

Child Care Center Inaugurated

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No more birds or animals will be playing around the area where the famous Baguio Centennial Tree once stood. Seven months after the tree's controversial cutting, children will be the ones jumping and playing around when the Saint Louis University Child

Care Center opens on July.

SLU employees can now drop their pre-school children in Baguio's first private day care center. "It will ease the parents' anxiety towards their kids while working here (in SLU)," said Shirley Ayao-ao, a proponent of the center's construction and Head of the Professional Education Department in SLU. Ayao-ao, however, explained that the center's policies, guidelines, and curriculum are still unfinished. "They are still unapproved but we are working on it." Housing the Tank Originally, the SLU administration planned to install just a water tank in compliance to the Baguio City Fire Departments building code. But, due to, Corazon Bomogao, former Education Department Head proposal to house the tank with an educational establishment, the child care center began construction. The SLU design and technical group said that the initial plan wasted too much space so they approved the proposal with respect to Bomogao's positive feasibility results. As of March, the group said that the center is ready for occupancy. The group is already "starting the second phase of construction" - developing a playground at the center's back for outdoor activities. "We are currently supporting the unstable ground of the playground," they said. Still, they assured "everything will be finished before the year ends. The center, outfitted with rubber floorings throughout is three floors, is complete with amenities for the incoming children enrollees. The said group discussed that a surveillance system will be installed before the center opens to ensure the children's safety. "We are planning to install cameras for every level of the establishment." Connected to central surveillance system. Inaugurated and blessed last December 22, 2007, the center is expected to receive numerous enrollees. "Since many SLU employees have registered their children, activities will be divided into two batches," the six-member technical group explained. In addition to a specially-designed playing, reading, sleeping, breastfeeding, and kitchen areas, the center is also outfitted with pastel-colored walls and safe rubberized ramps. Benefit to Louisians "Aside from taking care of kids, the centers will also be a venue for student researchers and practicumers," Ayao-ao said. Intern Nursing Students would take charge of the infants and Psychology Majors would aid with the daily activities of the toddlers. The Slu Human Resource Department is still screening applicants for a Child Care Center Officer who would head the center's operations and three House Parents who would aid the latter.