



Center gets outdoor nature classroom

BUTLER TWP — The Children's Creative Learning Center at Butler County Community College has a new outdoor nature classroom for its young students.

The Alcoa Foundation contributed \$25,000 in 2013 for materials, equipment and staff training for the area. A sign recognizing the contribution of the Alcoa Foundation was revealed this past week during a dedication ceremony.

The center children have named the area the Green Garden Park. It opened at the beginning of the this semester and was designed by Moore Design Associates.

The park encourages learning, discovery and play in a natural setting. The outdoor space features a gardening area, a slide built into the hillside, a space for music with stationary instruments and an area to work with natural materials such as dirt, water and sand.

The center is a state licensed preschool and child care center. The classroom environment is designed to help each child attain optimum growth in the areas of social, emotional, language, cognitive and physical development.

Serving children ages 3 to 6, the center is open to students and employees of BC3 and the community. It has 36 students enrolled.



Sophia Novak, 3, plays in the sandbox at the new outdoor nature classroom at the Children's Creative Learning Center at Butler County Community College. Standing with her is her father, Josh Novak, dean of student development at BC3.
SUBMITTED PHOTOS