



## Child language research in the spotlight

A group of VIPs visited UW's Centre for Child Studies last week to learn more about the Canadian Early Childhood Language Project, headed by Daniela O'Neill of UW's psychology department.

On the tour were UW president David Johnston, Waterloo Region chair Ken Seiling, and Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr, as well as the family of two children who are involved in the study.

The project headed by O'Neill is developing a child language questionnaire, the *Language Use Inventory for Young Children: An Assessment of Pragmatic Language Development*. The questionnaire will be used as an early warning measure to determine whether there are any delays in acquiring language skills in children younger than four years of age.

The project will involve more than 3,000 Canadian parents, many of them from the Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and surrounding area.

The Canadian Early Childhood Language Project is the culmination of more than eight years of work on a questionnaire that can be quickly and easily completed by parents in order to capture key developments in their children's early language learning.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has been funding the project since 2000, and recently granted O'Neill and her research team three additional years of funding (\$213,000) to carry out the large study in the community.



PHOTO: CHRIS HUGHES, GRAPHICS, UW

*Touring the Centre for Child Studies last week were Waterloo Region chair Ken Seiling, left, and Kitchener mayor Carl Zehr, right. Psychology professor Daniela O'Neill, director of the Canadian Early Childhood Language Project, demonstrates her language skills studies with participants in the project, Charlotte Cherkewski, left, and her older brother, Lucas Cherkewski.*

### PARENTS,

The goal of the Canadian Early Childhood Language Project is to learn more about how children typically use language in everyday situations from 18 to 47 months of age.

If you have a child who will be 18 and 47 months old in 2004, and you would like to participate by filling out the *Language Use Inventory questionnaire*, or you would like more information, please

- call the UW Centre for Child Studies locally at 519-888-4821 or toll-free at 1-866-994-0833 if you live outside the Kitchener-Waterloo area

- email [ccs@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ccs@uwaterloo.ca)
- visit [www.childstudies.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.childstudies.uwaterloo.ca)

To send you the questionnaire, we will need your name, mailing address, and the date of birth of your child. The questionnaire takes about 30 minutes to fill out and you can return it by mail in a pre-paid envelope. As our thanks, we will send you a small gift for your child.

We look forward to hearing from you!