

Filling the Gaps: Drop-Off Childcare

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Oregon State University's Our Little Village



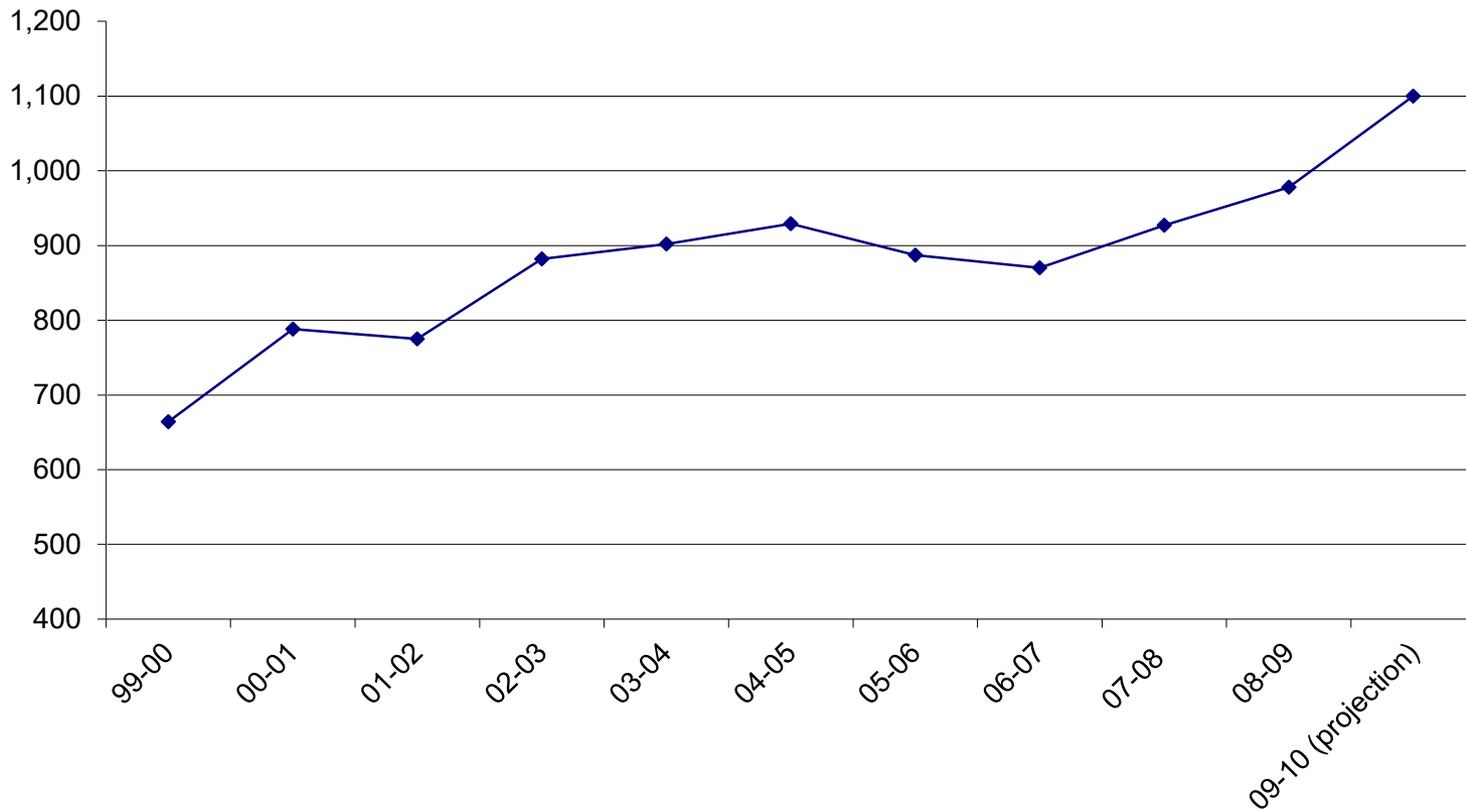
History of Our Little Village (OLV): The Struggle for On-Campus Child Care

- Our Little Village started out as a student fee over 10 years ago. The fund was created in hopes that a student owned and operated child care center would be built.
 - Students came and went....
 - Suitable locations came and went....
 - Permission to build came and went....
- A Student Parent Advocate was hired to oversee the money and creation of a student tailored child care center.



Student Parents at OSU

Financial Aid filers with Dependant Children



The Problem....

- We have traditional childcare
 - Oregon State University currently has two full day on campus childcare centers. One with a 150 child capacity and the other with 55 child capacity.
- But what we don't have, and what student parents needed child care that was:
 1. Open during the evenings and weekends
 2. Available at the last minute
 3. Available for short periods of time



Solution:

- Create drop off childcare that caters to busy, odd-hour student schedules.



