

Media, science mix in library

Beginning in January, the Farmington Community Library will offer many new programs for children, aimed to assist them in exploring and learning about the world through the library.

Today's column features two of the programs for elementary school age youngsters—"Chemistry for Children, Learning through Play" and "Media Production."

"SCIENCE Sorcery" will offer first and second grade children a new opportunity to have fun learning about chemistry and at the same time, practice reading readiness skills needed for personal growth and development.

Science experiments offer children an opportunity to do something that is seemingly magical, but also very real. It gives children an opportunity to learn about the world around them and feel grown up about it in the process.

The mixing, measuring, sorting, classifying, and counting will seem like play to the children, but in essence, they will be practicing small muscle coordination and simple logic

skills needed by children for their physical and mental growth.

Learning chemical names will help build vocabulary. And seeing experiments through to completion will help children learn and understand relationships and problem solving.

Barbara Shumer, the Farmington Hills branch librarian conducting this program, also will mix in a fair share of science facts and fancies, including stories about chemists. Children will experience a whole world of literature and learning relating to science in addition to conducting their own science experiments.

The social gains of this program involve the importance of cooperation and sharing in group projects.

If you are interested in this program for your first or second grade child, come in or call the library, located at 3273 West Twelve Mile, on Jan. 6 or shortly thereafter for registration. In person registration will be conducted from 9-11 a.m. Jan. 6.

The program is scheduled from 4-5 p.m., Wednesdays beginning Jan. 18 through Feb. 8. There is a \$3 registra-

tion fee required to purchase materials. Group size will be limited and attendance will occur on a first-come, first-serve basis, with Farmington and Farmington Hills residents receiving first preference. For further information, call 553-0300.

FIFTI and sixth grade students are invited to join the library staff for an eight week workshop in media production at the Farmington Hills library.

Children will experiment with photography and production techniques, learning to operate various audio-visual equipment and individual photography.

Our end result will be several slide-tape shows, which will be presented to parents and family at a reception held on our last meeting.

Media, the movement of the future, is fast coming upon us. Visual literacy is an important concern of those who work with children, as children are confronted with visual information in greater quantity than ever before.

It is important that a child select the important visual impressions from the unimportant, in order to gain a clear, understandable picture.

Such sorting is the basis of this program. Children will be asked to examine the world around them, choose what they want to explore, and put together a unified visual program which will convey a message to someone.

In addition, children are naturally inquisitive about how things work. This program gives them an opportunity to experiment with the various unfamiliar machines—tape recorders, cameras, slide projectors, and picture copying apparatus. Following through on this curiosity can lead to a sense of confidence and capability which

assures the child he can enter a new situation and master it.

Because we encourage work in groups (to result in a more complete slide program), the participating child should experience personal social growth as well. Coming to agreement on the subject to be pursued, scenes and pictures to be photographed, mood to be conveyed by musical selection, and eventual physical division of property all demand working together, rather than pursuing individual goals.

Because we will be working in a situation that involves a small participant-to-leader ratio, the child can experience working closely with an unfamiliar adult toward a common end, an experience that is not found in many situations.

But why is the library involved in a program of this type?

An institution designed to meet information needs, we believe that the best way to learn about media is to use it.

Thus, this program is an informational offering. In addition, library materials will be used extensively as integral elements of the finished product.

Books and magazines contribute pictures that cannot be found in a real situation within our time limits. Library recordings provide background music, and poetry and readings found on the shelves may contribute to the text of the audio portion of the program.

The group will meet from 4-5 p.m., on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 17 through March 14. (We will not meet on Feb. 14.)

Participants will need an instamatic camera and must pay a \$5 materials fee to cover the cost of film and processing. Registration begins Jan. 6 at the Farmington Hills Library.



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Science Center has new home

The Detroit Science Center transferred itself Dec. 16 from the storefront which has been its temporary home since 1970 to its new building in the Detroit Cultural Center.

The \$5 million new building at the corner of Warren and John R. is scheduled to open in January.

The structure itself consists of three

floor levels: ground, plaza, and exhibit hall level. A 250 tiered seat space theater on the ground level with a 67½-foot hemispherical projection dome will be the highlight of the building. Programs in three-dimensional depth are made possible through a 70 mm Omnimax projector with a fish-eye lens. The effect is to give the spectators the illusion of being suspended in space.

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