

# Gym classes aid handicapped

Motor skills, which come naturally to normal children, are harder to develop in children with learning disabilities.

The Southfield Special Education Association is sponsoring an after-school gymnastics program designed to help children with physical and mental handicaps.

Open to any Oakland county pupil, the classes are held in the Eisenhower Elementary School, 25400 Larkins every Friday from 4 to 5 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.

Program coordinator, Helene Gottfried of Southfield said there are openings only in the later class.

"We have 26 children currently participating and an even larger number of volunteers to help them," she said.

THE VOLUNTEERS come from local high schools, and the universities.

"We even have some Southfield teachers who help."

Robert Stoler, reading consultant for Roseville Community Schools is the teacher-director and he is assisted by Richard Cole who trained with James Glasgow of Windsor.

The children work on the balance beam, small and large trampolines and on tumbling mats. They also play games designed to teach them colors, geometric shapes and numbers.

"GYMNASTICS improves their coordination and their self-confidence," Mrs. Gottfried said.

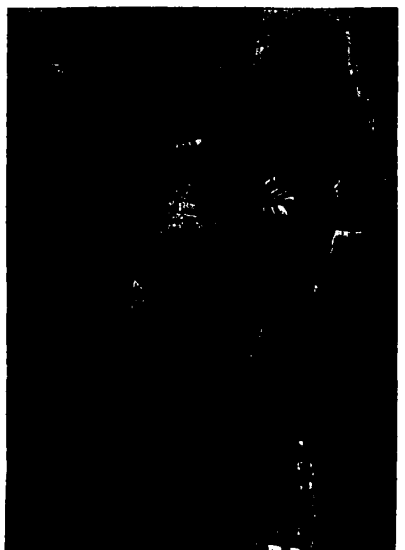
This is the third year for the special gymnastics class which draws children from Southfield, Oak Park, Royal Oak, Birmingham, Farmington and Clawson.

The Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities sponsors similar classes in Birmingham and Farmington.

The fee in Southfield is based on ability to pay.

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Michael Meyers finds helping hands make things a bit easier as Terri Klocko of Southfield and Sue Campbell of Royal Oak help him find his way across the wooden bar at Eisenhower School.



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