



# NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 1971

## BROOKLYN COLLEGE PUERTO RICAN INSTITUTE TO OPEN BILINGUAL DAY CARE CENTER

A bilingual day care center for pre-school children of Puerto Rican background will open in July under the sponsorship of the Institute of Puerto Rican Studies of Brooklyn College.

One of the few of its kind in the area, the Escuela Infantil Bilingüe will operate out of a store front in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. The Center, at 1448 St. Johns Place, is being financed by the Department of Social Services of the City of New York.

"Through this program, we hope to offer our Spanish-speaking children the opportunity to learn in two languages, Spanish and English, and to be better prepared to enter school," said Prof. Josephine Nieves, director of the Institute. "The program at the center will be rich in Puerto Rican cultural content and will be geared to the specific needs and interest of Puerto Rican children."

Priority for the 20 openings in the center is being given to children in the Crown Heights community and to Brooklyn College students who cannot afford to pay private day care. Age range for the children is three-five. Plans are to keep the center open Monday-Thursday until 10 p.m. so that adult students attending school in the evening can participate.

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The professional staff of five will teach the children in both languages, concentrating on Puerto Rican games, culture and as much history as possible. Besides developing their own materials and curriculum, the staff hopes to provide a training ground for student teachers in the bilingual method.

Director of the Center is Mrs. Paula Vazquez, a 1967 graduate of the Mills College of Education, with a major in early childhood education. She has taught for four years in the New York public school system, including two years in a bilingual class. A native New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent, Mrs. Vazquez is also a graduate student at Hunter College, working for a master's degree in early childhood education.

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