Unlocking the learning

Program helps special kids

By Larry O'Connor Stapp Writer

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STATE WHITER
Some days teacher Cindy Kacin
is a learning lockamith.
Kacin is a teacher in a districtwide program for learning disabiltities, which includes 10 pupils in
grades three through five at
Flanders Elementary. A lower elementary program for kindergarten
through grade three is handled by
Nancy Brodrick at Forest Elementary.
The students may have a difficult time with traditional tasks
such as reading, writing or
membering certain things.
"It's very challenging to try and
learn how any particular child
learns; each child is so different."
Kacin said. "It's rewarding when
you can find a key. It's like you
have a wad of keys and you're a
they're going to learn this?"
Added Brodrick, who's taught
children with learning disabilities
for more than 20 years: "I feel
tanny times I'm filling in the
gaps. There's a missing lift and
I'm helping them move on."
The goal of the learning dis-

abled program is to get the students in a regular classroom setting. There are success stories.

One child went from the program at Flanders to one for gifted students at Eagle Elementary. Some 25 percent of the kids will move on to the resource room, where they're able to be periodically "mainstreamed" into a regular classroom setting.

The other 75 percent, though, will need support the rest of their academic life.

Sometimes the support takes the form of unorthodox methods. On this day, Kacin becomes a caller in a reading bingo game. Instead of numbers, she calls out words. The children identify the ones listed on their cards.

In another instance, she draws roofs over columns in a math equation. Pupils are told they need to borrow cookies from the neighbor on the left to understand subtraction.

Then there's "belly spelling," in which students each take a letter and then stand together to spell a word.

One time, Kacin asked a child who was having difficulty pro-

spell a word.

One time, Kacin asked a child who was having difficulty pronouncing words to picture them as being on a slide flowing down-

ward.
Compensating techniques for learning disabilities have evolved. So, too, have the teaching tools.
Computer software has been developed for children with visual and perceptual problems. For ex-

ample, for these who have diffi-culty handwriting, there's a pro-gram that allows them to draw with their fingers.

In the past, learning disabled has also meant dealing with misconceptions. One of the most common is that they's elsow.

"I think other children tend not to understand some of the prob-lems these children have, that these children have, that these children have average or above average intelligence," Bro-drick said." ... (The student) may just not picking it up with-conventional learning methods."

Once in awaitie turers st easing

Once in awaite there's teasing on the playground. Kacin said it might mean she'll go into a regu-lar classroom and talk with kida. Otherwise, there's few prob-

Citerwase, never next to a child who has finished a test in 10 minutes and they're still on problem three," aho said. "All their work is geared for what they can do. They're always in a win-win still.

They e always in a win-win stud-ation.

"They share in each other's vic-tories. They wouldn't get that in other classrooms..."

Kacim marvels at how bright the children are in other ways.

"Some have a keen insight into social things. They'll see a situa-tion involving other kids in the classroom and they will come up and tell me about it. They'll really know what the motives were.

"That takes a high degree of in-telligence."





project: Above, Stu-: dents Korrin Edwards (left) and Leslie Chaston work with teacher. Cindy Kacin at Flanders Elementary. At left, Carol Azar plays word games with Korrin Edwards (left) and Melissa Sut-



Boost your child's grades. Build self-esteem.
Programs in reading, math, algebra, writing, SAT/ACT college prep, study skills, homework support and time

Sylvan 5829 W. Mople Learning Suite 127 Center® West Bloomfield

737-2880



CALL TODAY FOR A 476-7022

D&G HEATING & COOLING

A Week-Full

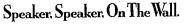
of Specials

Harbor M-Th 10-11 p.m. cak Hauge Fri. & Sat. 10 am-Midnight

Open Sunday 1-10 p.m. HARBOR

STEAK HOUSE

Frog Legs





er technology has come a long way. Now you don't have to sacrifice room's appearance to achieve superior accounties. We can install full speakers that look great, and sound uonderful! Our profession less will put them in any room of your home (and outside as well!) for a clean, uncluttered look, Call us for more information.



3160 Haggerty Boad, West Bloomfield (313) 669-5600 Mon-Set 10am-5pm or by appointment



 Decks Gazebos

Screened Porches

Pool Decks

Benches & Planters

Walkways

(313) 476-4650





2nd Lunch V2 Price IMAGINATION SPECIALS each to Creativity LOBSTER FEAST Whole Maine Lobster \$19.95 Bird 4-6 pm Mon.-Thurs

GRANDMA'S HOUSE INFANT DAY CARE



6235 Pontiac Trail

West Bloomfield, Mf 48323

681-1222

IMAGES &

683-9022

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE OIL CHANGE" " JIFFY LUBE * Quality at A Special LOW PRICE!



OIL, LUBE

& FLUID SERVICE

FLUID SERVICE

WET 3000 MET

PE<u>NHZ</u>OIL

TRANSMISSION

FLUID SERVICE

LUBE" SERVICE CENTERS

FARMINGTON HILLS 31620 Northwestern Hwy. Corner of Middlebelt & Northwestern Hvy.

Open Sundays 11 am - 4 pm
851-0906

South Field Rd., South of 10 Mile,
(across from ABC Warehouse)

WATERFORD

W. BLOOMFIELD
2315 Orchard Lake Rd.
Corner of Middlebelt Rd.
& Orchard Lake Rd.
681-9490



Thurs., Feb. 25th -Mon., March 1st

Classic Interiors



OFF your second item of equal or lesser value. Purchase any group of furniture, bedroom, dining room, upholstery, or wall system and save 30-40% on all the pieces and 50% on one piece. Example: The most expensive piece save 35% - the second most expensive piece save 50%. Save 35% on all the rest!

- Pennsylvania House
- Harden Bob Timberlake
- Hekman
- Superior
- Canal Dover
- Conover
- Howard Miller
- **Bradington-Young**
- Thomasville Century

SAVE 50%

- Lexington
- Sligh Desk • Hooker
- · Hancock-Moore
- La-Z-Boy
- Nichols & Stone
- Sligh Clock lasper

Classic Interiors

20292 Middlebelt Livonia • South of 8 Mile 474-6900

All Previous Sales Excluded
 Offer Not Valid in Conjunction With Any Other Promotional Discount
 All discounts are off manufactures suggested retail prices.