



Dal Lemmon

Children Program Coordinator

Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center

Community Comment for 8/31

Hello, this is Dal Lemmon the Children Programs Coordinator for the Betty Chinn Center in Eureka. Our program has just finished a great summer in which the kids went camping, fishing, swimming, museum touring, attending a Crabs game, and going to the drag races. We also made a Claymation movie (check it out on Youtube) as well as constructed many craft projects. Now we are starting up the afterschool program again. School busses drop the kids off right at the center. They are fed a snack and generally have a few minutes to unwind before we start homework. The children work on their homework and then do some reading before we usually do some sort of challenge activity that causes them to think a bit. The kids are then fed dinner before their parents pick them up or they are taken home by us if need be.

We are constantly looking for volunteers. If you could spare an hour or two on a weekday afternoon come by to see if you can be on our volunteer schedule. Our after school hours are 3:00 to 5:30. Our greatest need is from 3:30 to 4:30 as that is when the kids are working on their homework and reading. We are giving the kids as much of a chance of succeeding in school as we can. As they succeed in school more doors are open to them and hopefully they will be able to succeed in life. You can make a positive difference in these kids' lives and it is so rewarding when you help them. We have a great group of kids and they know that coming to the center is a privilege, not a right. Respect is very important to us at the center and it is ~~demanded from~~ <sup>expected of</sup> everyone. If you think you might be able to help out, call me, Dal, at 407-3833. If you'd rather send me an email it is [dlemmon@bettychinn.org](mailto:dlemmon@bettychinn.org).

*in a time slot between 3pm & 5:30pm*

Working with Betty Chinn to get people off the streets and into housing is a wonderful thing. Our job with the children is to keep them off the streets in the future. By succeeding in school and becoming better readers they will have a much higher probability of success. If they didn't come to our program they could be left to their own devices during those hours of the day they need the most supervision. As I said here in a community comment before, the hours after school are statistically the hours when children are most likely to do drugs, suffer abuse, and commit crimes. Kids involved in after school programs are more likely to be healthier and have better personal and social skills. Help us help kids.

Thank you,

Dal Lemmon