

# CITY BEAT

## Daycare teaches kids 'fun'damentals

○ 'Children learn through play' at A Child's Space

**By Chris Papateodoru**  
Staff Writer

A new enterprise in the South Loop is making a business out of the ABCs and 123s.

A Child's Space, at 1020 S. Wabash Ave., is 5,200 square feet dedicated to making learning fun.

Upon entering the building, there's little doubt that, as the name of the preschool suggests, this truly is a child's space.

Three tiny chairs are lined up near the doorway, and the walls are painted with light colors, one of them with clouds—keeping with the center's tagline: "A Child's Space Early Literacy and Learning Center: Where the sky is the limit!"

In the background, the children can often be heard singing and dancing to various children's songs like "Pop Goes the Weasel."

"Our philosophy is that children learn through play," said Kimberly Burt, owner of A Child's Space. "We like to create our curriculum learning

infants over 7 months and toddlers will also be able to attend.

The children learn several different subjects and concepts throughout the day, such as math, computers, science and reading.

Burt mentioned a program the center participated in where children were striving to read 100 books in 100 days. They completed the task and were treated to a parade lead by none other than Clifford the Big Red Dog.

"We're very child-centered, very focused on early learning experiences for children that help build on their foundations for future learning," Burt said. "We believe in individual expression. So we give children a lot of opportunities throughout the day to feel their way and find their strengths and develop these skills."

Romina Kee, whose 2-year-old son Randall attends the center, echoed Burt's sentiments.

"It's a nice ratio of teachers to children," she said.

Parents come in and out throughout the day to pick up their children. Some of the children are on a part-time schedule, so they're only there for three or four hours. But those who attend full-time are there for most of the day.

The children receive catered food and each get a cot to nap on when they're tired. And there's always something to do, like working in the theme room.

Adrianna Nava, who's been an employee at A Child's Space for a few weeks, was in the theme room working on a farm theme. The room is always changing, and the children get to participate in transforming it into different themes, whether it's the alphabet or the weather.

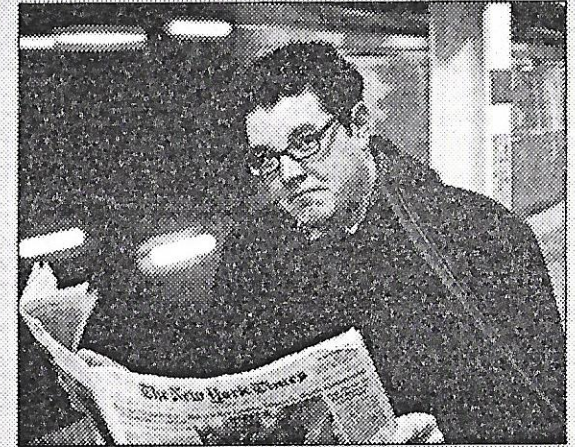
Nava was drawing animals on paper to decorate the walls of the room. She held up one of her drawings for Burt to see.

"A goat, right?" Burt said. "It's great!"

"I love working here," Nava said later. "I love kids. If I were a parent, I would bring my kids here."

Burt said she opened the center in the South Loop because it is a growing community. Many of the children who attend A Child's Space live nearby or have parents who

## In the Loop...



**Chris Coates**

-News Editor-

David E. Miller wants to help keep your tongue in one piece. The Illinois Representative from south suburban Dolton recently sponsored a bill to ban the practice known as tongue splitting. For those non-Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not-connoisseurs, allow me to fill you in: tongue splitting is where one's tongue is sliced vertically down the center, resulting in two separate halves that are independently mobile. The result is a reptilian Gene Simmons.

This must be a transport from the torture camps of Umm Qasr in Iraq. Does there really need to be a law against this? According to Miller, yes. Apparently, the craze isn't only in Iraq; it's sweeping across the nation faster than "Trading Spaces."

And that doesn't sit well with Miller. Along with serving in the Illinois House since 2001, he knows a thing or two (or 32) about oral hygiene.

Dr. Miller, a dentist, introduced House Bill 3086 to the general assembly, effectively forbidding the slicing of one's tongue sans some medical need. Oddly enough, one of the bill's co-sponsors is none other than Rep. Dan Brady, a republican who also happens to serve as the McLean County coroner. I sense a trend here.

Miller said the procedure, which carries no medical purpose,

