

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

OU recruiting families for infant and parent playgroup

By Eric Reikowski, media relations assistant

A playgroup is currently being formed at OU for families with children ages four months to 17 months. Sponsored by the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education, the proposed ten-week playgroup, dubbed "OU Babies," will give children and parents an interactive learning experience designed to foster mutual growth. The playgroup will be facilitated by a teacher with a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and more than 10 years experience in the field.

"This is an ideal opportunity for parents of infants to network with one another," said Holly McFaul, program director at the Lowry Center. "It's also a great way to enhance the learning and development already going on in the home."

The sessions will focus upon key developmental concepts for infants and toddlers, including the child's sense of self, social relations, creative representation and movement. Children will also explore communication and language, external objects, space and time.

Each class will feature a regular routine of songs and games, along with a learning activity devoted to each session's area of development. A weekly handout on infant development will be distributed to families to keep them actively involved in the educational experiences of their children.

According to McFaul, the program will allow parents to gain a deeper understanding of child development while exposing their children to a high-quality early learning program that can continue up until kindergarten.

The play group will meet Thursday afternoons from 2:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education Atrium. Families are invited to sign up for all ten sessions or choose specific sessions they would like to attend.

The cost is \$20 per session for one to five sessions, \$17.50 per session for six to nine sessions, or \$150 for all 10 sessions.

For more information, contact the Lowry Center for Early Childhood Education at (248) 370-4107 or (248) 370-4100.

SUMMARY

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