

While Mom's Away, Kids Will Play

More and more, this is the day of the working mother. Whether from an economic need to meet rising living costs or a psychological one to pursue a career, women are finding ways to fit both family and job into their lives.

One big help—in Observer-land, at least—can be found in the large number of day care centers that have come into being in the last few years. Many are found in churches that otherwise would stand nearly empty from Monday to Friday. Nearly all are operated on flexible hours.

And, interestingly enough, their patrons include parents who want to enrich their children's lives with added social experiences as well as those who need a good place to leave their pre-schoolers during working hours.

MOTHERS WHO WERE teachers and want to return to the classroom but don't want their little children to lose out on the best care and guidance available, are numerous among the patrons of nursery schools. Their teacher training usually includes some work in this setting.

Other mothers who must or want to work may need more hours of care for the children than some of the schools offer, so a day care center may be the answer.

These and the well-known

cooperative nursery groups formed by parents as well as the home-care arrangements with neighbors, are all licensed and regulated by the Michigan department of social services child welfare section, 640 Temple, Detroit.

NEWEST among the two dozen centers in this area is Riverside Nursery and Day Care Center at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth in Livonia. Applications are being accepted for the term to start in September.

Charles Armstrong, chairman of the planning committee of the Riverside Church of God, has turned over operation of the project to the newly hired di-

rector, the Rev. Robert Lee McFarley. He comes from the Greater Lansing Day Care Center committee and will assume details of getting the new school ready to open by the time the public schools start.

"Our decision to open a day care center here at Riverside Church came about when we searched for better ways to make the church serve the community," explained Armstrong, a teacher in Plymouth public schools.

"We felt we wanted to make the best use of our facilities all week rather than have buildings and equipment tied up for only a few hours during services," Armstrong explained.

"I doubt if any of our church

members plan to use the center, but they're wholeheartedly behind the decision to offer this service that appears to be a very acute need in this community. In this way the church can help instead of asking for help," he concluded.

HOW MANY of the more than 60,000 pre-school children in the 40,000 households in Observer-land with children under age five need day care away from home is not really known.

But directors of some of the day care centers cite figures of up to 85 percent of their charges coming from one-parent homes.

Much more than baby sitting is offered by the centers and nursery schools. Emphasis on happy experiences and growth in creativeness rates high with these professionals.

AN EXAMPLE of their approach is seen in the guidelines for food service in the all-day care. Wholesome habits and healthy attitudes toward foods are described as being more important than table manners.

"Mealtime should be an unhurried, happy time, and offer a chance to experiment in eating new foods," state the Michigan guidelines for recommended standards and requirements for licensing.

"Children who are given an opportunity to help in food preparation, setting the tables and serving themselves often develop assurance, responsibility, independence and feeling of importance," is the way the ideals are stated.

Staff members are chosen not only because they like little children,

"They should be sympathetic yet have the ability to be objective; they should have a sense of humor, be humbly teachable and be able to set up a comfortable atmosphere within which children grow," states the list.

THE ENTRY of MALE educators and administrators into the field is not as rapid as the state child welfare staff had hoped for, according to Mrs. Jeanie LaRue, consultant in western Wayne county.

But the development of a chain operation such as the Durbin Child Care centers with headquarters in Livonia or Farmington, may start a new trend.

Formerly a broadcaster in California and later a savings and loan officer in Wyoming, Max Durbin became involved in day care centers operations as a result of Mrs. Durbin's interests.

Mother of four young sons, Mrs. Durbin is curriculum director for the 10 centers her husband's company operates in

the Detroit area. He also has several centers in Ohio and is working on plans with an investor to launch a franchise operation.

QUANTITY PURCHASING of equipment—approximately \$100 worth per child, hiring and training staff and selling the project to sponsoring groups such as churches will occupy his staff of business and education administrators even more than now.

At present they do most of this for their centers in Trinity Baptist Church of Livonia and Redford Baptist Church in Redford Township as well as in churches throughout the metropolitan area.

"Men who enjoy little children and have management skills find this is a delightful career," Durbin said. "We get to know children in their most attractive ages, growing into confident, creative youngsters who will continue this growth through life."

"For the majority of families using our centers, this is their first contact with a church, as a family. We are frankly and forthrightly Christian and do a teaching job we hope will help these children and their parents all their lives," Durbin declares.