How We Did It-

Partnering with the library

- Library was a logical place to start
 1. Access to computers, research materials, photocopiers, study rooms
 2. Open late at night and on weekends
- Tapped into the library mission- providing access to library services for all populations
- *This was a year long conversation...



How We Did it-

Partnering with Oregon Child Care Licensing Specialist

- Sought (and received) exempt status
 - “Parents must remain in the facility engaged in non-work related activities”
 - Licensing board interpreted “studying” as non-work related.
- Licensing specialist provided guidance on creative techniques for providing quality programming in a small space.

"The OSU program was a featured site for our Western States Leadership Network Conference held at OSU the summer of 2008. 65 leaders from 13 western states toured the facility and marveled at the well thought out design and support of student parents who needed to use the library's resources." –Past Oregon AEYC President



Solution:

Create Drop-off Child Care Center

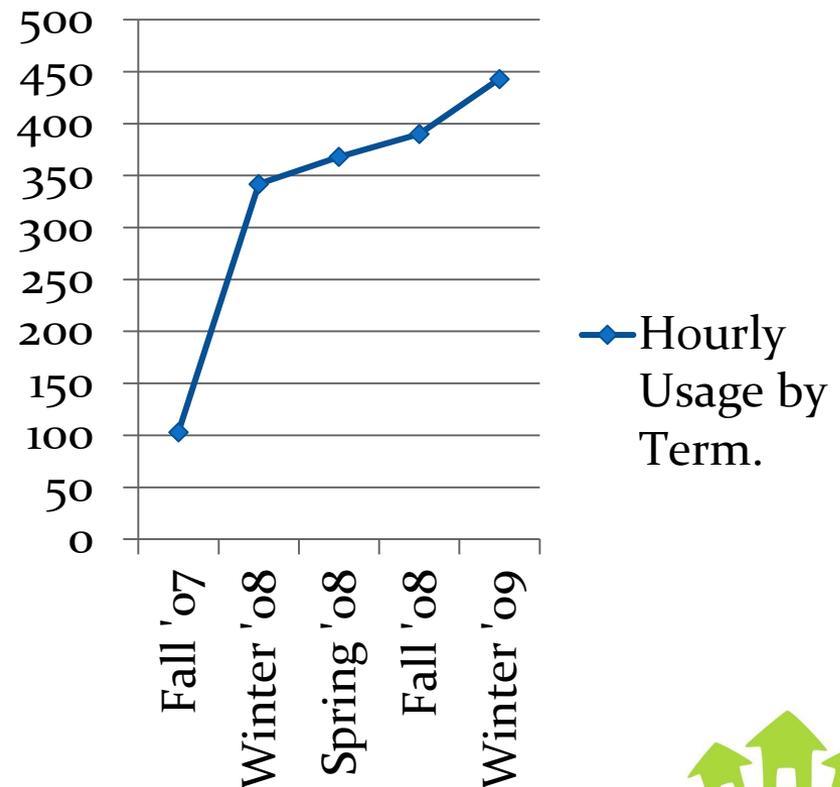
- OLV|Library was created in Fall 2007
- OLV is open to children 4 months- 10 years old from:
 - Tuesdays and Wednesdays- 2:30-11pm
 - Saturdays- 12-10pm
 - Sundays 10am-10pm
- OLV is staffed by a full time site coordinator and 5 student employees
- OLV is first come, first served
- Student parents can use the site for a maximum of 3 hours per day
- Parents must remain in the library to use this service.
- No additional cost to student parent- already paid for with student fees.



Student Parents using OLV | Library

- In Fall 2007:
75 “heads” of kids, 16 families,
103 hours
- In Winter 2008:
221 “heads”, 33 families, 342
hours
- In Spring 2008:
251 “heads”, 33 families, 368 hours
- In Fall 2008:
265 “heads”, 33 families, 390 hours
- In Winter 2009:
278 “heads”, 36 families, 443
hours

Hourly Usage by Term.



