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## New child care center opens at CCC's Elmira campus

BY JASON WHONG • JWHONG@GANNETT.COM • STAFF WRITER • AUGUST 25, 2009

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A new child care center for infants and toddlers opened this month at the Corning Community College Academic and Workforce Development Center in Elmira.

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The Economic Opportunity Program's Kiddie Kampus has a staff of five and can care for 18 infants and toddlers.

The state-licensed day care center has a bathroom with half-height walls to give toddlers privacy but allow workers to check on them without opening a door. It also has indoor and outdoor recreation areas.

The center participates in the Child Care Subsidy Program administered by the Chemung County Child Care Council. Parents who qualify can have some or all expenses paid by the program, said Bill Brodginiski, deputy of child care at EOP.

The room that houses Kiddie Kampus was a drop-in child care center from August 2007 through December 2008, Brodginiski said.

He said the center began its transition to full-time day care using start-up money provided by Chemung County, the Chemung County School Readiness Project and the child care council, plus EOP [funds](#).

During the down time, some minor renovations were done to the room, and EOP applied to the state for a license, Brodginiski said.

\* To enroll a child in the center, call April Heater at (607) 734-6208, ext. 276.



JASON WHONG / Staff Photo

Paula Harper, toddler lead teacher, left, and Yolanda Garcia, infant teacher pose by a table Friday at Economic Opportunity Program's Kiddie Kampus Child Care Center at Corning Community College Academic and Workforce Development Center in Elmira. [\(Buy this photo\)](#)

### SUBSIDY PROGRAM

\* The Child Care Subsidy Program, administered by the Chemung County Child Care Council, uses federal, state and local funds to subsidize child care for parents using a state income-eligibility formula.

Ruth Krusen, executive director of the council, said subsidies may be used at licensed day care providers or at informal providers who meet eligibility requirements.

Parents must work (or, if not working, must attend training provided by the county), and must document their income and work schedules.

\* Information: (607) 734-3941.

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