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Ida Grey, (center) applauds the achievements of a youngster while foster grandparents and their foster grandchildren get to know one another.



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## Young and old share their days

The young come from Cloverdale School and the elderly come from Oak Hill Nursing Home to share time together in one of the newest innovations in the Farmington area.

The elderly are foster grandparents to the tots, most of them with multiple handicaps, who attend the Farmington school 50 weeks out of the year.

They come with presents, help them with their puzzles, or their drawings, but most of all they come with love, patience and caring.

Since the initial visit, less than a few months ago, the grandparents have learned about the little ones' special equipment or special problems to better fulfill their role.

And because most of those who travel regularly from the home to the school on the scheduled visiting day are either in their 80s or 90s, "We are talking about an awful lot of years of parenthood that is being expressed," said Vicki Vanderbilt, activities director for Oak Hill.

RUTH WROSCH, who works with 15 preschoolers in a developmental program at the

school, described the program as going "super-well. They approached the foster grandparents a little hesitantly, at first, and of course nobody knew what to expect of this, but we've got it all on video tape now with all the giving and sharing aspects; more than we could have hoped."

The tots' first surprise gift for their foster grandparents came in the form of crackers and raspberry jam, made in class from a recipe that didn't require cooking.

Youngsters measured sugar, mashed berries, stirred, and put the jam into containers for freezing.

"There was a lot of tasting and a lot of sticky fingers that day but they all realized they were doing it for someone else, not for themselves. It was a special joy for us seeing them passing the crackers, offering a gift they had prepared," she said.

The video tape has been shown to the staff at the school, to the residents and staff at Oak Hill, and to the children's parents, "all of whom are gung-ho on the idea," said Ms. Wrosch.

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