

# Fort Benning Opens Family Entertainment Center

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2010/04/07/1077915/come-out-play.html>

By **LILY GORDON**

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The Fort Benning Family Entertainment Center offers 12 bowling lanes, an indoor play area, two private party rooms and a snack bar — everything a family would need for an entertaining afternoon together.

The center is located at 2785 Eckel Ave. behind Smith Fitness Center. Though the center has been open since Thursday, the grand opening won't take place until April 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. Admission to this event is free and open to all active-duty soldiers, their families, military retirees and civilian employees on post. Snacks will be served and there will be activities for children of all ages including face painting, hole-in-one golf, bowling and bouncers.

The Family Entertainment Center is a product of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. It's housed in a building that used to be solely for bowling. About half of the lanes were removed recently to make room for a 3,000-square-foot playground that includes a pirate ship, castle, climbing wall, ballistics zone and toddler area.

Jaime Hodges, marketing representative for business operations for FMWR, said the idea for a family friendly, multi-purpose play area came from military families who were frustrated with the lack of places on post to take their children for some good old-fashioned fun.

“At FMWR we're always taking customers' feedback and soldiers and families have asked for a place where they can interact as a family versus an adult-oriented atmosphere,” Hodges said. “So this is what we brought together.”

Tracy Locklear, business manager of the center, said FMWR took the suggestions offered in an Army-wide Leisure Needs Survey and combined them with comments taken from the post's Interactive Customer Evaluation system. The result of that feedback is the Family Entertainment Center.

It costs \$4 per child for two hours on the indoor playground. Bowling from Wednesday to Friday costs \$3 per person per game. Cosmic bowling on Saturday and Sunday costs \$14 for three hours per person or \$3.25 per person per game. Shoe rental is \$2.50 per adult and \$2 per child. Group rates, season passes, annual passes and family passes are available for purchase. Party packages are also available.

Locklear said the center can be rented out for private parties such as children's birthdays and unit events. Private party rooms are also available for rent.

The center is open Wednesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed Monday and Tuesday.