

# Pre-school children get their fill of hearts, tarts and nursery rhymes

Just for you:  
"Queen of Hearts"  
Sue Williams (near left) and "Mother Goose" Loretta Zahn hope their tarts won't disappear if the knave of hearts shows up. In the photo below, Martin Anumba knows where his heart is. The "Queen of Hearts" and "Mother Goose" gave out heart stickers to all pre-school classes.



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"Mother Goose" was on the loose Tuesday, much to the delight of young children at Farmington Community School.

From room to room, "Mother Goose" (portrayed by Loretta Zahn) and her "Queen of Hearts" (education specialist Sue Williams) brought children ages 1-5 their rendition of the nursery rhyme as well as a tray of homemade tarts, "made on a summer's day."

Teachers and parent volunteers were also going along with the routine, smiling with familiarity while reciting the famous story with Zahn and Williams.

"They (parents) love it," Williams said, after the morning's last installment of *Mother Goose*. "Most of them knew these stories as children, and then they forgot them. This is bringing back memories."

As much as adults are enjoying the stories, the presentation is for the kids, one of the special activities coinciding with March is Reading Month, Williams said. In previous weeks, youngsters enjoyed nursery rhymes such as *Humpty Dumpty* and *Old King Cole*, while next week will bring a rendition of *Little Boy Blue*.

"There's something about fun and logical awareness, which (are) pre-reading skills," Williams said. "It gives them the ability to hear the sounds and rhymes of speech. Research has shown that kids knowing nursery rhymes have an easier time learning to read."

## Starting young

The weekly story rounds aren't all that have been taking place this month to celebrate reading. Other ways include a scholastic book fair and an evening program March 22 when "Clifford

the Big Red Dog" visited and had pictures taken with children, Williams said.

Zahn's "Mother Goose" read stories that evening, too, while parents were encouraged to "help their children begin the reading and writing process," Williams said.

Modestly downplaying her involvement was Zahn, a former teacher who has grandchildren attending Farmington Community School. "I do the ones they know and the ones that are easy to act."

Farmington Community School is one of the district's three early childhood centers; but there are many other programs housed there.

Williams said the Shiawassee Road facility serves 300 families in programs such as Head Start, Michigan School Readiness/APEX and community education.

Recruiting is currently under way for fall 2001. For more information about Farmington Community School programs, call (248) 489-3373.



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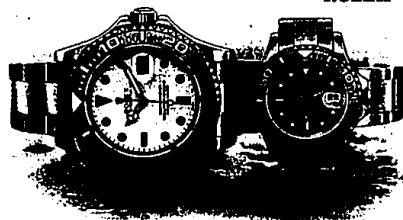
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