

# NEWS

The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, Washington 98505

EXCLUSIVE FOR KIRKLAND EASTSIDE JOURNAL

By: Judy Annis, TESC News Director

for immediate release  
February 19, 1976

Kirkland senior Pam Farr is having a busy quarter at The Evergreen State College. The 1972 graduate of Redmond High School designs her own curriculum and invents her own materials for a class she teaches every week -- a science class -- for preschoolers.

Pam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Farr of 8923 NE 127th in Kirkland, previously spent a nine-month internship at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle where she worked in the education department developing science programs for elementary schools. She became really interested in the whole process of adapting complicated scientific materials into simple lessons for young students -- and went one step farther.

One day a week Pam can be found with more than a dozen preschoolers in the old Carriage House behind the State Capitol Museum in Olympia. There she brings her original, hand made science projects -- ranging from blocks of wood with dozens of nails pounded in them for young scientists to make shapes out of with rubberbands, to what she calls "animal camouflage dominos", a sort of puzzle with the animal on one transparent piece of plastic and the natural habitat on another piece in matching colors.

Pam loves what she's doing, she says, "because the kids love it".

"I've always been interested in working with kids, particularly in the sciences," she recalls. So, last summer she began teaching classes at the Museum. Then, Fall Quarter she enrolled in the Evergreen Caring for Children program, taught by Faculty Members Dr. Carol Spence and Betsy Diffendal.

The two professors require their 28 students to spend at least 16 hours a week in day care facilities throughout Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor Counties. They also

-MORE-

Dick Nichols, Director  
Information Services

expect each student to visit at least eight day care facilities and to read and seminar with their fellow students.

Emphasis of the program is "developing competency to work with children". Both Spence and Diffendal feel their students' practical experience in day care centers spurs their interest in learning about child development and psychology.

Pam agrees. She says it "really helps to understand the stages of child development so I can adapt my science materials to their abilities and learning stages".

Pam, who also spends 13 hours a week working at the Children's Friend Preschool in Olympia, will graduate March 19. But, she hopes to continue teaching at the Museum and work towards a full-time career in children's education. She's confident that her academic training at Evergreen -- and her years of practical experience in the classroom -- prepare her well for the "real world of work" that lies ahead.