

Resource Center Aids 'Deprived'

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

On Monday of this week, Meggie, a first grade pupil at Shiawassee Elementary School, learned to read and write eight new words.

Not so remarkable, you say? WHAT MAKES Meggie's achievement remarkable is that she is a slow learner. A year ago, she would have been lucky to learn one new word a day.

Meggie is taking part in Shiawassee's new pilot: Learning Resource Center program. Work of the center is directed toward "educationally and culturally deprived" children — those whose school lives would be a loss without it.

A center is like a library because it serves the entire school. But whereas a library has only books, the center must go to it, the center contains much more than books — and the center director often travels to the classes.

FUNDS FOR Shiawassee's program and similar ones at Gill, Larkshire and William Grace Schools have been made available under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. In 1967,

Farmington's grant was \$96,657.

The "deprived" youngsters in the program are special. They lack adult models of love. They suffer material deprivation in some cases. They are without intellectual stimulus. No one discusses things with them or reads to them.

Heretofore, these pupils became close-mouthed, sat through class work with pre-occupied concentration, were unable to handle a verbal barrage.

Main goals of the center are to develop self-confidence in such children and give them a firm foundation in language arts.

Success is of prime importance throughout the school day. Every child, every day is put through a success situation. And he is made aware of his success.

DIRECTOR OF the Shiawassee pilot center is Mrs. Daisy Barber, a teacher with extreme patience and dedication. She is assisted by two aides, Mrs. Caroline Gromer and Mrs. Sally Holmes.

Mrs. Barber's day defies scheduling. Much of it is governed by morning conferences with various teachers who may have a classroom problem or an area in which she feels her pupils need special attention.

If success can be defined as the favorable termination of a venture, how does Mrs. Barber pass this along to her children?

Primarily it is done by instilling motivation through activities.

Activities run the whole range of projects from plant propagation to puppetry.

Much use is made of cameras and typewriters so that the children can be presented with visual proof of their successful ventures.

AUDIO-VISUAL aids come into much use, also. These include such things as the electrical listening posts the older pupils made. In use, these simulate conversation and listening experiences which lead to extra individual reading.

Ball Telephone, a loaned "telephone" equipment, which in use involves planning experiences, conversation and evaluation by the class of individual accomplishment.

Puppets are used to stimulate with-drawn speakers. The children are currently acting out one of their books, "Leonard Discovers America," with a small stage and mounted characters.

Not strictly a part of the resource center, but hinged to it, is Shiawassee's "buddy system."

This works with a sixth grade pupil reading a story to a first grader. It develops the older child's reading skills and leads to book interest on the part of the younger.

ALSO IN USE is a program under which center younger children tell sixth graders an original story, which the teachers then type out.

Teachers in the school have been asked to select those stories showing the greatest imagination. The children bind and illustrate these and they are placed on the school's "budding author" shelves in the library.

The pilot program has been in operation a little over a year, too soon for any in-depth evaluation.

But if Meggie and her eight new words are any indication of the program's worth, its value cannot be under estimated.

Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens' Social Club meeting will be held at 12 noon Thursday, April 27, at First Methodist Church in the social room. The luncheon meeting will be followed by cards.

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SHIAWASSEE SCHOOL has had much success with its "buddy system," which is run independent of the Resource Center. In this program, 6th graders read books to 2nd graders. Here, Jeanie Foley reads a story to Michael Fielding which Michael selected for her to read.

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ONE OF THE MANY audio-visual aids used by Mrs. Daisy Barber, director of the Learning Resource Center at Shiawassee School is a "reading pacer." With this, youngsters read aloud projected stories at given reading speeds which are increased as they gain more reading skill.



WORKING WITH PUPPETS has been found to stimulate conversation in children who are slow learners and sometimes too withdrawn to speak freely. Boys taking part in the Learning Resource Center pilot program at Shiawassee Elementary School reenact the story told in a current book they are reading in class.

Kendalllinks Plan Of Organization Is Adopted By FARC

Twenty-five members of the Kendalllinks Golf League met at Bob O Link golf course for their first meeting of the season on March 16. Plans were made for events and tournaments.

Play starts May 2 (Tuesday) at 9 a.m. at Bob O Link. There are still a few openings for more information call Mary Bristol at GR 4-4743 or Joan Gallagher at GR 4-7312.

For the current year, 1967-68, the Commission elected Fred Lichtman, the Farmington Township representative, as chairman. Public members

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