

# Protecting Children from Online Predators

REPORT

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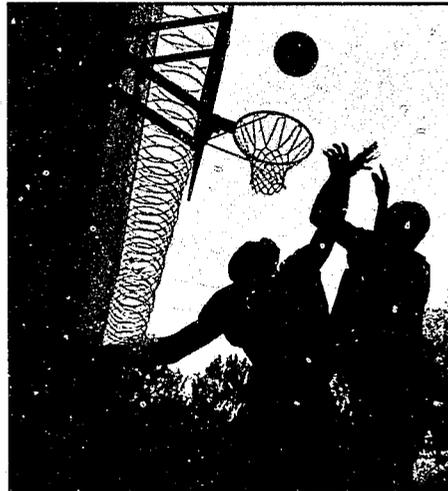
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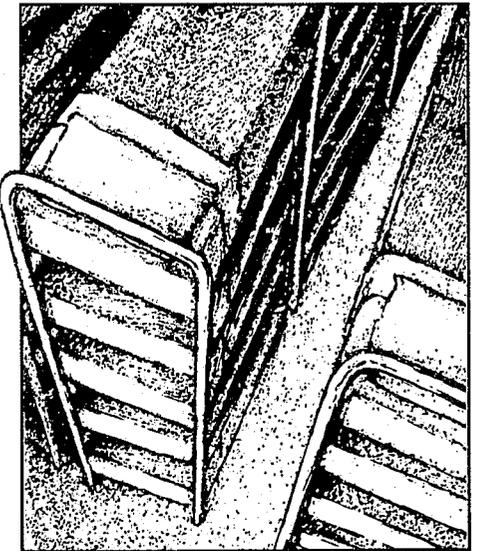
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# Taking Care of the Kids:

## Providing day care to prison employees: The Danbury Pilot Project

*Chip Gibson, Ph.D.*

The importance of day care facilities for Bureau of Prisons employees—indeed, for employees throughout the Nation—was put in perspective by the following comments from the General Services Administration (GSA):

“Child care in America is not just a good idea, it is a necessity—its time is now. The traditional family—that of the bread-winning father, the breadmaking mother, and two breadeating children—now composes only 11 percent of the population. The ever-increasing number of women in the workplace...has caused significant demands for quality day care. Finding quality day care is now the second major concern of parent employees. Searching for quality child care can be difficult and discouraging; often there is no assurance it will continue.

“Documented studies show employees worry about their child care arrangements while at work. The inability of parents to find quality child care often causes increased leave usage. Concern or worry translates to reduced productivity....The Government pays for this parental distraction and absenteeism. Studies show that onsite child care centers have reduced employee absentee rates in some private companies by 53 percent.”

Many employees at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut, have been experiencing just these concerns for a number of years, given their geographic location and socioeconomic environment. When the institution was first opened (it is now 1 year shy of its 50th anniversary), Danbury was a

small blue-collar community fairly removed from the influence of lower Fairfield County, Connecticut. Danbury was not a part of the “gold coast,” as were neighboring towns such as Greenwich, New Canaan, and Westport—towns that serviced New York City by providing homes for corporate executives. All of that began to change when a number of corporations began to move their headquarters out of New York City and into Fairfield County, including the immediate Danbury area. No longer removed from the realities that accompany economic boom, Danbury experienced tremendous growth as Union

Carbide, General Electric, and Exxon moved into the area. As would be expected, the cost of living skyrocketed with the onset of these economic changes.

The staff of FCI Danbury both benefited and were hurt by these rapid changes in housing and living costs. Those who were fortunate enough to have owned property saw a significant growth in the value of their investment. However, for Bureau employees coming into the area and young couples beginning their careers, the opposite was true. Almost

*continued on page 24*

