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<http://www.thecoastalsource.com/news/local/story/Center-for-children-in-need-opens-Wednesday/vTgjGOcUhE-5vPRh0sMmkg.csp>

Center for children in need opens Wednesday

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The board of directors of Greenbriar Children's Center and members of the [Bright Horizons Foundation for Children](#) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Savannah's first Bright Space for homeless children at Jack Jones Emergency Shelter on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 on Greenbriar's campus.

The space is named Lilli's Pad in honor of Lilli Grace Register, the 18-month-old daughter of Paul and LeAnn Register, who was tragically killed in a driveway accident. Bright Spaces are designed to provide children in shelters and community agencies with a dedicated warm, enriching area to play and learn. "The real heartwarming part of this is not only is it about our foundation which is started because of Lilli Grace, but it's also with the people that cared and took care of her and knew what she was about," said Paul Register. The Registers, through the help of the [Lilli Grace Foundation](#), raised money for supplies in the Bright Space.

Studies have shown that children of all ages thrive when they have a safe place in which to explore the world around them, filled with books, toys and activities that are developmentally appropriate and provide an opportunity for them to discover the magic of childhood. Children experiencing the stress of homelessness especially need access to these kinds of child-friendly spaces in order to develop social, cognitive, gross motor and language skills, which are vital to their development and success later in life.

The Bright Space will be a place for homeless children living at the shelter to read, watch

TV, play on the computer, play games, or just hang out. "We just hope that this play space will be a place for them to escape anything that they're going through and just to take their mind off of whatever problems that they might be having," said Jacklyn Minimah, Director of Little One Learning Center. The Little One Learning Center is on Memorial Hospital Campus and serves as a place for hospital employees to take their children while they work. Lilli Grace was enrolled in the center.

Kelly Foster will have more on this story tonight at 6:00. Be sure to tune in!

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