

How Educators Work With Deaf Children



How can a deaf child comprehend a word like "trunk" with its many different meanings?

This is just one of the problems faced by Farmington's four teachers of children with hearing impairment. Miss Judy Jones has a class of pre-schoolers; Mrs. Nancy DuBois teaches kindergarten; and Miss Sarah Clock and Mrs. Shirley Roscoe, early and older elementary.

IT HAS BEEN established that 10,000 repetitions of a word or idea may be necessary for the very young child with a hearing handicap.

Education begins with the pre-school youngsters at about 2 1/2 years of age after the Oakland County baby clinic has them accustomed to a hearing aid.

Most of the pupils are "trabella" babies of mothers who contracted German measles during pregnancy. This means that some nerve endings of the inner ear have been destroyed, making it impossible for them to hear certain sounds even.

Chief obstacle to research to alleviate inner ear damage is its location. It is just about the most protected in the human body. Consequently, it cannot be observed in a living subject.

Hearing aids do not correct hearing loss. They merely serve to amplify the hearing that remains. People think if

they shout, surely the child with a hearing aid will understand.

IN WORKING with pre-schoolers; Miss Jones says her chief objective is to communicate the idea that everything has a name.

No amount of parroting can accomplish this; the realization must burst upon the child as it did upon Helen Keller with the cold substance spouting over her hands from the pump.

Most of the children develop the ability to read lips. It's a gift which does not appear to be connected with intelligence.

Although his handicap may frustrate a deaf child, Miss Jones maintains it makes him less self-centered, kinder to others and cooperative. His

rage stems from not making himself understood.

MISS CLOCK'S five pupils are at five different reading levels.

Some can work at grade level in certain subjects while others are barely able to use kindergarten language. Not one, however, has sub-normal intelligence and some are above average.

This situation pinpoints the need for very small classes. Each child requires the greatest possible amount of individual teaching.

"There is no way to know how and what the children hear," said Miss Clock. "Some of the deafest find it easy to understand speech, but we have no idea why, and they can't tell us."

She concentrates hard on auditory training because

many vowels look and sound alike (cat, catch, can). Efforts are directed toward enforcement of lip reading; expansion of auditory training; teaching the rhythm of speech; beginning of language as subject; teaching its patterns; the wheres and whens, the nouns and verbs that categorize language.

MATH IS FAIRLY easy for the deaf pupil because it is computational, not conceptual. Story problems are another matter; they present a language problem once more. Deduction and induction are difficult.

When the children reach Mrs. Shirley Roscoe's upper elementary level, they do lots of board work and rely heavily on pictures and visual aids.

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REFLECTION—Timmy LaMarra checks the mirror image in the classroom for early elementary children with hearing handicaps. He's learning proper enunciation of

vowel sounds with the help of his teacher, Miss Sarah Clock, who demonstrates the way to form the letters orally. (Evert photo)



PLAY WITH A PURPOSE -- Miss Judy Jones teaches a pre-school science lesson together with some new language concepts. Ronnie LeVeque tries to sink a block of wood while his classmates try to learn the words and ideas "sink" and "float." Other pupils from left are Brad Pelsht, Julia Persia, Frank Doublet, Jeff Simms and Tammy Shovan. (Evert photo)

OK Finnish Center

Continued from Page 1A

The commissioners also voted against their consultants on another rezoning. They recommended rezoning 3.28 acres at 35200 Eight Mile from residential to a special zone. A Finnish Cultural Center is to be built on the site.

W. Allen Tuomala, spokesman for the association, said the one-story building will house a large meeting hall, offices, a library and a small kitchen. The Finnish association has 300-400 members in the metropolitan Detroit area, he added.

"Our main objection is that it would break up the multiple zoning frontage on Eight Mile," Coates commented.

He noted about 400 feet of frontage would be left to the west of the site if the rezoning were approved, which might hinder development of multiple housing in the area.

The area, now zoned for single family residences, would change to multiple family resi-

dences if the new township master zoning plan is adopted.

L. David Stader, secretary of the commission, said the area may never develop as multiples.

6 Residents Student Teach

SIX FARMINGTON residents who plan to become classroom teachers are gaining practical experience during Western Michigan University's spring term through their directed teaching assignments.

The students and schools where they are teaching include Virginia Angelbrant at Everett Elementary in Detroit; Paula Branchaud at Simms in Southfield; Patricia Connolly at Sayre School in South Lyon; Steven Dhue at Lakeview School in Lakeview; Suzanne Fell at Whitman in Livonia; and Kathleen Howell at Eisenhower in Livonia.

"I think this use is probably going to be a good use in the area. It will bring the area up," Nolan commented.

The rezoning was recommended to the township board for approval after only two objections.

Nolan also favored the private club.

State Police Split Games

The Michigan State Police team in the police softball league which plays weekend nights in the Farmington city park split in a couple of slugfests the past weekend.

Saturday night, the state patrolmen were on the short end of a 2-6 split in a game with the Westland police department. The next night, the troopers topped Farmington City Police, 21-14.

In other games Saturday night, Livonia beat Farmington

Township, 8-7, and Southfield and Livonia police departments tied for first place in the league standings, both with 6-1 records.

Westland is alone in third place with a 3-4 records. Michigan State Police, Farmington Township and Farmington City Police are deadlocked in fourth place at 2-5.

Beautifiers Thank Us

EDITOR: The township of Farmington, Beautification Committee wishes to thank you for the excellent publicity furnished by your newspaper for the dedication of the Farmington Township Administrative Center and the first annual awards presentation.

MRS. DOROTHY GORDON

Chairman, Farmington Township Beautification Committee

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