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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2006

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**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF PHOENIX TO SERVE AS HOME FOR  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE CENTER**

Phoenix, AZ -- The Children's Museum of Phoenix and Arizona State University's College of Education announced today a unique collaboration that will result in **ASU developing a comprehensive early childhood education and care center in the Museum**. The Museum, scheduled to open in Fall, 2007, will be housed in what is now the historic Monroe School in downtown Phoenix.

Designed to serve a diverse group of families, the **Center will offer preschool and kindergarten education and wrap-around full-day (7am to 6pm) care**. A total enrollment of 50 children is anticipated made up of 15 three-year-olds, 15 four-year-olds and 20 five-year olds. **The program will be bi-lingual** with staff speaking both English and Spanish. **The children will come from diverse backgrounds** with a combination of low-income children from Spanish speaking families in the neighborhood, children of ASU staff and students located at the downtown campus, and children of middle-class parents who work and live downtown.

The Center will be a **state-of-the-art lab school** in which university faculty and graduate students can conduct research, develop, test and demonstrate new curricular ideas, and place ASU students in teaching internships. **Offering comprehensive services to young children, there will be an on-site clinic offering health screenings and social work services** staffed and run by faculty members and interns from the **ASU Schools of Social Work and Nursing**.

"ASU is excited to have this opportunity to create a welcoming, informal learning environment for our students and faculty, engaging children and families from diverse backgrounds in learning experiences that are play-based and challenging to their cognitive, physical and social/emotional development and growth," said **Dr. Elaine Surbeck, ASU Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Professor, Early Childhood Education**. "We believe that a cross disciplinary approach for the well being of young children includes their physical and social/emotional health. The preschool in the museum will offer a wonderful learning opportunity for the children, the students and faculty in the downtown community. "

The Center will be integrated closely with the Children's Museum of Phoenix, allowing **opportunities for supporting and studying children's learning** in diverse settings, **for research on children's play** and their engagement with hands-on, informal learning opportunities, and **for professional preparation for working with young children** outside of formal school settings.

**Deborah Gilpin, President and CEO of the Children's Museum** stated: "This exciting partnership represents an innovative, synergistic approach to early childhood education; museum staff will benefit from ASU's renowned reputation in early education teaching programs, ASU's teacher candidates will benefit by participating in real-life teaching situations and observing, first hand, children's use of the museum's exhibits and programs and, best of all, the community benefits from this concentrated attention to providing high quality learning experiences for our children."

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*The Children's Museum of Phoenix is a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to opening a children's museum that will engage the minds, muscles and imaginations of children and the adults who care about them. The museum will focus on learning through play, with emphasis on early childhood education and school-readiness. For more information about the Children's Museum visit [www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).*