

Tots learn by playing in Nardin Park nursery

Nardin Park Community Nursery School is operated with the philosophy that play is children's work and children learn through play.

"The whole child can be developed as the child plays, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially," said Mada Briggs, director of the school for tots located in Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

Each day the classroom is set up with interest centers.

Under the supervision of the teachers, the children play socially with their peers as they move from one interest center to another as they choose.

"The center to develop large muscles and creativity is our block center," Ms. Briggs said. Large and small blocks and trucks are the foundation of the center, but props are introduced week-

ly to convert the center to a garage, a paint shop, a store, a postoffice, a beauty shop or a hospital.

For small muscle development and eye-hand coordination, teachers stress discrimination as children choose to work on puzzles, string beads, work with tiles or clay or at a work bench.

ONE OF THE traditions for the nursery school is "Father's Night," set this year for Oct. 29, when tots bring their fathers to go through an hour or so of regular class time.

The accent is on creative art this time around when parent and child will experiment together with many types of painting, collages and coloring.

"An easel is always set up for them to paint, the same as the science center is always open for them to observe ob-

jects from the world around them, experiment with magnets, or discover the differences in weight of items," Ms. Briggs said.

The nursery's reading center is patterned after a public library, with check-outs available. A water table which at times may contain rice, or cornmeal or salt or sand, provides many opportunities for science activities, or may be a place just to experience the feel of these things.

"Children need time to play by themselves, and time to play with their friends in their own ways," Ms. Briggs said. "They need the chance to select the activity they would like to pursue."

However, children are brought together periodically for stories, songs, finger plays, games, creative movement or dramatics, and sometimes, just discussion.

"The nursery is designed to nourish growth on all fronts," Ms. Briggs said, "with individualized instruction, learning by discovery, allowing the child to choose his own activities."

EVEN SNACK time is a period of learning.

"Children serve their own snack and pour their own juice," Ms. Briggs said. "Natural juice and a grain product is provided each day, supplemented with vegetables, fruits, and peanut butter, but many times the children prepare and cook the snack themselves."

Outside play periods might be spent with regular playground climbers, slides and swings, or it might be an outside classroom, where group games are supervised.

The school is non-profit, owned and governed by parents of the registered children, or parents who have had children in the school.

Two certified teachers are present at each class. There are two classes for four-year-olds, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and one class for three-year-olds in the morning.

Ms. Briggs can be reached for more information by calling her at home after 3:30 p.m., 476-3439.



Aimee Cole (at left) and Roseanne Dizazzo stationed themselves in the nursery kitchen to prepare cupcake snacks for the day. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Orchestra hosts Korean violinist

Music Director Antal Dorati will be joined by the young Korean-born violinist Kyung-Wha Chung in three performances at Ford Auditorium with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Concerts are scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, Oct. 11 and 13, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14.

The program will feature the first Detroit Symphony Orchestra subscription performance of Haydn's Overture to "L'isola disabitata." The program also includes Barber's "Medea's Dance of Vengeance," Stravinsky's Violin

Concerto, and Sibelius' Symphony No. 2.

Miss Chung has performed throughout the world and made numerous recordings, always to the highest praise. She studied first in Seoul and later with Ivan Galamian at Juilliard. Miss Chung's most recent appearance with the DSO was in March 1977 when she performed the Sibelius Concerto.

Tickets prices vary and a limited amount of tickets at reduced rates will be made available to students and senior citizens at the box office from 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday.

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Four-year-old Renee Damphouse chooses to try her hand as a car mechanic in play in Nardin Park Community Nursery School where the philosophy is learning through playing. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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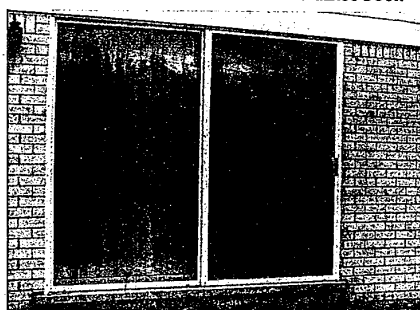
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