

Child Start to open second 0-5 head start in NE Wichita

BY JOSH HECK

Call it an addition by subtraction.

Child Start Inc. has signed a lease to occupy a 6,950-square-foot building at 2020 N. Oliver to house its head start and early head start programs. The center will serve kids from birth to age 5 and be a resource for pregnant teens and women.

It will help the organization expand the number of children it can serve.

Child Start will consolidate two of its centers in northeast Wichita into one when the \$350,000 remodeling project is complete in June.

Child Start won't start taking kids there until August.

"Visibility was a big factor in this location," says Child Start's Executive Director Teresa Rupp.



The organization is duplicating a child-care concept that it first implemented last year when it moved into a new head start center on Second Street.

It's a plan that Rupp hopes eventually to replicate in all the organization's eight locations.

Conco Construction Inc. is the general contractor. WDM Architects is designing the space, which most recently was home to the Erin is Hope Foundation Inc.

Child Start will move 22 employees to the new location, but there are no immediate plans to hire additional workers.

A \$50,000 grant will cover the cost of the playground. The remainder, Rupp says, will come from the building's owner and Child Start's facilities budget.

Child Start will serve 144 kids at its new location. It serves 1,152

program wide.

CHILD START INC.

The organization is opening a new head start of 28 head start program center that will serve kids grants statewide and from birth to age 5 the only one in the Address: 2020 N. Oliver, Wichita, Kan., 67220. Size: 6,950 square feet Cost: \$350,000. Targeted completion: June 10. Kids served: 144.

and federal money.

Mary Baskett, executive director of the Kansas Head Start Association, says Child Start is following a recent trend by expanding the age groups that are served under one roof.

"It's creates more of a continuity for children and their families," Baskett says.

Other day care centers also are trying to serve more kids under one roof, says Janice Smith, executive director for TOP Learning Centers, which serves children from age 1 to school age.

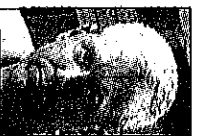
"People are finding out that there is a need in our community to be able to serve families," Smith says.

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In wake of failure, execs say local market for

BY CHRIS MOON

The recent failure of Central States Blurwood Inc. wasn't a surprise to some in the construction industry in Wichita, considering the added cost of the company's mold- and termite-resistant lumber in an era of penny pinching for home buyers.



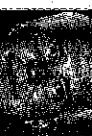
"The price for the product was too high for the advantages, in my opinion — and obviously in the consumers' opinion (too)," says Craig Sharp, owner of Craig Sharp Homes Inc.

The Wichita Blurwood deal Sharp failed at the end of 2010. It has resulted in lawsuits by Intrust Bank against the company's ownership.

Intrust is suing owner Curtis Cowgill for \$434,000 in an effort to collect on a loan. The bank also is suing Cowgill's father, Masterpiece Homes Inc.'s Warren Cowgill, who co-signed on the bank note.

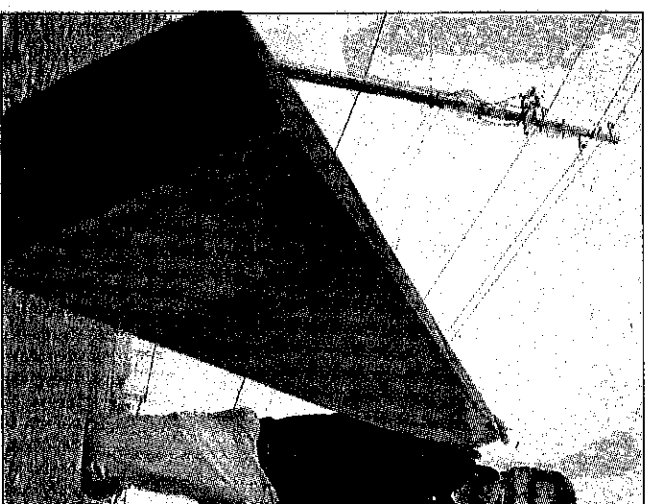
Curtis Cowgill started the firm in 2007 as a licensee of Florida-based Blurwood.

His company would send lumber through a machine that coated it with chemicals that protect against mold, wood rot and wood-eating insects.



But the use of Blurwood added about \$1.50 per square foot in costs.

"Everybody's wanted to get as much in the way of square footage for as little as they



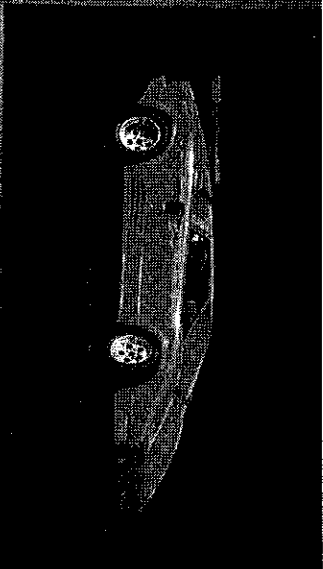
Curtis Cowgill's company sold termite- and mold-resi-

Central States Blurwood Inc.

Failure date: End of 2010.
Owner: Curtis Cowgill.
Recent happenings: Intrust Bank has sued to recoup on a bad loan.

can get," Warren Cowgill says. "In doing that, something has to be left out."

That was the thought from Sharp. He says using Blurwood resulted in a ballpark \$3,000 to \$4,000 upcharge on the average house. Plus, it caused logistical



We know a financial vehicle doesn't do 0-60 in 3.9 seconds.

