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On-Site Child Care Works for Working Parents

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 2009) - Finding quality child care challenges many working parents. Given the unconventional shift hours in the medical industry, it can be especially challenging for healthcare workers. Fortunately, employees at Research Medical Center don't have to look far to find safe, reliable child care with extended hours.

Located on the Research Medical Center main campus, Bright Horizons Child Care provides quality care for infants through pre-kindergarten. It also offers summer camp for school-age children. The center prides itself on a nurturing environment that stimulates active learning and language development and prepares children to enter kindergarten, according to Rhonda Erpelding, director of Bright Horizons.

Jacque Euritt, director, Emergency Services, Research Medical Center and Research Brookside Campus, has taken advantage of Bright Horizons since her children were 12 weeks old. "I chose Bright Horizons because of the convenience and the quality. When my oldest daughter was born my husband traveled a lot, so I had to find a day care that worked with my schedule," Euritt says. "In my opinion, the staff at Bright Horizons walks on water. They make it easy for me to come to work because I know that my children are in good hands."

Providing on-site day care is helpful for recruiting and retaining employees at the hospital, according to Sonjya Ownbey, human resources recruiter. Attracting top employees is competitive, according to Ownbey, but offering on-site day care often piques potential employees' interest in working at Research Medical Center. "It's also really important when it comes to retaining employees," Ownbey says. "New mothers especially



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appreciate being so close to their baby if they want to feed their baby during a break at work. And if a child gets sick, parents are able to respond quickly because they are so close.”

Research Medical Center has offered on-site child care for 27 years and nearly half of Bright Horizon’s teachers have worked at the facility for 10 years or more, according to Erpelding. “We’ve earned a reputation over the years for providing quality, flexible child care. We offer extended hours (6:15 a.m. -7:30 p.m.) to better serve health care workers, and parents can adjust their child care schedule each week to meet their work schedule. We also have an open door policy for parents who can drop in any time to see their child,” Erpelding says.

Euritt agrees the location is ideal. “A huge benefit is they are on campus. If something happens I can run over to see them. I can have lunch with my child or go over and read books during lunch then go back to work, she explains.”

Though especially convenient for Research Medical Center employees, Bright Horizons is also open to the community and serves many parents who work downtown. In addition, the facility partners with other companies to offer back-up care to parents whose regular day care is temporarily not available.

For more information about Bright Horizons, call 816-276-4610 or visit www.brighthorizons.com.

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About Research Medical Center

Research Medical Center, a dual campus HCA Midwest healthcare facility, serves patients from a 150-mile region surrounding Kansas City by providing an abundance of services and access to advanced technology. The hospital, located at 2316 East Meyer Boulevard in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the region's leading acute care hospitals. The 511-bed facility features a broad range of highly specialized, state-of-the-art services. In addition, the 37-acre Research Brookside Campus, located at 6601 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64131, includes outpatient facilities, medical office buildings and a comprehensive health and fitness center. For more information, go to www.researchmedicalcenter.com and www.researchbrookside.com.

About HCA Midwest Health System

HCA Midwest Health System is the area's largest healthcare network, consisting of hospitals, outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices, surgery centers and an array of other services to meet the healthcare needs of the greater Kansas City area. HCA Midwest Health System has invested more than \$600 million to enhance and expand patient services since entering the community in April 2003. HCA Midwest Health System facilities in the Kansas City metropolitan area include Allen County Hospital, Menorah Medical Center, and Overland Park Regional Medical Center in Kansas; and Cass Regional Medical Center, Centerpoint Medical Center, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Lee's Summit Medical Center, Research Belton Hospital, Research Medical Center, Research Medical Center-Brookside Campus, and Research Psychiatric Center in Missouri. To learn more about HCA Midwest Health System and the array of services available at its facilities, please visit HCAMidwest.com, or call 816-751-3000.