

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY



Child Care Needs at Adelphi

***Office of Research, Assessment and Planning
January 2003***

Child Care Needs at Adelphi

Office of Research, Assessment and Planning

Nava Lerer, Director
Patricia Wallace, Assistant Director
Raymond Hicks, Senior Research Analyst
Ellen Lee, Senior Research Analyst

January 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Only a small proportion of the staff, faculty and students responded to the survey. Consequently, generalizations from the respondents to the Adelphi community at large should be treated with caution.
- There was interest among respondents in utilizing the services of a child care center at Adelphi. About 60 percent of the respondents would consider using or already do use Adelphi's Child Activity Center (58% of student respondents and 63% of faculty and staff respondents).
- Even among those without children, there were a few respondents who commented that they would use a child care center if they had children or that they wished the Child Activity Center had been around when they had young children.
- The main reason students and staff did not use the Child Activity Center was because they currently did not need external child care services. This may be because most respondents (more than 75%) were satisfied with their existing arrangements.
- Half of faculty indicated that they did not use the Child Activity Center because of transportation issues.
- Another frequently cited factor that prevented respondents from using the Center was that they did not know about it. Several students commented that they were unaware that Adelphi offered such services.
- Respondents were generally more interested in day and evening care than they were in weekend care. Still, a sizable proportion of graduate students and faculty were interested in child care during the weekend as well.
- Of those who responded to the question pertaining to the preferred starting time of the program, part-time graduate students preferred starting child care after noon. Respondents from the other groups preferred starting child care in the morning.
- A majority of undergraduates and part-time graduate students preferred ending child care between 7 and 10 PM. Full-time graduate students and faculty were almost evenly divided between wanting to end child care services between 5 and 6 PM and between 7 and 10 PM. Two-thirds of staff preferred to end between 5 and 6 PM.
- Undergraduates, full-time graduate students, faculty, and staff indicated that they would typically be interested in between 7 and 8 hours of child care a day. Part-time graduate students, on other hand, were interested in only 3 hours a day.
- About half of the students were not interested in a program for school-aged children while the majority of faculty and staff were interested in such a program. Students and staff had more interest in a summer program while faculty preferred a program on vacations and holidays.

INTRODUCTION

The child care survey, designed to assess the child care needs of the Adelphi community, was distributed to Adelphi students, faculty, and staff in fall 2002. Faculty and staff were surveyed on the web while students received paper surveys. The students surveyed were sampled from the population of all graduate students, and from undergraduate students in the School of Social Work, the School of Nursing, the School of Business and ABE. Undergraduate students from General Studies, IAPS, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Education were not surveyed because they tend to be younger than undergraduates from the other schools and therefore less likely to have children. Master's and doctoral students from IAPS received surveys individually while the survey was distributed in selected classrooms (those that had the most students but minimal overlap with the other selected classes) to the rest of the students. Undergraduate students from the programs that were not targeted for survey may still have responded to the survey if they were enrolled in one of the classes that was surveyed.

The response rate of all groups was low and the results should be viewed with caution since the respondents might not be representative of Adelphi's population. This warning is especially applicable for undergraduate students where only 4 part-time and 8 full-time students reported having children under the age of 12.

Survey of faculty and staff (Tables 1-3)

- E-mails requesting participation in the child care survey were sent to about 1,160 full-time and part-time faculty and staff at Adelphi (although it is unknown how many were opened). A total of 164 responded to the web survey for a response rate of 14 percent. About 60 percent of the respondents were staff and 37 percent were faculty.
- More than 90 percent of respondents from each group worked at Adelphi full-time. About 27 percent of full-time faculty and 16 percent of full-time staff responded to the survey while the response rate for part-time employees was considerably lower.
- Not surprisingly, two-thirds of staff respondents were from central administration. A little more than 40 percent of faculty respondents were from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- A majority of the faculty and staff who responded to the survey were female.
- More than 60 percent of faculty and staff who responded to the survey were married.
- Only 20 percent of all respondents, 17 percent staff and 25 percent faculty, had children under the age of 12.

Faculty and Staff with children under 12

- Of the respondents with children under 12, more than half of the staff and close to two-third of the faculty had elementary school-aged children. The rest indicated they had younger children.
- Currently, staff respondents were using a variety of child care sources; no one source was mentioned by more than 20 percent of respondents. In contrast, nearly 30 percent of faculty respondents were currently using a child care provider in their own home.

