



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508  
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**RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE  
HELD FOR "HERE WEE GROW" CHILDCARE**

**Sidney, Neb., November 1, 2002** – Celebrated in Sidney today was the completion of the "Here Wee Grow" Child Development Center, a near \$1.4 million facility owned by Cheyenne County Child Development Center of Sidney. "Here Wee Grow" will assist to meet the demands of the area's growing workforce by providing childcare services to approximately 150 children ranging in age from infancy to 13 years.

The 10,400 sq.ft. childcare facility staffed by 20 employees, offers a total of ten classrooms (two walker and two infant rooms and six pre-school rooms), a multi purpose room, commercial kitchen and a tornado shelter room. Outside the facility are two age appropriate playground areas, one for infant/toddlers and another for preschoolers.

"I am very pleased with the overwhelming response of our enrollment," stated Rhonda Schuessler, director of Here Wee Grow. "We have worked hard to personalize this facility and make it very inviting to the children." The center will feature characters hand painted by Schuessler for each individual room.

"Here Wee Grow is a welcomed asset to Sidney and we thank USDA Rural Development, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Western Nebraska Community College and local donors for their assistance," stated Lianne Higgins, president of the Cheyenne County Child Development Center. "Prior to the facility's completion, the community offered 1 day care center and 21 in-home childcare providers to its workforce. The additional 150 children that will be afforded childcare through the facility will come as a tremendous relief to many."

USDA Rural Development loan funds totaling \$1,265,000 leveraged with, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Child Care Grant monies of \$10,000, a land donation worth \$25,400 from the Western Nebraska Community College, and local donations of \$80,000 for working capital comprised the funding for this near \$1.4 million facility. Additional local donations of \$20,000 are earmarked for special projects. Interim financing was provided by Security First of Sidney.

Mary Gambill, community outreach specialist for USDA Rural Development stated, "USDA Rural Development is very pleased to have assisted in the funding of Here Wee Grow Child Development Center which is the largest childcare center that USDA Rural Development has funded in Nebraska. Here Wee Grow will provide quality childcare services in a rural area of the state where the demand for childcare services is on the rise."

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.



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