



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration

April 5, 2010
GSA# R2-10-102

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GSA Plans New Federal Child Care Center For Downtown Brooklyn, NY

Brooklyn NY — Downtown Brooklyn is now one step closer to having a new federally-sponsored child care center with the U.S. General Services Administration's recent award of a lease for space at the historic BellTel Lofts building at 365 Bridge Street.

The new state of the art childcare center will occupy 12,000 square feet of ground floor space at the landmark building and will be designed to accommodate 76 children, ages three months to five years. GSA expects to open the center by Spring 2011.

"GSA is very pleased to be opening this new center to serve the federal employees and community of downtown Brooklyn," said Liz Themelis, Director of GSA's Child Care Division. "Our child care center program currently provides safe and nurturing child care environments for more than 8,000 children nationwide. We will happily welcome these newest members of our child care family when this center opens next year."

While the new center is intended to primarily serve the child care needs of the hundreds of federal employees that live or work in the downtown Brooklyn area, the local community will also have the ability to use the center if the federal employees do not require all of the available spots.

As an additional positive feature, the center will be designed to achieve a LEED Silver Commercial Interiors rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The LEED rating system is a set of performance standards for certifying the design and construction of spaces, with the intent to promote healthful, durable, affordable, and environmentally sound practices. The new child care center, in addition to being energy efficient and using Energy Star equipment and appliances, will also focus on water conservation strategies to conserve over 30% less water, use of recycled materials, and the use of low emitting paints, adhesives, flooring, and carpets.

GSA has run a nationally-acclaimed child care program to help federal workers gain access to work place child care facilities for more than 20 years and has become a recognized leader in providing resources to ensure quality programs. The agency's child care program is one of several family-friendly workplace initiatives that GSA supports and promotes. Currently GSA provides space, services and oversight for more than 110 independently run child care centers in 31 states. The program ensures that federal employees have a safe, affordable and accessible place for their children's care.

Bell-Tel Lofts, the restored Art Deco masterpiece that will house the new federal child care center, was the original headquarters for the New York Telephone company. It is a designated New York City Landmark that was restored and converted by Metrotech LLCI in 2008 to luxury residential condominiums.

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For more information about GSA's Child Care program visit www.gsa.gov/childcare