- The vast majority of both staff and faculty respondents were satisfied with their current child care arrangements.
- All features of child care programs listed were considered very important or important by a majority of all respondents. The hours of operation and an emphasis on social development were considered important by all staff and faculty respondents.
- Only 56 percent of faculty compared with 70 percent of staff considered proximity to home to be important.
- A little more than 10 percent of staff respondents currently enrolled their children in Adelphi's Child Activity Center. The remainder was evenly split between those who would consider enrolling their children at the Child Activity Center and those who were not interested.
- Two-thirds of faculty respondents would consider enrolling their children in the Child Activity Center and the remaining third would not.
- The most important factor preventing use of the Child Activity Center among faculty was transportation, cited by half of respondents. For staff, two factors were mentioned by about 30 percent of respondents: Not needing external child care services and the hours of operation.
- Of those who expressed an interest in child care about 80 percent of faculty and staff were interested in enrolling in child care in the day time. Half of faculty and 44 percent of staff were also interested in child care during the evenings.
- Predictably, a majority of faculty preferred that the Child Activity Center be open in accordance with Adelphi's academic calendar while a majority of staff preferred it be open in accordance with Adelphi's administrative calendar.
- A little more than a quarter of staff respondents and less than 20 percent of faculty respondents were interested in enrolling their children full-time in the Child Activity Center.
- The vast majority of respondents indicated they prefer that the program start before noon. Almost 80 percent of staff wanted to start child care between 7 AM and 9 AM.
- Two-thirds of staff wanted to end child care between 5 and 6 PM. Forty-six percent of faculty wanted to end at this time as well and another 46 percent wanted to end between 7 and 10 PM.
- Half of the staff and faculty were interested in enrolling their children in a kindergarten program at Adelphi.
- Finally, the survey asked if and when respondents would be interested in a separate program for school-aged children. The most popular times for a separate program were during vacations and holidays (47 percent of staff respondents and 71 percent of faculty respondents) and during summer (53 percent of staff and 40 percent of faculty). A very small proportion preferred a program before school or were not interested in the program for school-aged children.

Survey of Students

- A total of 1790 undergraduate and graduate students were surveyed. Slightly more than 200 students returned the survey (211) for a response rate of 12%. This response rate was probably lower than it was on other surveys because the survey was conducted shortly before classes ended and because most students do not have children.
- A little more than three-quarters of the respondents were graduate students (n=166). Of these, a little more than half (54%) attended Adelphi part-time. In contrast, only 23 percent of undergraduate respondents attended Adelphi part-time.¹
- Half of the undergraduate respondents were in the School of Nursing. Graduate students were more likely to be enrolled in IAPS, Education, or Social Work.
- The vast majority of all respondents were women.
- Twenty-four percent of full-time undergraduates and 16 percent of full-time graduate students indicated that they had children under the age of 12 compared to 40 percent of part-time undergraduate students (only 10 part-time undergraduates responded) and 30 percent of part-time graduate students.

Student respondents with children under 12

- Because only 8 full-time and 4 part-time undergraduate students had children under 12, their responses were combined.
- Undergraduates and full-time graduate students were more likely to have younger kids: only a third had elementary-aged children (6-12 years old). In contrast, 73 percent of part-time graduate students had children of elementary school age (6-12 years old).
- Half of the undergraduate respondents currently used their spouse as their primary source of child care. The two largest sources of child care for full-time graduate students were another family member (40%) and a care provider in the respondent's own home (30%). About 30 percent of part-time graduate students used either care by another family member or the unspecified "other" source for their current child care.
- More than two-thirds of students in all groups were satisfied with their current child care arrangements.
- The two most important features of a child care program mentioned by students were an emphasis on social development and the caregiver to child ratio. Overall, the least important feature was inter-age groups. Also, while all undergraduates and 77 percent of full-time graduate students thought proximity to work was important, only 46 percent of part-time graduate students did.
- Among the student respondents, only two full-time graduate students currently use the Child Activity Center. However, a majority of undergraduates and full-time graduate students would consider using it. Half of part-time graduate students would consider enrolling their children in the Child Activity Center as well.

¹ Four students (three of whom had children under 12) did not include information about their current position at Adelphi but filled out the rest of the survey. There was also one respondent, who did not have children under 12, who reported a position as full-time staff.

