

# the farmington enterprise & observer

Weekend of February 20-21, 1971

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**LOOKING GLASS LEARNING** — Mrs. Nancy Viles mirrors some of John Ardito's enunciation problems for him. Other members of Mrs. Viles' class for retarded youngsters at

Beechview Elementary who enjoy the learning session are: (left) Marc Traurig, Sue Schmidt and Laura Baxter. (Evert photo)



**SPEECH IS FUN AND GAMES** — Entranced kindergartners at Beechview watch to see if James Schaeffer will place his horse picture in the proper container. It belongs in the bag decorated with Sammy Snake because of

its prominent "s" sound. Mrs. Marilyn Brown, their teacher (at right) works closely with speech therapist Mrs. Florence Sharp to forestall development of serious speech difficulties wherever possible. (Evert photo)

## Non-Linguals (?) Learn To Talk

In one Farmington school, six children, supposedly non-lingual or totally unable to speak, have learned to do so in the past four years.

These children, severely retarded mentally, represent a distinctive achievement in teamwork between speech therapist, classroom teacher, other staff members, principal and parents.

**FARMINGTON DISTRICT** benefits from the services of 10 speech therapists, each of whom works with between 75 and 100 children and sees them twice a week. The program is chiefly funded by a one-mill Oakland County tax approved by the voters.

One of a speech program's main success ingredients is the interaction between school personnel and, in turn, their relationship to the home.

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**SPEECH THERAPISTS** give valuable information to the classroom, etc.

They also work with reading specialists, librarians, school psychologists and social workers when necessary, for the nature of problems can range from stuttering and cleft palate disorders to those induced by retardation.

Student teachers, too, are playing a new role these days. In Farmington, a recognized training center for speech teachers, they are being exposed to the total educational picture, not just one narrow function.

They become involved in

everything from the earliest diagnostic process to PTA meetings, learning how their specific role will interlock with every other segment of the school community.

**ANOTHER LONG-TERM** need has been tackled by speech therapists this year. Together they are creating a testing manual for the State of Michigan.

Their work entails researching all available nationwide tests which relate to audition, the hearing and use of speech. The best of these will be included in a

manual so that ultimately a better job of communication may be done. Acceptable methods will be more thoroughly understood when such a manual is completed and may then be adapted to a local situation.

Such tests will be used to assess discriminatory ability, vocabulary, expressive and receptive abilities as well as auditory memory. The latter interprets the length of a sentence the child can remember and repeat, and whether he can remember all the syllables of long words.

They meet on Friday af-

ternoons to share therapeutic ideas, to make unusual testing results and to plot an ever-improving course for successful communication.



**TEACHING SPEECH** — Miss Kathy Howell, a student teacher from Western Michigan University who works with emotionally disturbed children, gets some valuable pointers from Wooddale speech therapist Mrs. Marcia Stoll on how to help her pupils toward better speech practices. (Evert photo)

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\*effective Friday, February 19



**UNDIVIDED ATTENTION** — Mrs. Joan Harris helps Our Lady of Mercy High School freshman Judy Barrett with articulation exercises. High school speech difficulties are usually tackled on a one-to-one basis. (Evert photo)

IF THE HOUSE NEEDS FIXING

don't let  
money stand  
in the way

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