

a program showcase

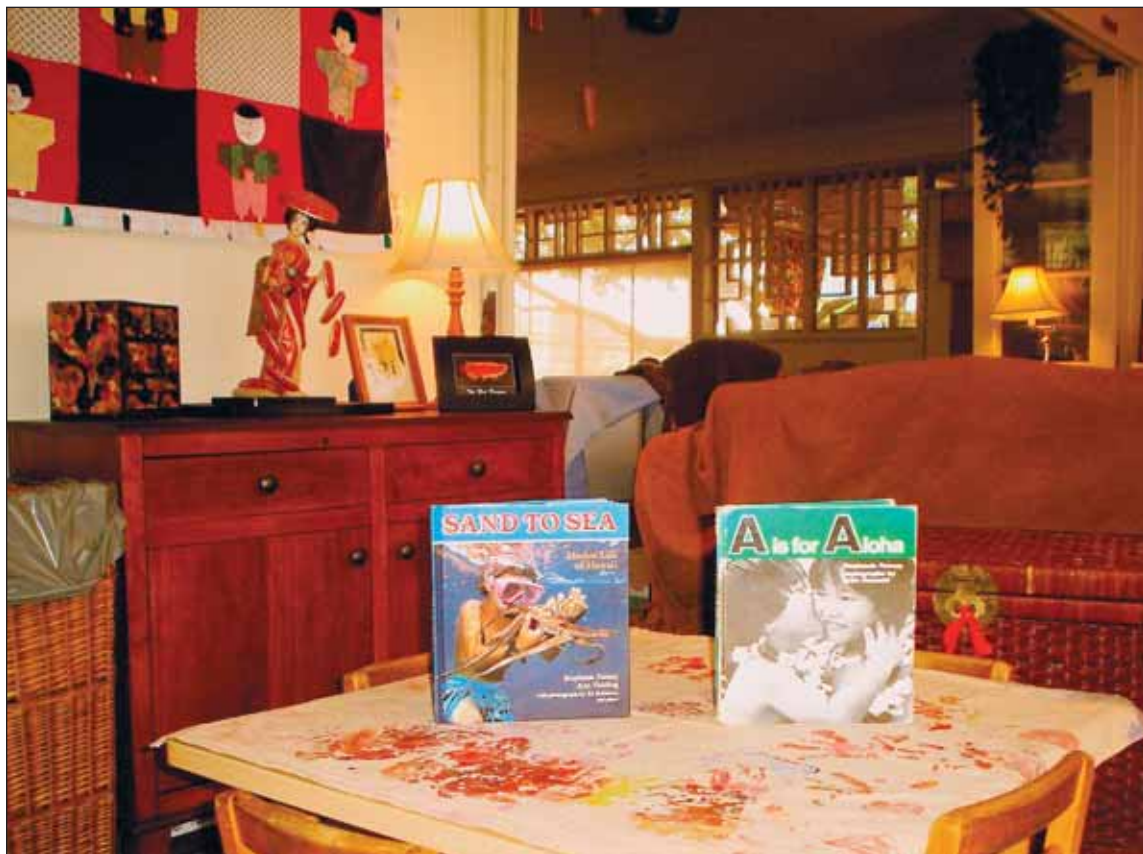
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center

by Michael Kalinowski

The Children's Center, located in Honolulu, offers a full-day child care and preschool program for up to 125 children, ages two through five in one of seven classrooms. As part of the University community, the Children's Center is a site for students, faculty, and the community members to observe good practice in early childhood education and conduct research. Each class consists of two full-time teachers as well as interns, student assistants from the University of Hawai'i at

Mānoa, and volunteers from various University programs and the community at large. The program operates on the same calendar as the rest of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

According to preschool teachers Avis Seki and Shelley Yorita, their mission is, "to provide quality early childhood education services that represent the best of current practice for students, faculty, and staff and also to provide training and



PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY THE PROGRAM

educational experiences for the development of competent and nurturing teachers/caregivers of Hawai'i's young children and those who will be working with families."

Five goals guide their work:

- to provide a program for children that delivers consistent, high-quality early childhood education/child care services
- to work in partnership with families to support the needs of children and to educate and support the families of young children
- to promote the professional growth of early childhood educators and those who are planning on working with families
- to develop and enhance mutually beneficial relationships with others within the University community as well as in the broader community
- to model quality multicultural early childhood education.

The most unique program feature of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center is that families come from all over the world to study, research, and/or work there, and thus the population they work with is very diverse, with past students from Ghana, Belize, Bangladesh, Palau, Spain, México, Lebanon, Israel, and Mongolia. Last year in just their 3's and 4's children were from the United States, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Japan, China, Korea, Chile, Rapa Nui, Columbia, Mariana Islands, and England.

They are committed to modeling a quality multicultural early childhood program, which reflects the most current research



in their area of expertise, with diversity a characteristic of the staff and families.

For further information on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Children's Center program, please contact:

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The Program Showcases were developed by Michael Kalinowski as a component of the World Forum on Early Care and Education.

They are intended to highlight the work of particularly interesting, unique, and/or exceptional early childhood programs around the world.

Selected programs will appear in future issues of *Exchange*, and are also available on www.ChildCareExchange.com.