

Daycare center ready for a new look

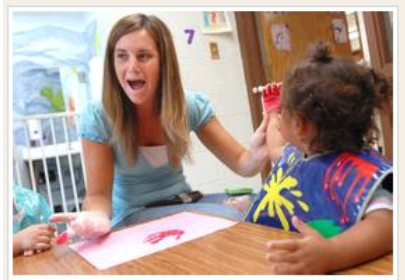


Photo by Kate Dougherty
Brittany McNelly, an instructor at A Bright Beginning Academy in Glendale Heights, enlivens an art class Aug. 20. The day care center and preschool was recently given a state grant to renovate the center.

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Glendale Heights Press
Wed Aug 22, 2007, 10:03 AM CDT

Glendale Heights, IL -

A child care center in Glendale Heights is set to undergo a major facelift thanks to a grant from a nonprofit group.

A Bright Beginning Academy Childcare Center, 1480 Bloomingdale Road, in Glendale Heights earlier this month received a \$178,000 grant from the Illinois

Facilities Fund for a complete remodel of their classrooms.

Karla Neumann, daycare director, said the grant will allow the facility to completely gut and remodel six classrooms from floor to ceiling along with the center's gymnasium, and provide new fixtures and equipment for the children.

"This will mean a huge improvement to our center," she said. "The plan now is the remodeling will be taking place during the fall and we plan to have a grand reopening in January."

The grant is not a matching grant, so no money from the center's budget is being used as part of the renovations, meaning the center will continue to serve its clients as usual, she said.

The grant was made possible as part of the Grand Victoria Foundation, which helps subsidize the Illinois Facilities Fund and pay for the grant program, said Heather Haviland, senior project manager for the fund.

The Illinois Facilities Fund is a private nonprofit organization established in 1990 by nonprofit and community leaders to meet the growth needs of non-profit organizations serving disadvantaged communities, according to the organization's Web site.

The grant was one of five given to schools in DuPage County through the program after Bright Beginning had applied for the grant, Haviland said.

Roughly \$20,000 of the grant will go toward new equipment at the center such as chairs, tables, and toys for the children, Neumann said.

The center will stay open during the remodeling, she said.

Neumann said most of the center's clients and families do not have great financial resources, so the improvements will be a big help.

"Without this grant, there is no way we could undertake a project like this," she said. "We are very grateful."