

# Learning 'Tools' Shown



MRS. MARIE LE DOUX with her reading records.

A Livonia father and an Oklahoma City businessman will combine efforts in this area Saturday to display methods they have worked out to help children to learn.

A program in the Ford Motor Co. glass house at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 will present Livonian Al Magewick, who designed a learning game to help children with numbers concepts, and Mrs. Marie LeDoux, who has produced a series of records to help children learn reading by the phonics method.

Both have received acclaim for programs that step beyond ordinary classroom situations to give an extra boost to the child in trouble with alphabet and numbers.

MAGEWICK worked out his learning tool, a game called "Educaid" while trying to

give some special arithmetic assistance to Jeffrey, third of his seven sons.

"He didn't understand the basic concept of number progression up to 10, then through the teens and on into the 20s," Magewick said.

"I started by putting the numbers on a blackboard. But the black on white still caused confusion. Then I hit on color coding - ten colors at first but that was too much so the board now uses five basic colors."

Jeffrey learned to understand the numbers in sets of tens and write them onto a plastic sheet his father added to their game.

SOON YOUNGER BROTHERS Alan and Philip, then pre-schoolers, were getting in on the act and using the board in their own way. Their father added cut-out

numbers and told them to play with the board and make up their own games.

"It was interesting," he said, "that when I tried to show them my rules, they didn't understand; but when I let them go their own way I was amazed with what they could learn."

Magewick, a simulation engineer for the Ford Motor Co., now has added letters to the "Educaid" games that he sells for \$7, and finds that even his smallest son, at 26 months younger than the game, is beginning to recognize the cut-out letters and reproduce their sounds.

IN PUTTING together the game package, he worked closely with Sister Mary Martina, who has directed a special school at Madonna College for children with learning problems.

"I look upon it as an instructional apparatus which should prove effective in preventing learning difficulties that children generally encounter in primary grades," Sr. Martina said.

Magewick has had favorable comments on "Educaid" from Livonia teachers and administrators and also from Phyllis Greenberg of the Roeper City and Country School in Bloomfield Hills.

MRS. LE DOUX is a businesswoman who began producing her "Play 'n Talk" series of records after noting with dismay that the phonics method of teaching reading was being dropped from elementary schools after her own children had found it served them well.

She was invited here by Mrs. Pat Judson of Dearborn, who found the series helped her daughter make great progress and then began using the program to help other children.

Mrs. Judson pointed out that Mrs. LeDoux, who was a delegate to the 1970 White House Conference for Children and is a member of the National Advisory Council of the Reading Reform Foundation, has produced her "Play 'n Talk" series on a non-profit basis.

Its value, she said, lies in the fact that it stresses phonetic pronunciation instead of the look-say method of putting together a word and picture, and that is repetitive enough to let a slow learner keep pace.

"Classroom teachers often spend a day or two on a basic sound," Mrs. Judson said, "and if a slow learner doesn't get it then, he may never catch up."

## Schizophrenia Unit To Hear Psychiatrist

"The Orthomolecular Approach to the Treatment of Learning Disabilities" will be discussed at the next meeting of the Schizophrenia Foundation of Michigan.

Dr. Allan Cott of New York City will give the talk at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 17101 W. Seven Mile, Detroit.

There will be no admission charge.

Dr. Cott is a psychiatrist who has turned to the megavitamin and nutrition method in treating mental illness, especially in children. He has had conferences in Russia in the last two years exchanging views on nutrition and fasting in mental illness. He is the scientific advisor to the Metropolitan Chapter of the National Society for Autistic Children, and is author of many books and articles on the subject.



AL MAGEWICK and his son Alan try out their learning game. (Ford photo)

"And many children may learn the specific words in the look-say method, but they can't translate the component sounds and letters to other words. I worked with a 14-year-old girl who knew all the look-say words but couldn't read."

TEACHERS and interested parents from all over the area have been invited to attend the free demonstrations, and the Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, holding its annual state convention in Warren and Farmington on Friday and Saturday, is inviting its delegates to participate.



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