

Sharon

Sharon Day Care unveils new section

*With oohs, aahs
— and goos, gaas*

By Alexander Wilburn

SHARON — While there was no wine served at the Sharon Day Care Center open house celebration on Thursday evening, Aug. 25, there was juice, and plenty

of cookies — so many cookies that the children (who had been let loose to play and pretend) couldn't even finish half of the chocolate chip treats laid out for them.

The party marked the unveiling of the center's new infant/toddler program, with a freshly renovated space complete with cribs, sinks, a playpen and more. Still to come was a mural on the back wall to be painted by Theresa Kenny, a Sharon resident. Her painting will be based on the Little Golden Books, a series of slim, illustrated children's books first published in 1942 and still in print.

"The space was here; we just needed to spruce it up a little bit," said Carrie Olsen, director of the Day Care Center. She took on the role last year and it wasn't long before she knew she wanted to expand the day care's services.

"I knew there was a lot of interest and a great need in the area."

The infant/toddler program officially began on Monday, Aug. 29.

At the open house, Olsen said, "We hardly advertised and we only have one part-time spot left. We started with eight spots: four infants and four toddlers on any given day. So some might come two days a week, some might come three, some might need five days. It's pretty exciting to see the space filling up and meeting the families."

In attendance was Doug Cahill, director of human resources at Salisbury Bank, chairman of the Sharon Board of Education



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Pre-schooler Bryce Watulak showed signs of being a future day care teacher himself, tending to a baby doll at the Sharon Day Care open house.

and a member of the Sharon Day Care board.

"Renters and home owners choose to live in a town with a day care, so for Sharon to have this is big, it's important," said Cahill. "We want young families to come to town and get into the school system so we won't have to worry about declining enrollments. These young families are the ones that volunteer for the fire department, for our Sharon Day care board and a number of things that keep our

communities vibrant."

Standing next to him, Board Director Janet Nickson agreed.

"We couldn't have a better location! We're right near the campus of Sharon Center School, so we have all the playground space we need. We start with the infant/toddler program, we have our pre-school program, we have the before-school program, we have the after-school program, we have a summer camp — the children of Sharon are taken care of."