- The most important factor preventing use of Adelphi's child care services was that external child care services were not needed, cited by 36 percent of undergraduates, 33 percent of full-time graduate students, and 41 percent of part-time graduate students.² Undergraduates and full-time graduate students cited the cost of the Child Activity Center as frequently as they did the fact that they did not need external child care, but only 5 percent of part-time graduate students indicated that the cost of the Center was important.
- The vast majority of undergraduates and full-time graduate students were more interested in day time care (75% and 80%, respectively) than in evening care (38% and 50%, respectively). The reverse was true for part-time graduate students, as 17 percent were interested in day time care and 83 percent were interested in evening care.
- Undergraduates and full-time graduate students² preferred an earlier starting time than did part-time graduate students. Three-quarters of undergraduates and 78 percent of full-time graduate students preferred to start between 7 and 9 AM compared to 20 percent of part-time graduate students. Sixty percent of part-time graduates preferred starting between 1 and 5 PM.
- Students in all groups preferred picking their children up from child care at a later hour. Eighty percent of part-time graduate students and 63 percent of undergraduates preferred ending child care between 7 and 10 PM compared to 38 percent of full-time graduate students. Half of the full-time graduate students preferred ending between 5 and 6 PM.
- Not surprisingly, undergraduates and full-time graduate students generally wanted to keep their children in the Child Activity center for a longer period of time than part-time graduate students. The former preferred 7 hours of child care on average while the latter preferred only 4 hours.
- Undergraduate and graduate student respondents thought that the Child Activity Center should be open based on different calendars. Sixty-three percent of undergraduates indicated that the Center should be open throughout the year. In contrast, 44 percent of full-time and 50 percent of part-time graduate students thought the Child Activity Center should be open based on Adelphi's academic calendar.
- Full-time graduate students were much more likely to indicate that they were interested in enrolling their children at the Child Activity Center full-time than were part-time graduate students or undergraduates.
- Half of the undergraduate respondents and 63 percent of full-time graduate students would be interested in enrolling their children for kindergarten at Adelphi. A slightly smaller proportion of part-time graduate students (39%) were interested.
- None of the students wanted a separate program for school-aged children before school. While some respondents preferred a separate program after school or on vacations and holidays, most students preferred a program during the summer.

² More than 60 percent of part-time graduate students did not respond when asked to indicate a time when they would like to start and end child care. Only a third or less of the other two groups of students did not respond.

**Table 1. Faculty and Staff
Demographic Characteristics of All Respondents**

	Staff	Faculty	Total
Number	99	61	164
School			
Central Administration	66.3	0.0	40.7
Arts and Sciences	16.3	41.1	26.0
Business	1.1	10.7	4.7
Education	4.3	23.2	12.0
IAPS	3.3	8.9	5.3
Nursing	4.3	3.6	4.0
Social Work	3.3	12.5	6.7
ABLE	1.1	0.0	0.7
Percent Female	75.5	62.7	71.1
Percent Full-time	93.9	96.7	95.0
Marital Status			
Single	23.2	13.6	20.0
Married	64.6	71.2	66.9
Divorced	7.1	13.6	9.4
Widowed	5.1	1.7	3.8
Annual Household Income			
Below \$20,000	0.0	0.0	0.7
\$20,000-29,999	10.2	0.0	6.2
\$30,000-39,999	11.4	0.0	6.9
\$40,000-49,999	17.0	1.8	11.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	14.8	25.5	19.3
\$75,000-99,999	15.9	21.8	17.9
\$100,000-124,999	8.0	20.0	12.4
\$125,000-150,000	9.1	23.6	14.5
More than \$150,000	13.6	7.3	11.0
Percent with children under 12 years old	17.2	24.6	20.2

Table 2. Child Care Program Features—Faculty and Staff

	Staff	Faculty	Total
Number with children under the age of 12	17	15	33
Percent with children in the following age groups (of those with children)			
Infant	11.8	21.4	15.6
Toddler	17.6	21.4	18.8
Pre-school	35.3	7.1	25.0
Kindergarten	23.5	0.0	12.5
Elementary School	52.9	64.3	59.4
Current primary source of childcare			
Spouse	18.8	7.1	12.9
Care by other family member	12.5	14.3	12.9
Adelphi's Child Activity Center	12.5	0.0	9.7
Day care center	6.3	21.4	12.9
Care provider in own home	18.8	28.6	22.6
Private care in another's home	18.8	0.0	9.7
After school care	12.5	21.4	16.1
Other	0.0	7.1	3.2
Percent satisfied with current child care arrangements	87.5	71.4	80.6
Important features of a child care program			
	<i>Percent responding 'Very important' or 'Important'</i>		
Emphasis on academics	80.0	72.7	76.2
Emphasis on social development	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proximity to home	70.0	55.6	63.2
Proximity to work	100.0	90.9	95.2
Cost of program	100.0	81.8	90.5
Inter-age groups	66.7	60.0	63.2
Same-age groups	60.0	72.7	66.7
Hours of operation	100.0	100.0	100.0
Classroom size	100.0	81.8	90.0
Caregiver to child ratio	100.0	90.9	95.2
Other			

