

Parent series set to start

BIRMINGHAM—Information concerning a parent-education program, "Are You Listening?" has been distributed through the Birmingham Schools. Meetings are open to all interested parents in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Pre-registration is urged before the first meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Seaholm High School.



Montessori School

Aaron Tucker learns responsibility by cleaning up after play at Gateway Montessori Nursery School.

Nursery expands

By SHELLEY EICHENHORN

Success in providing a consistent, ordered environment for pre-schoolers has brought the need for expansion of the Gateway Montessori Nursery School in Birmingham.

The addition of a third classroom will accommodate 25 more children when the winter term begins this month. A long waiting list made the addition necessary.

The Montessori philosophy strives to help children make sense out of a complicated world.

"The world is so busy," Tina Fratis, president of the Gateway Parents Guild, said. "It's confusing for adults and appears more chaotic to children."

SCIP adds new programs

BIRMINGHAM—New courses in music instruction and physical skills are being added to the School Community Improvement Program (SCIP) for the winter session at Evergreen Elementary School.

Open registration will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 28, and will continue for eight weeks.

Advance registration is a must and enrollment will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Another new course expected to be popular among students in grades two through six is basic magic tricks.

Other classes to be offered include guitar II, instrument instruction (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone), ballet II, folk dancing, puppetry, gymnastics, tennis skills, bread dough sculpture, bread dough plus and conversational Spanish.

There are classes for all children, kindergarten through sixth grade, but not all classes are offered for grades

The Montessori environment at Gateway is not structured, Mrs. Fratis said, adding, "We don't have traditional classrooms. Each child works at a task he can cope with."

This is done to foster independent learning. The child works by himself or in small groups to share learning experiences—she added.

"THE TEACHER prepares the environment, directs activities and functions as a catalyst for the children," Mrs. Fratis said.

Gateway Montessori is affiliated with Montessori International. Teachers are trained and recruited from around the world.

Dob Lutz of The Netherlands has joined the school's international staff which includes Naomi Corera of Ceylon and Janet Green from England.

"Mrs. Lutz possesses maturity, patience and 10 years of experience," Mrs. Fratis said.

Unlike other nursery schools which only encourage play and socialization, Gateway aims at giving children a head start for kindergarten.

Mrs. Fratis explained. As each child reaches readiness, he learns geography, foreign languages, reading and writing.

STUDENTS FROM two and one-half to seven years share the same classroom.

"Classes are not divided by age," Mrs. Fratis said. "The older children teach the younger ones. It's a good experience for all."

Mrs. Fratis, whose twin boys attend Gateway, said the school helps a child's physical, mental and emotional development.

"We try to create a non-competitive atmosphere where children can learn at their own speed," she said.

Though personal freedom is fostered by the Montessori philosophy, total freedom is not given.

"The children have freedom until they interfere with others," Mrs. Fratis said. "This is how it is in real life."

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Saltzman on control board

Florence (Jo) Saltzman of Franklin has been appointed by Gov. William Milliken as a member of the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley College.

Mrs. Saltzman is a past member and president of the Birmingham Board of Education and last fall ran for a Republican seat on the State Board of Education but was defeated.

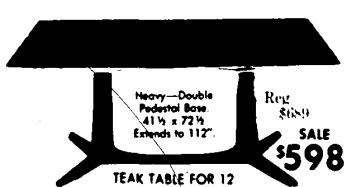
Her appointment to the four-year college board of control is for a term which will expire July 21, 1981. The appointment requires senate confirmation.

Mrs. Saltzman for many years has been active in area educational and political organizations. She currently is chairman of the League of Women Voters committee on education.

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