Total # of Families Served: 98



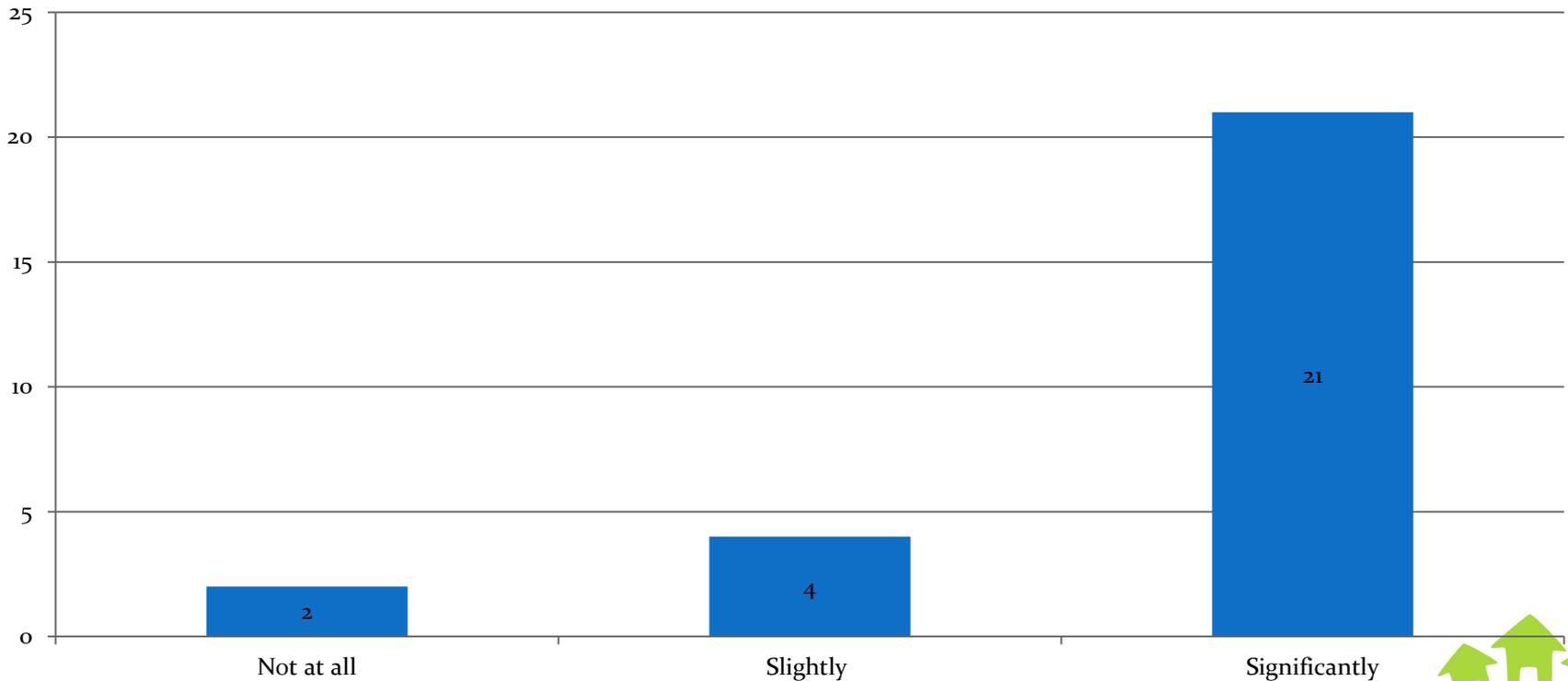
Benefits We Expected

- Increased participation in academics by student parents
- Better grades
- Safe, fun environment for children
- Reduced stress for student parents



