

# In the spotlight

## Early education is growing in popularity



Kim Lennon of Farmington Hills, and her daughter, Amy, age 2, make Christmas cookies during the Mom and Tote program at the Fairview Early Childhood Center.

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Images, uniqueness and confidence in one's own abilities," a program brochure said.

"A CHILD is a child first," said Mary Lou Sommerville, program supervisor at Alameda. Although individual qualities of young students are stressed, they are viewed as children first and foremost. "Other items are secondary," Sommerville said.

About 50 percent of programs are tuition-funded through the community education program. Some of these include: Parent-Toddler, Community Early Education, Able Learners and the Bilingual Language Enrichment, which began with a grant last year. Federal- and district-funded programs include Headstart, Developmental Program, special education and Child Find.

The Developmental Program offers a "gift of time" to 4- and 5-year-olds who are not ready for kindergarten. The district conducts Gesell Developmental Screening each spring, where 95 percent of the district's pre-kindergartners are tested for kindergarten readiness, Rutter said.

There was concern at the program's inception from private nurseries, municipalities and other groups who cried "unfair competition," Lewis said. "They've survived; they knew we could offer the needed, in-depth programs."

One elementary teacher said the "early education does have a tremendous influence on future education."

"With all this activity, children will be ready for a full day of kindergarten," one parent added. She asked that the district research full-day programs in other districts.

## Block grant hearing set

Recommendations for use of Farmington Community Development Block Grant money and participation in the Commercial Assistance Program will be discussed at a public hearing 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at Farmington City Hall.

City Manager Robert Deadman offered these recommended uses as part of the federal program:

- Improvements to the central business district, including parking, organization, aesthetics and promotion.
- Bolstering the residential home repair program.

Following the public hearing, recommendations are submitted to Oakland County's Department of Community Development.

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## Culinary delight on tap

Oakland Community College Hospitality Department will present its sixth annual Culinary Arts Open House at the Orchard Ridge Campus Thursday, Dec. 12.

OCC students will demonstrate a variety of culinary art techniques 7-9 p.m. in J Building.

Cake decorating, tableside cooking, vegetable carving and napkin folding are among the featured presentations.

Fifty entries will be judged by four of the Detroit area's master chefs: Chef Leopold Schaeff, Machus Restaurant, Birmingham; Chef Milos Cibicka, Golden Mushroom, Southfield; Chef Leon Korstjens, the only Master Pastry Chef in the country, St. John Hospital, Detroit; and Chef Kamel Kassen, Culinary Arts Olympic Gold Medal Winner (1984), Renaissance Club, Westin Hotel, Detroit.

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