Uber's Mission Bay HQ to include big child care center open to public

A 10,000-square-foot child care center is planned to open early this summer at Uber Technologies Inc.'s brand new Mission Bay campus headquarters. It will be the second facility for operator Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center.

By Alex Barreira
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A 10,000-square-foot child care center for infants and preschoolers is coming to Mission Bay this summer at Uber's new headquarters on Third Street.

The TEL HI Mission Bay Childcare Center will feature a 6,000-square-foot indoor facility with four classrooms and a 4,300-square-foot outdoor playground with a climbing structure, sandbox, art area, water feature and mud kitchen. The space will be open to all parents — not just Uber employees — and will include supervised activities and preschool classes for children between the ages of 3 months and 5 years old.

The facility will be the second San Francisco location for Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, a 131-year-old community organization that has provided child care and early childhood education at its North Beach center for more than 70 years. The facility will be located at 188 Pier Point Lane between Bridgeview Way and Third Street, beneath the skyways of Uber’s sprawling new 1 million-square-foot headquarters.

Construction was funded by Uber, which owns the building, in response to San Francisco’s Planning Code Section 414, which requires any new office or hotel developments larger than 25,000 square feet include a child care facility of at least 2,000 square feet or pay a fee. Construction on the facility is complete but Telegraph Hill is still waiting on several permits, including a certificate of occupancy, and expects to open early this summer following approval. Plans for the project have been in the works since 2017.

TEL HI Mission Bay can accommodate just over 60 children, and at least 20% of available spots will be available to low-income parents for free through the city’s Early Learning Scholarship program conducted by the Office of Early Care and Education. The facility was designed by Portland-based ZGF Architects, which was also the architect for the 16,000-square-foot satellite headquarters of Finnish mobile game developer Supercell at 555 California St.

Uber has yet to move into its Mission Bay headquarters, which comprises four buildings and more than 1 million square feet on Third Street next to the Chase Center. The ride-hailing giant has been quietly marketing up to 300,000 square feet for lease, adding to the slew of local companies from Dropbox to Yelp subleasing major blocks of space.