

# Crystal Day Care Serving Our Community

Written by Barbara Shor

Sabrina never dreamed that she would own and operate a home day care in such a beautiful location. She came to the Crystal Valley in 2000 after having met Daniel Ferguson on the internet through a chat room. Sabrina was living in Caracas, Venezuela where she worked as an administrator for her community. Daniel went to meet Sabrina in Venezuela and the love at first chat became love at first sight. They came back together, married, and settled in our valley.

Sabrina began working as a paralegal in Aspen. She worked there for four years until Gracie, their first child, was born. At that point Sabrina searched for day care but was unable to find a place for little Gracie so that she could continue working. Instead, Sabrina decided to create her own day care. And what better place could there be than in lovely Redstone, where she and Daniel live in Ranch Acres just next to the Crystal River.

She quickly learned that there is a local need for day care because there are a lot of young children with working parents, and the nearest day care is in Carbondale. So began Crystal Day Care, or CDC. Sabrina got licensed for infant/toddler care. She then trained in CPR, first aid, medication administration, and universal precautions, which are requirements for owning a licensed day care facility.

The day care formally opened



a year ago, in March, with the intention of serving children from Marble, Redstone, and Carbondale, from birth to three years of age. Since Sabrina is from a Spanish-speaking country and wanted to teach her own baby both Spanish and English, she created a bilingual home day care. The children who attend are exposed to both Spanish and English songs, books, and conversation. In fact, there is a multi-cultural flair to the day care. There are children from parents of diverse ethnicities, including Israeli, Greek, Italian, Bulgarian, Argentinean, and Czech.

Activities for the toddlers include: outdoor play in a fenced yard; rides in the Bye-Bye Buggy—a state of the art stroller that seats four; arts and crafts; reading, counting, and, above all,

## HAVING FUN!

Parents also participate in the activities. You may remember parents walking with their children under the CDC banner in the Redstone July 4th parade. And recently they went on a sleigh ride to the Redstone Castle.

The day care, which accommodates four children at any one time, has filled up quickly, especially since the birth of Sabrina and Daniel's second daughter, Jasmine, who was born in November, 2005.

Last year the day care achieved a Qualistar rating, which signifies high standards. Qualistar's prime focus is on health, safety, motor skills, and social interaction.

"Kids First" is a sponsor of CDC. Among other things, they provide mentorship for Sabrina, as well as funding for tuition subsidy and financial aid for those parents in need.

As a service to the community, CDC accepts drop-ins for a few hours if there is space available. This allows for tourists to drop off their children if they want to have some time alone to explore the area.

CDC greatly appreciates folks who want to contribute toys, books, or other donations. Please contact Sabrina at 963-7273 or by e-mail at

[crystaldaycare@earthlink.net](mailto:crystaldaycare@earthlink.net)