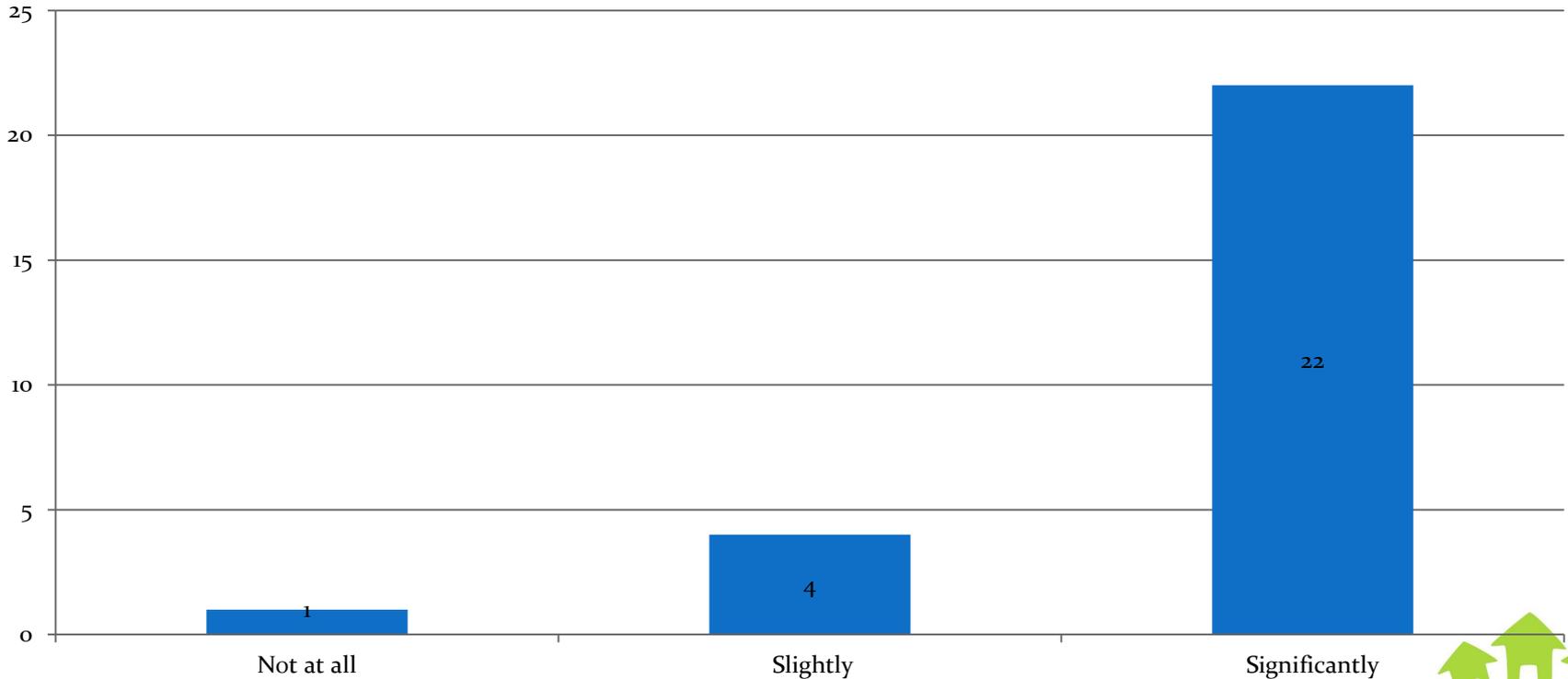
25 out of 27 respondents indicated improved academic success:

Has bringing your child(ren) to OLV improved your academic success?



And 26 out of 27 indicated reduced stress levels:

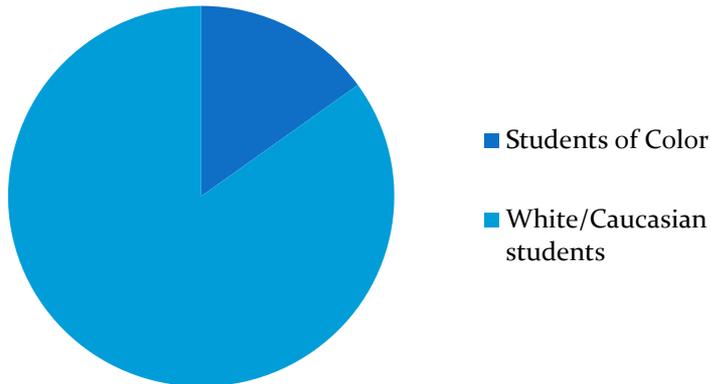
Has bringing your child(ren) to OLV reduced your stress level?



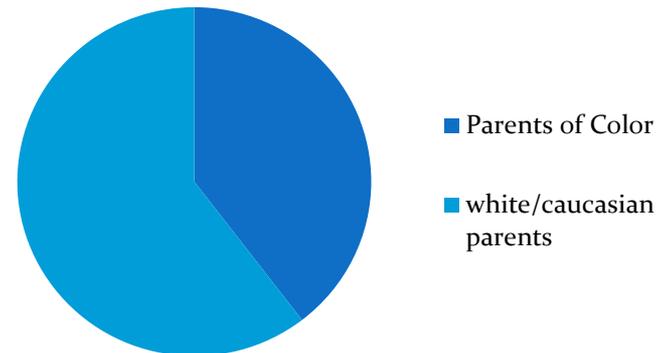
Benefits We Didn't Expect

- Regularity of families
- 40% of the parents signed up to use the center are students of color.

