

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA BRIEFING



Axel Koester / For The Times

Spencer Lee, 3, has a lemon slushie before the dedication of the Gloria Molina-Para Los Niños Child Development Center in East Los Angeles.

Reports from East L.A., Los Angeles and Whittier
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EAST LOS ANGELES

Nonprofit preschool dedicated

East Los Angeles celebrated the opening Saturday of a nonprofit preschool and child-care center for low-income families.

The new facility, the Gloria Molina-Para Los Niños Child Development Center, will help fill a need in the unincorporated community, which lacks sufficient child-care centers, said Elena Stern, a spokeswoman for Para Los Niños, the center operator. Officials held a dedication ceremony Saturday.

With four classrooms surrounding a courtyard playground, the 12,000-square-foot facility will complete East Los Angeles' newly renovated civic center. It has spaces for 88 children, ages 2 through 5, Stern said. Thirty children have enrolled since the center opened its doors two weeks ago.

Tuition is based on a family's ability to pay, with many parents paying nothing. A family of six that makes \$28,000 a year might pay \$3 a day for their children.

The center was built with Los Angeles County money and receives additional funding from the state and through Los Angeles Universal Preschool, a corporation funded by the local First 5 commission, which controls Proposition 10 funds. The 1998 proposition increased cigarette taxes by 50 cents a pack to pay for early childhood development programs.

Para Los Niños operates six other child-care and preschool centers in under-served areas in Los Angeles County as well as after-school programs and family support services.

-- Rong-Gong Lin // LOS ANGELES