FLEXIBILITY in hours ranging from as early as 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. is typical of day care centers in contrast with the nursery school which may have only half-day sessions. But some centers combine both types of service. Fees range from about \$3 a half day to \$30 a week.

Among the facilities in local communities are:

FARMINGTON — Village Children's Nursery and Kindergarten, 2115 W. 13 Mile, and Miss Rose's Nursery, 29375 Halstead.

GARDEN CITY — Hansel and Gretel Day Nursery, 6585 Middle Belt.

LIVONIA — Livonia Child Care Center, 34500 Pine Tree; Little Tots Day Nursery, 15115 Farmington; Lowland Children's Nursery, 33015 Seven Mile, and Marian Nursery School, 36800 Schoolcraft (conducted by Felician Sisters); Trinity Day Care Center, Trinity Baptist Church 14800 Middle Belt.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP — Durbin Child Care Center, Redford Baptist Church, 25295 Grand River.

PLYMOUTH — Lee's Children's Nursery, 44601 Ann Arbor Trail; Plymouth Children's Nursery, 41423 Warren; Storybook Gardens, 42290 Five Mile.

WESTLAND — Red Bell Children's Nursery, 34023 Ford Road.

The Observer Women

m. m. memos

Shopping for school books is an experience that gets more disconcerting each year. I learned long ago to avoid the opening day crowds, but getting everyone rounded up for the big purchase and then working out my way past the desk and out the door with all the assorted paraphernalia still presents problems.

This year when we reached the store our high-schooler started trying to remember exactly which courses she was taking. It was quite a while since she made out her schedule.

"Concentrate," I told her. "We can't afford any books you don't need."

Junior high gal couldn't help being pleased about the two new books that had replaced discontinued texts. At least those two she wouldn't have to inherit from her sister.

Miss Grade Three pointed out that this year she wouldn't get bookstore pencils like the baby second graders, but wished out loud she was ready for a pen like the fourth graders.

We worked up to the head of the line and I watched with resignation as the young man listed book after expensive book. While I wrote the check, he assured me that at least one other total that day had been higher than mine.

The girls gathered their school-year possessions, and behind me I heard a mother say, "Did I tell you third grade? Make it fourth."

I decided there are others besides me who come a bit unglued at school book buying time.

—Margaret Miller

Foster Homes Needed Now!

A plea for temporary foster homes for 500 children, newborn through their teens, has been issued by Catholic Social Services in Wayne County. The most acute need is for homes for minority children and infants.

Abuse, illness, physical neglect, stress or dependency in the family are among the reasons for these children's need, according to the agency.

They are wards of the probate court and are not available for adoption, and the court has full financial responsibility including medical, dental and tuition and school fees.

Among requirements to be a foster parent are:

- Both parents in favor of fostering and have normal affection for children.
- Maximum age of 65 with some exceptions possible.
- Separate sleeping quarters for boys and girls.
- A separate bed for each child.
- Home health standards up to Michigan laws.

Financial independence. More detailed information is available by calling 863-2100.



HAPPINESS IS — The shade of the giant turtle, a sand pail and shovel for Lisa Monroe, daughter of Richard and Cheryl Monroe of 46130 Naven.

Plymouth Lisa decided to break away for a few minutes from the livelier play of her friends in nursery school. (Observer photo by Craig Gaffield)

Safe At The Nursery

Plenty of playmates and a delightful play yard a full acre in size with lots of imaginative equipment and thoughtful teachers are some of the reasons Lisa Forsythe and Richard Starr attend nursery school.

Lisa, the only child of Ivan and Jean Forsythe, newcomers to Plymouth from northern Ireland just two and a half years ago.

Little Lisa, five, is "the perfect image" of her polite

mother, a secretary at Day's Electric Corp., in Westland. Her parents met in Newcastle.

"We have no worries about Lisa's safety here in the nursery, and she loves it with all her little friends," says Jean Forsythe in her soft brogue. With her job just a few minutes drive from Lee's nursery in Plymouth, Mrs. Forsythe leaves Lisa at 7:45 a.m. and picks her up about 4:30 p.m. Then it's home to 11732 Spitzer Drive in Plymouth and Lisa changes from "school clothes"

into her swim suit for a bit of play in the yard before daddy arrives from his job at the Ford Motor Co.