OSU Student Body Demographics



Student Parent Demographics



- Excellent rapport with the University Library



Cost

- Start up furnishing costs: ≈\$7,000
- 1 Full time Site Director: \$28,000 (+\$20,000 OPE)
- 5 Student staff: \$8.40 per hour (\$13,600 annually)
- Total Annual cost: \$61,600
- Cost to the students at large:
 - \$1.20 per student per year (51,000 students annually)
- To the student parents at the site
 - no additional cost



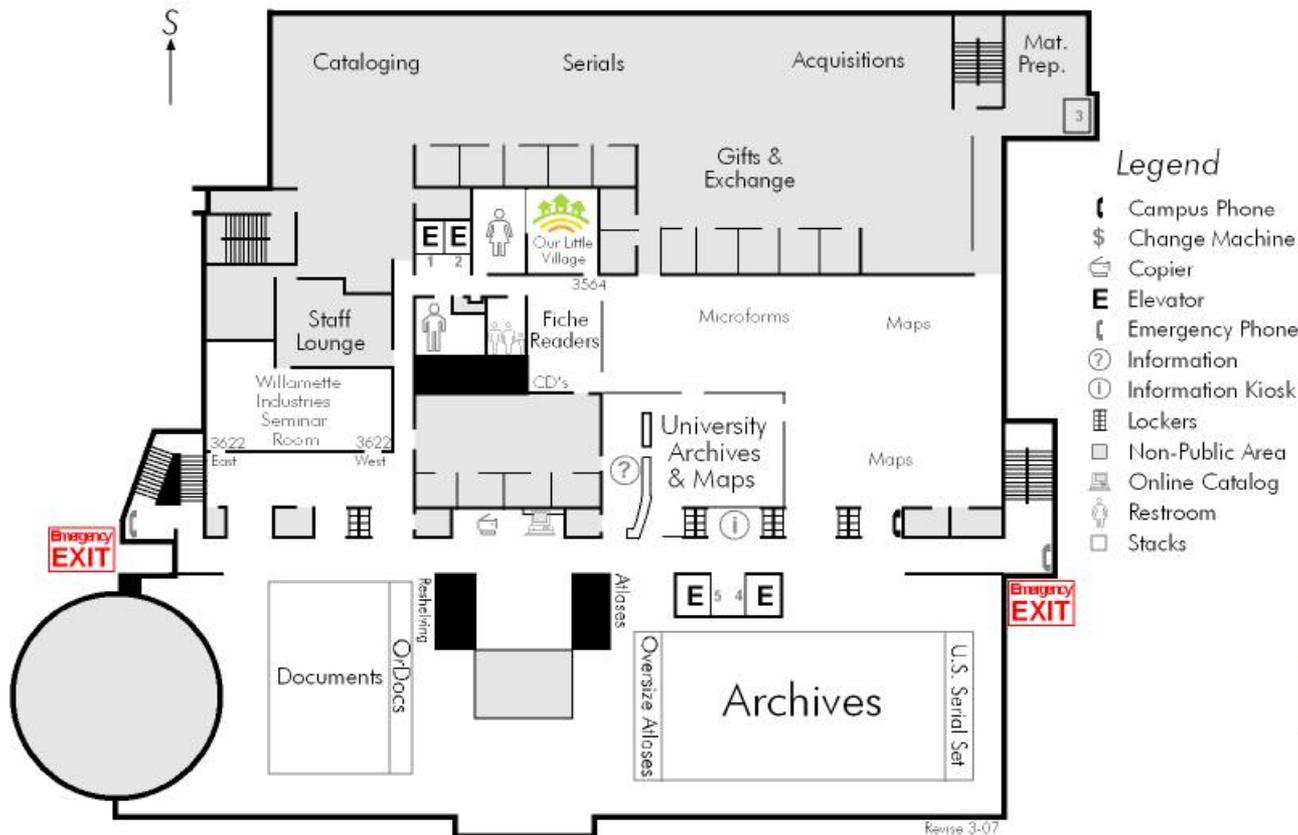
Challenges

- Of Implementation:
 - Risk Management
 - Liability
 - Student buy-in
- Of the Service:
 - Multi-age programming
 - Storage
 - “New” activities and toys



The Physical Space:

Third Floor - The Valley Library



•360 Sq. Ft.

•Electric, portable hand washing sink located in room.

•Bathrooms located adjacent to and across the hall.



The Physical Space:



Pictures of the center



“It is great to know I can always have dependable people to watch my kiddo while I catch up on homework on the weekends.”



Pictures...



“Being able to use OLV made the end of my undergraduate experience so much better that it was a major factor in my decision to continue on to graduate school.”



Pictures...



“No more arguments over who’s school work takes priority. We both have time during the week to drop our son off, even if the other person has class, work or assignments of their own.”



Pictures...



“Less Stress=Better Relationships”



Pictures...



“It was my only option. If OLV wasn’t there, I know I’d have done poorly in one class and failed the other.

Consequently, I got an A and a B.”



Pictures...



“I am able to read required materials without distraction and I know my child is getting plenty of attention.”



Summary and Questions?

