



Two-and-a-half year old Meg Glaser tries on some equipment that came to her house for the opening of Farmington Hills Montessori at Mercy Center. With her ear phones she can turn the pages of a book while she hears the story on tape.



Lia Klimesk, Meg's neighbor, tries building the pink tower, a traditional piece of equipment for a Montessori School. The lesson in building aims to teach order and dimension.



All signals are go for Alene Ross (at left) and Mary Ellen Glaser who check off items that have arrived from Amsterdam for their new school.

Farmington Hills Montessori opens at Mercy in September

By LORAIN McCLISH

Two Birmingham women who met one another when they were working at a bilingual private school in Detroit, will open the first Montessori school in Farmington Hills.

Mary Ellen Glaser and Arlene Ross will launch the September to June term of Farmington Hills Montessori at Mercy Center with an open house Aug. 17.

Mrs. Ross began a career as a teacher, but switched to accounting when teachers were flooding the job market. Her subsequent clients were all schools, "so I was still sort of working with kids," she said.

Mrs. Glaser, who worked as a teacher for seven years, became aware of the Montessori philosophy while she was shopping around for a nursery school for her youngsters. She has since had three years of Montessori teaching experience and will be directress for the new school.

The school is open to 2½-6-year-olds. Mrs. Glaser described the Montessori teaching philosophy as "beneficial for this sensitive age which stresses sensorial experiences to learn language and numbers."

"It is an ordered environment created for sharing, learning social values, respect. It is child-centered and the child knows this. It is a balance of freedom and discipline."

ALL OF THE teaching materials required already have arrived, specially ordered from Amsterdam, and stored in Mrs. Glaser's basement.

"Each piece," Mrs. Ross said, "is designed for new experiences and the stimulation kids need and mandatory for the high standards of excellence we will maintain."

The Montessori environment is designed to help develop initiative and independence, coordination, concentration and order.

The Montessori materials are designed to meet each child's particular needs at each stage of development.

The Montessori directress meets the child as an individual, observes developmental needs, and gives him or her materials appropriate to the moment of readiness.

"I've been at it three years now," Mrs. Glaser said, "and it works."

The women related the beliefs of Dr. Maria Montessori, founder of the school system. If you can listen to the inner dynamic of the child, have the environment ready, then all the students will arrive at the basic skills of their culture: reading, writing, math, geography.

But most importantly, the philosophy aims "at the broader goal of understanding themselves as part of history, as one of many cultures and as part of the family of man."

BOTH OF THE women's husbands are educators, and "both are convinced that so many of these ideas make sense," Mrs. Glaser said.

Ross is athletic director at North Dearborn Heights High School and Glaser is developmental director of Human Resources and Development at Mt. Carmel Hospital.

This summer the two will be building both inside shelving and outdoor equipment for the new school.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Glaser will be interviewing women who wish to take on the position of assistant directress.

"We are looking for someone who loves children, that's the first requirement," Mrs. Ross said. "She should be trained in the Montessori system, or willing to learn. She can work a full day, or a half day."

Mrs. Glaser says one of the school's mottos is "Help me to do it myself."

"We are not imposing a rigid or arbitrary set of goals and expectation," Mrs. Ross added. "Our objective is not to rush them, but rather to help them develop positive attitudes towards themselves, their world, and towards everything associated with learning."

On Aug. 17 Mercy Center's Room C will be ready for guests between 2-5

p.m. Visitors are asked to use Gate 4, on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt, and enter through the blue canopy. Meanwhile, Mrs. Ross will take in-

quiries about the school, registration, or persons who wish to apply for the job of assistant directress by calling her at 646-3024.



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Finger painting and scrubbing up a table are combined for a sensorial experience in Montessori teacher's job.

Buckle Up Babes

Sara Marie named 'Most Beautiful Baby'

By LORAIN McCLISH

Sara Marie Flutur, who is described by her mother as "a jabbermouth" has been declared Farmington area's "Most Beautiful Baby."

The 16-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rob Flutur, 30023 Stockton, Farmington Hills, took the title in judging of 68 photographs submitted in a contest sponsored by Farmington Area Jaycettes.

Leslie Weirmeir, chairman of the contest promoting the Jaycettes' Buckle Up Babes (BUB's) program, stated that the panel of Jayce judges "took hours and hours to narrow down the

'The contest did just exactly what it was supposed to do. The entries were so heavy one day that the post office called to tell us to pick them up because they couldn't deliver them. But best of all, some of the mail and a steady stream of phone calls were inquiries about our love seats.'

— Leslie Weirmeir

entries" before choosing Sara Marie as winner of a U.S. Savings Bond and a General Motors Child Love Seat.

The toddler's mother said she entered the contest "just because I had an extra picture of her that I liked."

The little blond and blue-eyed charmer is without the hip brace that she wore for eight months of her young life and is walking as any 16-month-old, a feat Mrs. Flutur called "an answer to many prayers."

Sara Marie's parents are both graduates of North Farmington High School and Central Michigan University. Her father is a teacher in Maxey Boys Training School.

Her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Daumler and her paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Duane Flutur, all of Farmington Hills.

RUNNER UP in the contest to Sara Marie is Lindsay Anne Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kennedy, of 43645 Nine Mile Rd., Northville.

Following Lindsay Anne is Marla Gordon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gordon, 31109 North Park Dr., Farmington Hills, and Colleen Lynn Kirkpatrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kirkpatrick, 22254 Purdue, Farmington Hills.

Lindsay Anne also won a G. M. Love Seat, and Marla and Colleen Lynn won gift certificates from Richards Boys and Girls Wear, on Halsted and Grand River.

"The contest did just exactly what it was supposed to do," Mrs. Weirmeir said.

"The entries were so heavy on one day that the post office called to tell us to pick them up because they couldn't deliver them," she said.

"But best of all, some of the mail, and a steady stream of phone calls were inquiries about our love seats."

HARRIETTE REED this year's outgoing president of Farmington Area Jaycettes began the rental of the love seats, which cradle infants with comfort and security in an automobile.

In the initial baby-safety program, the chapter purchased 50 seats to be rented for a total of \$6 for infants until the child is nine months or 20 pounds.

"For the first time we have a waiting list," Mrs. Weirmeir said, "so I'm hoping we'll purchase more to accommodate every one who wants one, but that will be up to Gail Raben who took over the BUB's chairmanship June 1."

Mrs. Weirmeir added that the response from area residents to the contest "was the best way any one could leave a chairmanship."

The rental program got under way when statistics were made known that the automobile is the one place where the child is not the safest in his parents' arms.

The automobile is one of the leading causes of accidental death for the child's first year of life. An estimated 1,000 children under the age of four will be killed this year as passengers.

When the Jaycettes learned that a child alone in a car involved in an accident can become a projectile, the group took on the project to encourage parents to use the love seats.

They are flame resistant, lightweight, easily carried and handily stored when not in use.

Because few other Jaycette chapters in the surrounding areas sponsor the rental program, the local chapter rents the seats to parents in all neighboring communities.



Marti Flutur congratulates her daughter Sara Marie who is now holder of the title "Most Beautiful Baby." The chatty and friendly 16-month-old took on her new title in a contest of 68 entries of babies from birth to 18 months old. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)