

R E P O R T

Your United Way of Broome County investment at work

May 2003

Day Nursery cares for kids while parents go to school

When Nigar Tuncer came to Broome County from her home in Turkey to attend Binghamton University, she had to leave her young son and husband behind. But she knew it wouldn't be long before her three-year-old son Ozqur would be joining her in the U.S., so Nigar had to find quality and affordable day care for him while she was attending classes. After some research into day care centers in the area, she discovered that **Day Nursery Association** would be the right place for her son.

Day Nursery gives children a safe place to learn and play

When Ozqur first arrived at Day Nursery, he didn't know any English and was very shy. But since his arrival, Ozqur has picked up a little of the language from his English-speaking peers at Day Nursery. Though still a little shy and sometimes content to sit and work quietly on puzzles by himself, Ozqur is interacting very well with the other children.

"We have a very multicultural mix of children here," says Debbie Miller, Executive Director of Day Nursery, "so the kids are very open and accepting of other kids from different cultures and backgrounds. With Ozqur, language has never been a barrier to learning and making friends."

Nigar is not only grateful that her son is adjusting so well to his new life in America, but that Day Nursery is there to care for him when she is not able to. Without Day Nursery, Nigar would not have been able to afford adequate day care, and her son would not have been able to join her in America. Because of Day Nursery, Nigar is able to work and study and still be able to hold her son in her arms every night.

After this summer spent back in Turkey, Nigar will be returning to the U.S. in the fall with Ozqur, who will once again be attending preschool classes at Day Nursery, this



Ozqur Tuncer, who immigrated to Broome County from Turkey with his mother, Nigar, sits quietly while solving a puzzle at the Day Nursery Association's preschool program. Day Nursery's affordable day care program allows low-income children to receive the care they need while their parents are working or attending school.

time receiving formal English language classes to further his speaking skills.

United Way makes affordable day care possible for families

Day Nursery Association offers low-cost day care for parents who are working or, like Nigar, attending school. Fees are on a sliding scale and are based on family income. At a time when day care costs are skyrocketing and parents are strapped for funds, Day Nursery Association is there to provide quality day care at a cost that is comfortable for the parents. Parents who otherwise cannot afford adequate childcare are able to go to school and go to work, thus creating a better life for them-

selves and their children. Day Nursery is especially important to those parents who, like Nigar, are new to the area and do not have friends or relatives who can care for their children.

Funds donated to United Way help offset the cost of day care at Day Nursery so parents like Nigar can afford quality childcare, and so children like Ozqur will have a safe place to learn and play.

Day Nursery has three strategic locations in low-income areas, which include publicly-funded housing projects: Moeller Street, Saratoga Heights, and Stuyvesant Street. Last year, Day Nursery helped over 170 chil-

dren from infants to preschool age receive the day care they needed. Over half of its clients receive public assistance.

Day Nursery Association is currently developing a Family and Staff Resource Program, which allows parents to play with their children at the day care sites, as well as provide education and resources to help them become better parents. The program is being funded by a United Way Venture Grant.

To learn more about Day Nursery Association, call 722-4688. To learn how you can help families like the Tuncers receive affordable day care, contact United Way at 729-2592, or visit its web site at www.unitedwaybroome.org.



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