

# JSC opens world-class Child Care Center

More JSC parents will be able to enjoy the convenience and security of on-site child care with the opening of the new, larger JSC Child Care Center earlier this month. The new facility, which opened its doors August 16, expands capacity nearly 70 percent and features many modern, child care center innovations.

"I am extremely pleased with how the JSC team pulled together to create a world-class facility that will help serve the needs of families in our workforce," said Center Director George Abbey. "They can now take advantage of this wonderful new facility, where the children will receive guidance and loving care while their parents support the center's programs and build a future for their sons and daughters."

The new Child Care Center has nine classrooms, a commercial-grade kitchen, nursing room, laundry room, cafeteria, staff lounge and several offices. But it's the numerous features that have the parents and staff referring to the building as the "Cadillac of child care centers." Some of the center's features include half walls that increase visibility



NASA JSC Photo 2000-05671 by James Blair

**The ribbon is cut on JSC's new Child Care Center. Space Education board members, joined by Center Director George Abbey, made the opening official at a ceremony August 16.**

for the staff and two-way viewing mirrors in the corridors for watchful parents.

"We toured all of the area's top day-care centers to see what

the latest trends were; what worked and what didn't work," said Kristy Hirning, executive director for the JSC Child Care Center. "I studied all of the benefits and we assessed what we wanted and incorporated it into our plans."

Other amenities include video recorders in each room that can be



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**JSC's new Child Care Center features many new amenities such as a computer lab, video monitoring, half-walls and a commercial-grade kitchen.**



**The new Child Care Center is more than 13,000 square feet and will expand occupancy to 116 children and a staff of 28 adults.**

viewed from the waiting room, an indoor play area, a computer lab with 16 PCs, an intercom system and a revamped playground designed by the parents that features unique, age-appropriate play structures.

"We were only given a year to have this facility designed, constructed and ready to open for the next school year, so we used the design/build process to streamline procurement time," said Henry Wyndon, project manager.

Constructed in five months, the new center will help accommodate the growing demand for on-site child care of JSC employees and contractors.

Hirning says the new facility's capacity has eliminated the waiting list for toddlers and two-year-olds. Because there is limited infant care in the Clear Lake area however, a waiting list still exists for newborns.

"There's a widespread myth that the waiting list for the Child Care Center is several years, but that is not the case," stresses Hirning. "We can accept toddlers and two-year-olds, and if a waiting list does develop, it is not that long."

The original Child Care Center opened ten years ago and quickly filled to capacity. An annex building was constructed to increase the center's capacity up to 78 children and 17 adults; however, the effects of Houston's high humidity on the wooden floor, combined with normal wear and tear, necessitated that the main building be replaced.

The new Child Care Center can accommodate 116 children, from infancy to kindergarten, and a staff of approximately 28 adults. The new facility, Bldg. 211, is a 13,292-square-foot, light steel frame facility, with a metal roof, and stone exterior wall cladding. It is heated with natural gas instead of electricity to reduce energy costs. The facility meets the accreditation requirements of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and allows for possible future expansion of the facility to the east to accommodate a total capacity of 224 children and 44 adults. ■

## SPACEHAB, Inc. receives ISO 9001 certification



Shown here, left to right, are OTS Quality Registrar Ron Platt; Director, Quality System, Jim Schultz; SPACEHAB President David Rossi; and U. S. Congressman Nick Lampson.

On July 14, 2000, SPACEHAB, Inc. and its subsidiary company, Johnson Engineering, earned ISO 9001 certification upon completion of an external ISO registrar audit.

At the certification ceremony held on August 8, Ron Platt, manager of certification, OTS Quality Registrars, formally presented the official certificate to SPACEHAB President, David Rossi. According to Platt, "Only two percent of the companies audited by OTS Quality Registrars have been

certified without any major or minor non-conformances on the initial audit."

David Rossi gave credit to Jim Schultz, director, SPACEHAB Quality System, for doing an outstanding job in getting the company so well prepared for the audit. United States Congressman Nick Lampson, who took time from his busy schedule to participate in the ceremony, congratulated the company employees for achieving this important milestone. ■

## EAA awards annual scholarship

JSC's Exchange Scholarship winner for 2000 is Elizabeth Lesenski, daughter of Kevin Lesenski of the Aircraft Operations Division at Ellington Field. She is a May 2000 graduate of LaPorte High School, finishing in the top 20 percent of 402 students. Her plans are to attend San Jacinto College and later transfer to the University of St. Thomas. She plans to major in history and education and become a history teacher.

The NASA Exchange College Scholarship is an annual award to provide financial assistance for dependents of JSC civil service employees to attend college. Applicants are evaluated on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, and involvement in school or community activities. The scholarship winners may pursue any course of study leading to a recognized degree at any accredited college in the country. ■



NASA JSC Photo 2000-05486 by Benny Benavides

Elizabeth Lesenski, daughter of Kevin Lesenski from JSC's Aircraft Operations Division, is the 2000 JSC Exchange Scholarship recipient. The student was joined by her grandparents Ray and Frances Zann (shown left to right), father Kevin Lesenski, sister Christina, and mother Monica, as she received the award from Director George Abbey (far right).