Area camp for kids from alcoholic families expands

Tony's mother hadn't had a drink for two years. But 12-year-old Tony (not his real name) still had the memories of her drinking. And he still had the nightmares. Last summer, Tony's mother enrolled him in the Maplegrove Day Camp, developed specially to help kids deal with growing up in a home where alcohol or other drug use has been a problem. Says Tony, the camp doesn't only "talk about your family and

how you got here. This camp talks just about you and how you can help yournelf."
The Maplegrove Day Camp is in its third year. One two-week session ends today. A second two-week session ends today. A second two-week session starts Tuesday on the wooded site of Henry Ford Health System's Maplegrove Center in West Bloomfield. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Thursday for youngsters age 6 to 12.

New this year is a Maplegrove Downriver Day Camp, with ses-sions beginning Tuesday at St. Alfred's in Taylor and July 26 at the Bridge Cultural Center in Trenton. A \$10 donation per fam-

Trenton. A 310 donation per lam-ily is optional for the camps. To register a child, call 313-631-6170. While most campers come from communities throughout the Do-troit metropolitan area, this year one 10-year-old has plans to come all the way from New England to

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attend the Maplegrove Day Camp. She went through the Ma-plegrove Children's Program in 1950 while living in Michigan, and her parents are arranging a vacation in Michigan, so that she can go to the camp.

Can I come back?

Can I come back?

"Kids often say, please cen I come back next session," says Kathy Walton. She and Betty Conger, who coordinates the camp, developed the curriculum used for all the children's programs for Maplegarve Community Education. Counselors are specially trained Maplegarve Community Education volunteers.

At the camp, kids learn about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, but they also have fun playing games, singing songs, and palnting pictures that relate to chemical dependency. In addition to chemical awareness, themes cov

ered during the camp include: feelings, self-eatem, defenses, families, peer pressure and getting help, one game, a bag stuffed full of feelings (written an plastic aoft-hildren. Each child removes one feeling from the bag and explains when he or she had that feeling. "Mad," reads one child, "I'm mad when my more blames me for things I didn't do."
"Scared," reads another child. "I'm seared when I was home alone and a stranger came to the door."
"A kid should be a kid and not have to think about what I should be when I grow up," said one boy after going through the camp. "I know a lot more about drugs. I've seen what they did to my mom and I wouldn't want that to happen to me."

This year, parents can attend a sp-zeial program, developed with

the help of a grant from the Bau-ervic-Paisley Foundation, Called "Building Healthy Connections," it will be given from 10 a.m. to noon, while their kids take part in the day camp.

Says one parent "When I first went through the Maplegrove drug treatment program, (for, adults) in 1988, my kids felt left, out, especially my daughter. So, when they found out that the summer camp was going to be at the same place as where mom went for her drug education, they were thrilled. They felt more a part of my recovery and what is going on in my life."

OK to be mad

She thinks the summer camp has had a strong impact on her kids. "The biggest difference is that they are able to speak up about what's bothering them.

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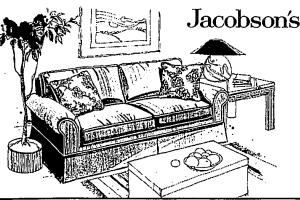
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