BOYS HIS OWN age to play with make nursery school lots of fun for Richard Starr, son of James and Marsha Starr of 1470 Linden, Plymouth. He's their third boy to attend the school and comes just part time. His little sister is on the list to start nursery in the fall of '71, says his mother.

Marsha Starr is a full-time

homemaker so the problem of day care for children of working mothers isn't hers. But she has seen her two older boys gain "an enormous confidence and knowing how to get along," that she's sold on the benefits of nursery school before kindergarten.

Some folks work to live. Some to make life worth living. Two of many in the latter category are Farmington homemakers.

It would take a team of detectives operating in shifts to cover their varied activities.

Individually and occasionally together, Mrs. Earl Johnson of 24125 Locust, and Mrs. Wilfred Brown of 24186 Broadway, have the joys of sharing a hobby with groups of youngsters and elders, as well as contemporaries.

Like most suburban housewives, they have an active interest in excellence in education for their children. Like most of their counterparts they've "taken a class" in some of the various arts and crafts that are part of the continuing education of conscientious homemakers.

When the younger Johnson boy, Phillip, now age nine, was in the primary grades, his mother was delighted with the beautiful ceramics work produced by his classmates under instruction of their public school art consultant.

She thought how great it would have been for their older son, Rick, 16, to have had such early experience in art, too. And she thought of the numerous pupils in parochial schools who have no access to specialized art instruction.

Then there were the senior citizen groups and lonely older people with skills to share or maybe in need of a new interest.

GOLF CLUBS were ousted from the trunk of the car to make room for ceramics supplies. Huge plastic bags of clay got to be staples on the shopping list along with groceries and dog food.

That wasn't too hard to do to slumby, but the golf clubs have gathered some dust since

Women Learn Help Is Spelled F-U-N

then. It was so much fun teaching their hobby to eighth grade girls and boys at St. Agnes school on Detroit's 12th street that classes have continued for the most talented of the children through the summer.

The Johnson basement became an art studio at least two days a week for adults willing to learn and share their skills with youngsters in their neighborhood and in downtown centers like old St. Anne's.

EARLY ONE MORNING each week Eleanor Johnson zips into Detroit and gathers up six or eight of the 14-year-old graduates from St. Agnes that she and Mary Jo Brown launched into this creative hobby during the past year or so. A morning of molding, decorating, glazing and just plain admiring their handiwork goes fast.

Sometimes a Saturday or a Sunday brings another reunion while the group displays its wares at a parish affair such as St. Gerard's family field day last week in Farmington. Profits go mostly for more materials.

Gerard's family field day last week in Farmington. Profits go mostly for more materials.

Recently, they have been putting finishing touches on planters, ash trays, treasure boxes and figurines they hope to sell at the flea market in downtown Detroit or take on at a Junior Achievement fair at Livonia Mall.

Ceramics classes at the Northwest YWCA have Mrs. Brown as an instructor in between some of her volunteer community projects both at home and further afield.

activities with other women in the area able to "give an hour or a day every so often."

AMONG PRIORITY projects is recruiting helpers for JACS, the new non-profit agency formed to help young people who leave job Corps training, in adjusting to a job and growing into productive, useful citizens.

"We need contacts with employers who will take on job

Corps graduates and encourage them along the way," she explained after a lunch hour phone call from one of some 500 young men in the Detroit area known to JACS. He wanted advice on negotiating an auto loan. A quick explanation of what to find out at the bank and some encouraging words took three minutes.

But who knows their continued value. "Each young person needs an

interested adult to talk over his problems and show a continued interest because these are kids whose parents aren't around or are unable to give the guidance they're seeking," said Mrs. Johnson.

She works through the local JACS director, the Rev. J. L. Jacobs whose office at 924-0101 will relay calls for women or men in his area who would be willing to assist in the work



LEARNING BY DOING — Coaching some of her pupils from Detroit's 12th Street section, Mrs. Eleanor Johnson enjoys the thrill of seeing hidden talents develop. She and another teacher, Mary Jo Brown, share many skills and interests with young and older people both in suburban and inner city settings. Marguerite Dozier (left) is engrossed in shaping a vase while her volunteer teacher shows Charles Hallman how to curl the edges of a maple leaf plate he's making.

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