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The Lost Art of Family-style Dining: CDC teaches skills



Shatoya Lombard, 2, daughter of Geoffrey and Shatoya Lombard; Gavin Griego, 23 months, son of Rikki Sprague; and Clair Blow, 18 months, daughter of Kathy Carston and Kevin Blow practice their table manners during lunchtime Jan. 7 at the Dugway Child Development Center.

Story and photos by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

Six tiny tots sit around a small table politely passing spaghetti, pieces of pineapple and green peas. Please and thank you are the primary conversations during the Jan. 7 lunchtime. This is no small feat for one 2-year-old boy, who only moments before had a boo-boo on his index finger and tears on his rosy cheeks.

The children behave much like they are attending a miniature etiquette class as they graciously pass each dish to the child on their left. They are practicing the *“Lost Art of Family-style Dining”* with their teachers at the Dugway Child Development Center.

The CDC, in English Village, currently serves 36 children. Staff members are referred to as child and youth program assistants, who are specifically trained to meet early childhood requirements accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, or NAEYC. They are also certified by the Department of Defense regional level Child, Youth, School Services.

The NAEYC is the nation’s largest organization of early childhood educators and the most widely accredited program for Army child care centers.

Bobbie Thornton and Allison Curtis care for the younger class and are clearly invested in each child. Their praise and easygoing instruction appear to come naturally, as the children carefully fill their plates with spaghetti, pineapple and

peas using child-size utensils. The victory of a successful transfer of food, or a plastic container, is met with a smile and a hardy “good job” from the two experienced teachers.

“I love working the kids on their skills. It is rewarding to be part of the successes,” said Thornton, who has worked at the CDC for more than 10 years.

Curtis, who has been with the CDC for five years, is equally passionate about her tiny charges. The proof is in her willingness to drive each day from Payson, Utah, along Utah’s Wasatch Front. “It’s more than 100 miles,” she admits, “But worth the drive.”

“We strive to provide a rich and stimulating age-appropriate classroom to help children develop their cognitive, motor, social, and emotional skills,” said Ann Boegler, the CDC director. “We use individual, small and large group experiences to support the natural

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Alison Curtis, a Child Development teacher, helps Jack Ruth, 2, son of Daniel and Tina Ruth learn to transfer spaghetti from a bowl to his plate Jan. 7 during a lunchtime dining lesson.

CDC trains for early childhood skills

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development of children. We work closely with the parents to reinforce skills they are learning at home such as potty training, problem solving and



Dominic Abbey, 5, son of Stephanie Abbey serves himself spaghetti at a class on the Lost Art of Family-style Dining Jan. 7, at the Dugway Child Development Center.

school readiness.”

Currently there are three classrooms, one caring for toddlers through 2, and a preschool classroom for ages 3 through 5. The center also has excellent facilities to care for infants as young as 6 weeks old, Boegler said.

The Pre-Kindergarten Strong Beginnings class is taught by Angie Carlson and Lupe Dettle, both veteran CDC teachers here. Dettle has taught for more than 12 years, and Carlson for just over 10.

“Some of my students are now in the third and fourth grade, said Carlson. “It’s especially rewarding when they remember me as their teacher.”

Dettle’s favorite part of teaching is watching her students expressions when they achieve a skill they have worked hard to master. “Their eyes just light up,” she said.

The CDC hours begin at 6 a.m., Monday through Thursday. Pick up time is 6 p.m. Full-day care is for working parents who require regularly scheduled care from five to 12 hours a day.

Part-time care is typically for parents who work



Sierra Ruth, 4, daughter of Daniel and Tina Ruth with Alexandria Mikolash, 5, daughter of Matt and Liz Mikolash pose Jan. 7 during lunchtime at Dugway’s Child Development Center.

part-time or are full-time students who require care for their pre-school children. Hourly care is for parents requiring short term or intermittent child care for special events or appointments, said Boegler.

1 day of giving: 364 days of work

Story by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Sixty-five hams, and canned goods to prepare a Christmas meal, were given to 33 families on Dugway Proving Ground Dec. 24 through the Holiday Assistance Program. Overseen by Army Community Services, the program also gave gifts to 69 children at their homes.

The food was provided by Tooele Food Bank, which earlier provided 65 turkeys to Dugway families for their Thanksgiving meal.

“People (who received the food and gifts) commented that they really appreciated the kindness of the community,” said Brent Console, financial readiness manager who oversees the Holiday Assistance Program.

Dugway Fire Department provided a wailing and flashing fire truck, and well-wishing firefighters, to deliver the Christmas fixings and gifts to each residence. Garrison Manager Audy Snodgrass and Console also visited the 33 homes.

Gifts for children were donated or funded by Dugway workers and residents, and by Toys For Tots.



This tot was among 69 children on Dugway who received gifts from Santa on Dec. 24, via the Holiday Assistance Program. Donations for the program are taken all year; call 831-2387.

“They had to live on post to be the recipients,” Console said. “Most of the people we helped this year were Soldiers, but we also helped some civilians.”

English Village and West Desert Test Center support was “awesome,” Console said. “I can’t express how much I got from both.”

Leftover funds were placed in the 2014 Holiday Assistance Program. Donations are taken throughout the year by calling Console at 831-2387.

Community Calendar

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Wednesday, Jan 22
Dugway Community Club
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Speaker: Darrell Gray
Michelle Rosario, 831-2141

Outdoor Recreation & Travel Leisure

Jan. 17 - Wendover Trip
Jan. 21 - Cross-country Ski Lessons
at Dugway during lunch hour
Jan. 21 to 23 - Yurt Hut Back Country Ski Trip
Information? Contact Curt Fortie, 831-2318.



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COMMANDER’S HOTLINE: 831-3737

People don’t need to be told what’s not working, but sometimes commanders do. Actions build communities. If there’s a problem, let’s hear about it. Leave a message, name and phone number.

THE DISPATCH



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