

## Where are your children?

# In their loving care

**By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith**  
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB Child Development Center is more than a place for parents to leave their children while they work.

Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, it's a place where children between the ages of six months and five years can be safe, nurtured and loved.

"Our job is to love the babies and make them feel secure," said Christine Owen, who works in the infant room (six to 12-months age group). "They don't have mommy and daddy around so we want to give them that extra reassurance."

Owen has worked at the CDC 15 years and loves every aspect of her job. "I've had the opportunity to do other things, but I don't want to do anything else," she said. "I get great satisfaction from what I do here."

Kristina Rose, one the supervisory education technicians for the center, said satisfaction for her comes when she interacts with the children on a regular basis. "I usually open up the center in the morning and I like to greet each child by name as he or she arrives," she said. "It's important to know who the children are because we're here to serve them."

The CDC has a staff of 30 employees, which includes cooks, teachers, supervisors and administrators. The education levels of the teaching staff range from a masters degree to certification in Child Development Associates.

"The staff is awesome," said

Debbie Ross, CDC director. "They've worked hard on training and staying up to date on new early childhood advances, which is evident by the wonderful staff and children interactions."

The staff members, on average, have put in at least five years at the Charleston CDC said Ross. "That makes a difference to the children," she said. "It gives them a sense of comfort and continuity."

Ross praises her staff for their positive attitudes and their ability to nurture the children on a daily basis. "Good teachers are born good, then they're educated and trained," Ross said.



**Kristina Rose helps 4-year-old Jenise Middleton bundle up during outside play time. Jenise is the daughter of Army Specialist Antwan Middleton and his wife, Twanyal.**



**(above) Nine-month-old Loquasha Roach finds comfort in the arms of Christine Owen. Loquasha is the daughter of Senior Airmen Christopher Roach, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron and Kimberly Roach, 315<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron.**

**(below) Priscilla Whitfield, supervises children in the preschool room (three to five years age group) during their snack time.**



**Ronail Dowling helps some of the children build sand castles during outdoor play time.**



photos by Senior Airman Jerome Suson