

## ***Pediatric medical daycare to open in Mercer***

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Families with chronically ill or special health care needs have found it difficult to find a child care facility equipped to handle their child's special needs

On July 2 those needs will be met with the opening of the Mercer County Children's Medical Daycare located at 100 Youngs Road in Mercerville.

"Our goal is to set the standard of care in the pediatric medical daycare industry and ensure the highest level of care for Mercer County's children," said Michelle Bunting, president, Mercer County Children's Medical Daycare.

Mercer County Children's Medical Daycare's mission is to provide children between the ages of birth to four-years-old with a continuum of medical care prescribed by their doctors in a daycare environment.

The medical daycare facility will work with the division of Youth and Family Services, Special Child Health Services, Work First New Jersey, local school districts and other agencies to provide healthcare, daycare, educational and social services.

Mercer County families are limited in the types of healthcare programs available to them. They are limited in receiving treatment through their family physician, private nursing, hospitalization, and emergency room visits. The Pediatric medical daycare provides a new healthcare delivery option to parents in the Mercer County community.

Plus it provides families a safety net who struggle with healthcare management and stabilization of children with special medical conditions

"Our daycare program specifically targets these under-

served families," said Charles Bunting, chief executive officer, Mercer County Children's Medical Daycare. "We serve children with complex medical conditions who are excluded from regular daycare, and we serve children whose chronic health conditions are compromised by untrained medical staff in regular daycare."

The program is strategically designed for over 34 different diagnoses with a 1 to 3 staff ratio.

"The one-size fits all approach to community daycare had left many children outside the loop of governmental protection," said Beverlyn Grissom of Abbotlinks, Inc. and program consultant to the center.

"There are virtually no systems in place that address the particularized needs of children with special health conditions," Grissom said.