Table 3. Adelphi Child Care—Faculty and Staff

	Staff	Faculty	Total
Interested in enrolling children at Adelphi's Child Activity Center			
Already do	12.5	0.0	9.4
Yes, would consider it	43.8	66.7	53.1
No	43.8	33.3	37.5
Factors preventing use of Adelphi's Child Activity Center			
Don't need external child care services	29.4	0.0	15.6
Cost	23.5	0.0	12.5
Availability	11.8	7.1	9.4
Location	5.9	14.3	9.4
Transportation	11.8	50.0	28.1
Hours of operation	29.4	0.0	15.6
Prefer family help	5.9	0.0	3.1
Other	17.6	28.6	21.9
Percent interested in enrolling child for			
Evening day care	44.4	50.0	45.0
Weekend day care	11.1	40.0	25.0
Day time care	77.8	81.8	81.0
Preferred starting hour of operation			
No response	47.1	26.7	36.4
<u>Of those who responded</u>			
Between 7 AM and 9 AM	77.8	45.5	61.9
Between 10 AM and 12 PM	0.0	18.2	9.5
Between 1 PM and 5 PM	22.2	36.4	28.6
Between 6 PM and 8 PM	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preferred ending hour of operation			
No response	47.1	26.7	36.4
<u>Of those who responded</u>			
Between 9 AM and 12 PM	0.0	0.0	0.0
Between 1 PM and 4 PM	33.3	9.1	23.8
Between 5 PM and 6 PM	66.7	45.5	52.4
Between 7 PM and 10 PM	0.0	45.5	23.8
Average number of hours of operation			
	7.6	7.5	7.5
Child Activity Center should be open in accordance with:			
Adelphi's academic calendar	0.0	58.3	29.2
Adelphi's administrative calendar	54.5	25.0	41.7
Calendar corresponding with children's schools	9.1	8.3	8.3
All year round	36.4	8.3	20.8
Percent interested in enrolling children full-time			
	27.3	18.2	21.7
Percent interested in enrolling children for kindergarten at Adelphi			
	50.0	50.0	50.0
Separate program for school-aged children			
Before school	11.8	0.0	6.3
After school	35.3	21.4	28.1
On vacations and holidays	47.1	71.4	56.3
During summer	52.9	40.0	45.5
Not interested	5.9	7.1	6.3

**Table 4—Undergraduate and Graduate Students
Demographic Characteristics of All Respondents**

	Undergraduates		Graduates		Total*
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
Number	34	10	76	89	211
School					
Arts and Sciences	5.9	0.0	13.2	10.1	10.0
Business	11.8	0.0	1.3	4.5	4.3
Education	11.8	0.0	9.2	10.1	9.5
IAPS	0.0	0.0	38.2	13.5	19.4
Nursing **	50.0	50.0	5.3	14.6	19.0
Social Work	17.6	20.0	25.0	46.1	32.2
ABLE	2.9	30.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Unknown	0.0	0.0	7.9	1.1	3.8
Percent Female	91.2	100.0	80.3	85.4	85.2
Marital Status					
Single	66.7	30.0	61.3	37.5	50.2
Married	27.3	40.0	33.3	54.5	42.0
Divorced	3.0	30.0	5.3	6.8	6.8
Widowed	3.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.0
Annual Household Income					
Below \$20,000	10.0	33.3	32.8	3.6	16.3
\$20,000-29,999	3.3	0.0	6.0	7.2	5.8
\$30,000-39,999	30.0	11.1	10.4	10.8	13.7
\$40,000-49,999	0.0	0.0	4.5	9.6	5.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	26.7	11.1	20.9	22.9	22.6
\$75,000-99,999	13.3	33.3	6.0	18.1	13.7
\$100,000-124,999	3.3	0.0	7.5	6.0	5.8
\$125,000-150,000	10.0	11.1	9.0	10.8	10.0
More than \$150,000	3.3	0.0	3.0	10.8	6.3
Percent with children under 12 years old	23.5	40.0	16.0	29.9	25.0

