students will have readily available experience which can serve as an excellent base for their future careers. Through increased coordination with and support from related academic departments the Center can work conjunctively to provide hands on training that represents the philosophies of those departments and the university as a whole. In the process we can continue to provide the services needed by the growing numbers of students with children.

We are making strides towards this through curriculum development and creation of a physical environment increasingly supportive of the children's growth. I am looking forward to more of the already existing support and recognition by the university community for the Children's Center. My excitement is contagious. I hope to "infect" you during your association with WCU whatever that may be.