

## A different approach

# Reading program helps students

By Gary M. Cates  
Staff writer

The students in summer school are playing games. Games that help them to read, write, think, speak, and listen. The Farmington Public Schools are working in cooperation with Michigan State University in a supplementary reading program for students with reading difficulties.

"We observe the youngsters to see their strengths and needs in language and reading, and then work with them in trying to solve any problems," said Dr. Linda Cline, coordinator for the program, which is based at Middlebelt Elementary School.

Working with Cline during the two-week sessions are eight MSU graduate students and one assistant. Each of the graduate students, studying classroom teaching or reading, are responsible for two students during the sessions.

"We first looked at the 47 students in the summer school program. We nar-

rowed them down to 32 students we wanted to work with," explains Cline.

"The program deals with the placement of the students, the diagnosis of the difficulties, and the prescriptive remedies," said Don Howell, director of community education.

The students are involved in the decisions about the course of action to be taken in helping them to improve their skills.

"The big key has been getting the kids involved," said Cline.

The type of work and activities the students partake in help in word recognition, memory of words, and the understanding of word's meanings.

One of the activities is a game called, "Quadronomes." This game uses cards that have either the beginning or endings of words on the sides. The students then take turns putting the cards into word formations.

The students form the word, then pronounce it, and then show that they understand the word by using it in a

sentence. "One need is for language experience, that is why we practice sentences," says graduate student Eric Van Pousker.

After forming the word twice, student Todd Smith, a fourth-grader, explained that Smith is like a rabbit moving its nose.

The program measures its success in several different ways, said Cline.

By improvements in the student's day-to-day behavior, the classroom teacher's observations, parent feed back and the student's attitude toward reading.

"Students that have difficulties reading usually hate to read, so we look for improvement in attitude toward reading," said Cline.

## City hall sets evening hours

Starting this week, city hall hours have been extended on Mondays until 7 p.m. for a three-month trial period.

Normal city office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Offices that will be open for business until 7 p.m. on Mondays during the trial period will be assessing, city clerk, city treasurer, zoning, engineering, building, police records bureau, parks and recreation and city manager. During this time, staff will be available to answer citizen inquiries, receive payment

of taxes, accept registration for voting and recreation programs and perform other functions.

If the three-month trial period indicates that the extended Monday hours meet a public need, it is hoped that these hours can be scheduled permanently.

For further information on the services available during the extended hours, contact the respective department. The city hall telephone number is 474-6115.

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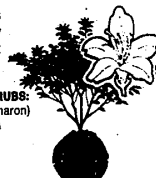
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