* Seven students are missing school information and two are missing degree information

** One Nursing student had missing enrollment information

Table 5. Child Care Program Features—Adelphi Students

	Undergraduates	Graduates		Total *
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	
Number with children under the age of 12	12	12	26	52
Percent with children in the following age groups (of those with children)				
Infant	41.7	25.0	11.5	21.2
Toddler	33.3	16.7	23.1	23.1
Pre-school	33.3	33.3	19.2	26.9
Kindergarten	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Elementary School	33.3	33.3	73.1	55.8
Current primary source of childcare				
Spouse	50.0	10.0	16.7	22.9
Care by other family member	16.7	40.0	29.2	31.3
Adelphi's Child Activity Center	0.0	20.0	0.0	4.2
Day care center	0.0	0.0	8.3	4.2
Care provider in own home	0.0	30.0	12.5	12.5
Private care in another's home	8.3	0.0	0.0	2.1
After school care	0.0	0.0	4.2	2.1
Other	25.0	0.0	29.2	20.8
Percent satisfied with current child care arrangement:	75.0	80.0	68.0	73.5
Important features of a child care program				
	<i>Percent responding 'Very important' or 'Important'</i>			
Emphasis on academics	88.9	88.9	81.8	86.7
Emphasis on social development	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Proximity to home	88.9	77.7	72.8	80.0
Proximity to work	100.0	77.7	45.5	73.3
Cost of program	88.9	100.0	90.9	93.3
Inter-age groups	75.0	33.3	54.5	51.7
Same-age groups	88.9	62.5	90.9	79.3
Hours of operation	100.0	88.9	100.0	96.7
Classroom size	88.9	100.0	81.8	86.7
Caregiver to child ratio	100.0	100.0	90.9	93.3
Other	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Two of the students included in the total have missing degree information

Table 6. Adelphi Child Care—Students

	Undergraduates		Graduates	
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Interested in enrolling children at Adelphi's Child Activity Center				
Already do	0.0	20.0	0.0	4.2
Yes, would consider it	58.3	70.0	50.0	54.2
No	41.7	10.0	50.0	41.7
Factors preventing use of Adelphi's Child				
Don't need external child care services	36.4	33.3	40.9	39.0
Cost	36.4	33.3	4.5	17.1
Availability	9.1	16.7	0.0	4.9
Location	27.3	33.3	18.2	22.0
Transportation	9.1	16.7	0.0	4.9
Hours of operation	18.2	16.7	13.6	14.6
Prefer family help	18.2	16.7	9.1	14.6
Other	18.2	33.3	31.8	26.8
Percent interested in enrolling child for				
Evening day care	37.5	50.0	83.3	41.9
Weekend day care	12.5	30.0	41.7	29.0
Day time care	75.0	80.0	16.7	54.8
Preferred starting hour of operation				
No response	33.3	25.0	61.5	46.2
<u>Of those who responded</u>				
Between 7 AM and 9 AM	75.0	77.8	20.0	57.1
Between 10 AM and 12 PM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Between 1 PM and 5 PM	12.5	11.1	60.0	28.6
Between 6 PM and 8 PM	12.5	11.1	20.0	14.3
Preferred ending hour of operation				
No response	33.3	33.3	61.5	48.1
<u>Of those who responded</u>				
Between 9 AM and 12 PM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Between 1 PM and 4 PM	12.5	12.5	10.0	11.1
Between 5 PM and 6 PM	25.0	50.0	10.0	29.6
Between 7 PM and 10 PM	62.5	37.5	80.0	59.3
Average number of hours of operation				
	6.7	6.9	2.9	4.7
Child Activity Center should be open based on:				
Adelphi's academic calendar	25.0	44.4	50.0	40.0
Adelphi's administrative calendar	12.5	33.3	25.0	23.3
Calendar corresponding with children's schools	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3
All year round	62.5	22.2	25.0	33.3
Percent interested in enrolling children full-time				
	14.3	50.0	8.3	23.3
Percent interested in enrolling children for kindergarten at Adelphi				
	50.0	62.5	38.5	46.7
Separate program for school-aged children				
Before school	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
After school	10.0	25.0	30.8	22.6
On vacations and holidays	20.0	25.0	23.1	22.6
During summer	40.0	50.0	53.8	48.4
Not interested	60.0	50.0	46.2	51.6