



**GSA R2-07-109**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Federal Child Development Center Celebrates New Classroom Wing**

(HATO REY – April 23, 2007) Federal and local officials, families, teachers and the children gathered together today for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the addition of a new classroom wing at the Rainforest Kids Child Development Center announced the U.S. General Services Administration. The Center is located at the Federico Degetau Federal Building in Hato Rey (PR), serving the child care needs of both the nearby federal employees as well as those of the local community.

“I’m pleased that GSA has been able to do its part by expanding the Rainforest Kids Child Development center. We’d like to accommodate as many kids as possible. It’s good for the children, good for their parents and good for a government workforce that will need to attract the best and brightest in the coming decades,” said GSA Administrator Lurita Doan.

The original 10,000 square foot facility opened in January, 2002 accommodating 74 full day children, along with an after school program, which quickly filled to capacity. With demand for care far exceeding the supply, GSA undertook an expansion project that added approximately 4,300 square feet, including four (4) new classrooms and a teachers’ lounge, to the original layout of six classrooms and an interior courtyard playground. The facility now accommodates 110 full day children and 10 children in the after-school program. In order to maintain the integrity and continuity of the original design, GSA employed the architectural services of San Juan firm, Fred Muhlach & Associates for both projects. Another San Juan firm, Construciones JFM, Inc, served as contractor for the project.

Located adjacent to the parking lot and opposite the Federico Degetau Federal Building, the Rainforest Kids Child Development Center offers a high quality bilingual program for all young children between the ages of two months and five years. It follows a creative curriculum allowing children to work at their own pace, with materials in which they are interested. The program is thematic based, where hands-on, child-directed activities are provided. A whole language, as well as a phonics-based reading program, is included along with a curriculum that supports infant development. It is the only private center in the Caribbean that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), an organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of educational and developmental services for all young children.

The *Rainforest Kids Child Development Center* is operated by Corporacion para la Acesoria y Desarrollo de Proyectos Educativos (CADEPE) under the direction of Aida L. Herrans Barreras.

The U.S. General Services Administration has been actively promoting worksite child care since October 1987. In its role as the Federal government's real estate manager and promoter of family-friendly workplace initiatives, GSA has established more than 110 child care centers at Federal facilities across the country and its program is recognized nationally for the high quality of child care that is provided.

-30-

Founded in 1949, GSA serves as a centralized procurement and property management agency for the federal government. GSA manages more than one-fourth of the government's total procurement dollars and influences the management of \$500 billion in federal assets, including 8,300 government-owned or leased buildings and 170,000 vehicles. GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 420 historic properties, and as manager of **USA.gov**, the official portal to federal government information and services. GSA's mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and e-travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.

Contact: Renee Miscione (212) 264-8260  
renee.miscione@gsa.gov