

Development program approved

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

The Clarenceville School District will start a developmental kindergarten program this fall for youngsters who may not be quite ready to begin school.

Parents may make testing appointments for their child at kindergarten roundups, scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, at Grandview Elementary School and Thursday, April 24, at Botsford Elementary School. Interested parents may call either

school for more information. "Children learn to walk at different ages, so the same thing goes with being able to read," said Botsford principal Dan Cypher, who served on a committee that studied developmental kindergarten for the district. "Instead of looking just at when a child's birthday is, we look at where they are developmentally."

"We're trying to take a look at where the youngster actually is, not to make them go through kindergarten before they're ready for letters and sounds," he said. "By the end of

kindergarten (such youngsters) are already known. They're the children who never finished a book, who never got a smiley face on a paper. They're the ones who are retained, who had a failure their first experience at school. This (program) is helpfully trying to relieve a lot of that."

THE DISTRICT will screen all children who are 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 1986. All test results will be shared with parents. Youngsters whose results indicate they are

ready for school will be placed in kindergarten. Those with different results will be tested more in-depth, the week after school is dismissed in June, before they are recommended for the developmental program.

"In kindergarten they might be cutting and pasting," Cypher suggested. "In the developmental kindergarten they will learn how to hold the scissors, how to coordinate the muscles in the hand to cut."

A developmental kindergarten was a goal of the Clarenceville Board of Education, according to Cypher. He said that the district committee that examined the program to report to the board was made up of the principals of both elementary schools, 10 kindergarten or first-grade teachers, a school psychologist and the administrative assistant for curriculum.

The district will try to hire teachers for the program from within, but doesn't know yet if enough are available, Cypher said. He said the program won't cost parents anything.

"Nearly half of the districts in the state are doing it at this point," Cypher said. He said that of the ap-

proximate 600 school districts in Michigan, 188 already had a developmental kindergarten program and another 84 were expected to start one last year.

The Clarenceville school board approved the program at its March 27 meeting.

Secretaries week scheduled

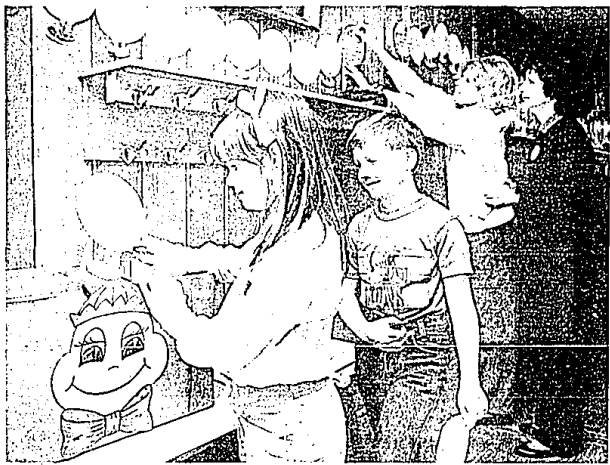
The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon for bosses, managers and administrators and their secretary, assistant or aide Wednesday, April 23, as part of National Secretaries Week.

Peg Treacy of Churchill Associates will speak on "Color Me Beautiful/Color for Men." The luncheon will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Botsford Inn. The cash bar

will open at noon. It's \$12 per person. For reservations, call the chamber: 474-3440.

Treacy will present "Pulling Yourself Together." She and her partner, Harriet Israel of Churchill Associates, are trained and authorized to represent Color Me Beautiful in metro Detroit.

Treacy teaches classes as an image consultant for men and women.



'Read to Me'

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A two-week "Read to Me" program — designed to help students and parents read together — was sponsored recently at Longacre Elementary in Farmington by the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA). "Family togetherness is important," said Mary Emerich (second from right), PTA president. Shown above are first graders Adria Villar and Brett Kiddia and PTA member

Molly Villar. The program is sponsored statewide by the Michigan Parent Teachers Association, which discovered "children who are read to have an urge to read," she added. Students and PTA members built a "bookworm," listing reading materials, on a school wall where students could see their reading progress. Grades one through five participated.

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