



Fresh from Ms. Bakle's seminar on toy selection, the mothers got a look at recommended toys from "Teacher's Pet" of Oak Park and Madison Heights. The firm sells teacher's aids and appropriate materials to parents.

Proper playthings

(Continued from page 2B)

• Playthings must be designed to work well and to be safe with rounded corners and sunken nails and screws. Construction of toys must be simple enough for a child to comprehend.

• A plaything should encourage cooperative play which is a precious part of a child's experience.

"ALBERT EINSTEIN once said: 'During my childhood, I played with toys. Later, I played with ideas,'" Ms. Bakle related.

The quality of toys can enhance the values of play, she said.

"Through play a child interacts with others, expresses feelings, dramatizes life situations which promotes cognitive growth, and gains creativity and use of imagination.

"The whole bag of play therapy is wrapped up in how to work out hostilities, fears, and the total growth of the self.

"A full variety of opportunities are

essential for full development of the self," she told the mothers. "Make available old hats, shoes and books, magazines, cassettes, records and puppets."

Household toys such as pots and pans, boxes and bags should be available to every child, and dolls are important as well.

"Dolls should be for boys and girls," she said. "They should be male and female, black, white and oriental and may represent different ethnic groups."

"Blocks and tinker toys are excellent, but take the instructions for just precisely how to make a house or a train and throw them away."

"It crushes creativity. We should never show a child the tree we want to draw, but allow him to create the trees he sees in his mind's eye."

Ms. Bakle said there is something out of cycle in our society which stresses a lack of play in children and then teaches the elderly to play.

With thoughtful toy selection, play and its values can be enhanced.

Artists in Muskegon

Six Michigan artists are represented in an exhibition of painting at the Muskegon Museum of Art through Jan. 30.

Each artist is an accomplished watercolorist, a medium considered challenging by most painters and described as spontaneous, elusive and sensitive.

The Muskegon Museum

and 29.

Painters included in the exhibit are Mary Jane Bigler, Richard Jerzy, Barbara Cervenka, Yoko Moro, Electra Stamelos and Ray Frost Fleming Jr. Fleming lives in Birmingham and Ms. Bigler teaches at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association.

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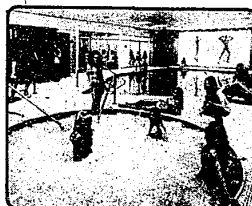
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