



At Fairview

Doors open for tots' enrichment programs

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The staff at Fairview Early Childhood Center, Farmington area's unique school that houses only those under five years of age, is working on a few plans that will open the way for pre-schoolers to participate in enrichment programs.

The youngsters will share the building with the young set enrolled in Head Start and special education programs.

Jan Martin, building coordinator of what was once known as Fairview Elementary School, is aiming for a full scale mailing of the new program offerings right after the first of the year.

Meantime, however, she invites interested parents to leave their names and phone numbers with the secretary at Fairview (826-8335) so they may be apprised of all details.

And she invites parents with early childhood credentials to contact the school to apply for part time teaching positions.

"There are several big empty rooms here," Ms. Martin said. "And there is a gym and cafeteria spacious enough to share."

"We are planning on enrichment classes such as science, art, dance."

"We'll have some adult classes for parents scheduled while the toddler is involved in his own class. We'll have some reading readiness programs, and some classes the toddler and parent can take together," she said.

FAIRVIEW SCHOOL was re-opened in September, 1978, as the Fairview Early Childhood Center. Although pre-kindergarten instruction is not new to Farmington, the various preschool programs were scattered throughout the school district.

Head Start was conducted at William Grace Elementary School. The special education children and the learning disabled were taught speech and language.

At Eagle, there was a class for orthopedically handicapped, and at Cloverdale there was a class for the young who are severely mentally and physically handicapped.

"The establishment of a child development center enables the district to offer preschool experience to any child in the district," Ms. Martin said. "A preschool readiness program can be developed to involve parents and students alike in the child's educational development."

"Also, consolidation to a single site means scattered service specialists can be concentrated at that site to provide preschoolers with the special prescriptions they require."

Project Head Start is federally funded and follows income and residence rules from the government. The children, all from 3-5 years, receive a host of services beyond a nursery school experience.

'Community participation in the program is desired and encouraged. Classroom helpers are always needed.'

—Jan Martin, Fairview building coordinator

THE CHILDREN receive medical and dental care, hot lunches, hearing and vision and speech screening and immunizations. The families receive nutrition and budgeting assistance, topical monthly meetings on parenting and homemaking skills, and public health nurse visits.

Project Head Start began as a summer school program in Farmington about 12 years ago.

The two sessions under way now include 60 tots who are brought to school by bus for either morning or afternoon sessions, five days a week. The program for them is arranged to allow for a wide variety of experiences in the cognitive, affective and psychomotor areas.

"Community participation in the program is desired and encouraged," Ms. Martin said. "Classroom helpers are always needed."

For the handicapped child, the center offers services for those from 0-5 years, with occupational, physical and language therapy, along with evaluations by social workers and psychologists.

Programs and parental assistance are available at Fairview for the retarded, physically handicapped, speech and language impaired, and for the child, who may, upon entry to formal education, be diagnosed as learning disabled.

"Any parent who feels his young child is not progressing at a normal rate should contact Fairview and ask that a member of the Child-Find Committee contact them relative to making an appointment for a screening," Ms. Martin said.

CURRENT PLANS for the preschoolers enrichment classes, in science, art, or dance, would be 40 minute sessions running for eight weeks. A child could attend one, two or three classes.

Classes for parents would be small informal discussion groups centering around child rearing.

Preschool readiness would involve the parents in their child's readiness for school activities.

The two and three year old set will be invited to join with parents for classes that will consist of a variety of activities all geared to the appropriate development levels.



A bright and crisp sunny day calls Shirley George out of doors for a session on Fairview's playground to

stimulate appetites before lunch. Ms. George works with Project Head Start.



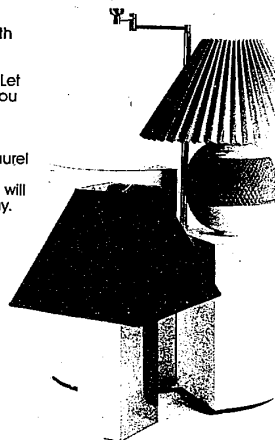
Arts and crafts are the order of the day for Mary Lou Steele and her classes at Fairview. Alert parents who felt their child might have a learning disability that could cause problems in formal education

have enrolled the youngster in pre-primary classes in the new Early Childhood Center. Parents have the option of sending their child either five mornings or five afternoons a week.

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Georgene Kinsman, a speech teacher for the young set, holds two sessions a day with her charges at Fairview Early Childhood Center. All of the teachers have decorated their rooms in bright colors and a host of inviting equipment for many and varied activities.