



PLAYING WITH the preschoolers is Lois Benson, supervisor of Orchard Ridge's child play center. She plans educational activities for the children and is aided by work-study students. (Observer photo)



WITH HER PURSE beside her this little girl amuses herself stuffing grass into the manhole while enjoying the outside and waiting for her mother. (Observer photo)

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OCC Day Care: Free And Fun

By KATHY MORAN

Free? Nothing's free anymore. Well, almost nothing. But the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College has a service which is free to mothers or fathers who are taking classes at the campus in Farmington.

The college opened a child play center this fall where parents may leave their children under professional care at no charge.

The only requirements are that the children be between ages two and six and are toilet trained and that the parents are taking classes or studying in the library while the child is in the center.

The center is located in the main floor lounge of "J" building in the center of campus and is open between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"We're not a babysitting service," stresses Lois Benson, whose past experience in private nursery schools prepared her to supervise the center.

"The children are in a learning environment," she

said. "While the parent is learning, the child is learning too."

Among educational projects for children are arts and crafts, story telling, physical education and music education.

"As long as the weather holds out, we will go outside as much as we can," Mrs. Benson added.

The college may have been designed for students in their late teens on up, but it has many natural areas for children to play in—such as a grass courtyard surrounded by short cement walls.

IN ADDITION to Mrs. Benson's professional guidance, several work-study students help her with the children throughout the day.

"And you'd be surprised at the students—especially guys—who have time between classes and come in here and play with the children," Mrs. Benson continued.

Already there are 40 children registered at the center and the word is spreading, Mrs. Benson said.

"We welcome all new children whose parents are taking classes here," she said.

"It's very satisfying because the parents really appreciate it," she added.

The center is financed by the student government with a \$1,000 contribution from the student activities funds, the faculty and staff have donated another \$500. Play materials and equipment have been donated. Students pay \$1 per credit per term in student activities fees.

Purpose is to help parents attend classes on the campus and provide an educational environment for the youngsters. The college hopes it will help draw residents from the community to take advantage of the college's resources.

Southfield Airman Gary E. Toupin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean E. Toupin of 2376 Briarbank, Southfield, has been assigned to Keesler AFB, Miss., after completing Air Force basic training.

The airman will attend the Technical Training Center for specialized training in communications - electronics systems.

Toupin is a 1972 graduate of Southfield Lathrup High School.

Toupin Ends Basic Training

Degrees Awarded

SOUTHFIELD Two area students were awarded BA degrees from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, at summer commencement exercises.

The local graduates are Joyce Holladay Glenn of Southfield and Van Larry Buldley of Birmingham.

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