

PARENTALK

Published Monthly by
St. Paul Association for Retarded Children, Inc.
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul 4, Minnesota

February 1958

Vol. VI No.6

CALENDAR

February 5 - Regular Meeting
25 North Dale Street
8:00 P.M.

Speaker: Solomon Shapiro
Director, Jewish
Vocational Service

February 19 - Conference Committee
117 University Ave.
1:30 P.M.
Representative -
Jayne Frank

Every Sunday - Sunday School
Christ Lutheran Church
11:00 A.M.

Every Monday - Girl Scouts
73 Leech Street
7:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

The February meeting of SPARC will be held Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 8:00 P.M. at the Wilder Nursery School, 25 N. Dale. Anyone who needs a ride to the meeting is requested to call Mrs. Welte, Ca 6-9124, who will make the necessary arrangements.

Solomon Shapiro, director of the Jewish Vocational Service and also a member of our Board of Advisors will be the guest speaker. His topic will be Sheltered Workshops.

LAST MEETING

Dr. Arnold Madow, psychologist at Faribault, was guest speaker at the January 8th meeting of SPARC. The following paragraphs constitute excerpts from Dr. Madow's talk.

The greatest problem parents of a retarded child must face is the acceptability of the child to society. This involves work with the retarded child and with the community. Our society does not understand and is actually hostile about listening to what we have to say. There is a mental block which arises, perhaps, because of fear of mental illness and mental retardation - the whole field of mental health. Why is this so? To be different in our society is to have two strikes against a person.

To be acceptable to society, the child has to meet certain demands that society makes. The child must reach certain stages of independent behavior in order to be more accepted. As parents, we must try to develop in our children characteristics as close to those of normal children as possible. The more like normal the child is, the more easily accepted he will be. This is true of the family as well as the community at large.

How can we improve this child? First, we need to consider the diagnosis; that is, we must assess the child as early as possible and know what his assessment is. Can we make a guess as to what we can expect from this child.

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Workshop

Our thanks to Elsie Greengard who did a last minute pinch hitting job in writing the January issue of Parentalk, and without whose invaluable help this issue could not have been done.

Your editors.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party, held December 20, was a tremendous success with 175 children attending.

A program by the Mattimore Dance Studio, the clowns from the St. Paul Clown Club, and, as a climax, Santa Claus with presents and candy were enthusiastically accepted. A huge Christmas tree added much to the holiday spirit.

Again we want to thank Mrs. Fran Voerding, Philanthropic Director of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority and all the sorority members.

INCOME TAX INFORMATION

We wish to call to the attention of those parents who have a child in an institution a new ruling, regarding deductions, made by the Federal government. This ruling was published December 30, 1957 in Bulletin 1957-52. We hope to have this bulletin at the February meeting of SPARC.

PARENT COUNSELING MEETING

On January 15th our Parents Counseling Committee plus several other interested members of SPARC met with the staff of the Wilder Child Guidance Clinic for the specific purpose of getting to know and understand the service that this clinic has to offer to the community...and further to make our Parents Counseling Committee available to them whenever the staff sees the need for such service as we have to offer. We felt that in getting to know each other better we might operate more effectively as a team in servicing parents of retarded children.

I felt the meeting was most successful. We were all delighted to meet Mrs. Marilyn Lee who explained all aspects of the intake department, and Mrs. Beth Slocum and Mr. Ortman, who worked with the children. They work with parents and children both on an individual basis and in groups for about an hour once or twice a week until it is felt that the ultimate has been accomplished. Naturally, they have a waiting list, but consideration is given to emergency cases.

We hope to receive more parents as members through this meeting and truly hope that our Committee can be of service to them.

Jayne Frank, Chairman
Parents Counseling
Committee

Try the rough water as well as the smooth. Rough water can teach lessons worth knowing.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

--Theodore Roosevelt

PLEASE!

The Projects Committee requests the following:

1. Please send in the coupons found in the new Montgomery Ward's catalog and donate the three free booklets to this committee.

2. Please turn in Calhoun receipts immediately.

3. Remember to bring trading stamps, used toys and clothing, and Christmas cards to the next meeting.

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MARC TO SPONSOR CINERAMA

We are very happy to announce that the Minneapolis Association for Retarded Children will be the beneficiary of the premiere showing of the new CINERAMA, "SEARCH FOR PARADISE", on March 4 at the Century Theater. This will be a full-scale Hollywood type opening night with all the attendant glamour that goes with a premiere showing.

Tickets are on sale at the reasonable prices of \$3.50 for main floor and mezzanine, and \$2.50 for the balcony.

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SYMPATHY

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Ed Duzynski family upon the death of Mrs. Duzynski's mother, Mrs. George Boesch. Mrs. Boesch was one of the volunteer riders on the bus.

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The nursery school has an acute need for more ashtrays for the many meetings held there. Do you have any extras that you could donate?

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LAST MEETING (CONTINUED)

What should be of concern to parents?

1. Health. To bring out the best in our child, we must consider this factor even more than we do in normal children.

2. Appearance. He must have neat, suitable, attractive clothing; be clean and presentable as possible.

3. Safety. Devise means to keep the child as safe as possible.

4. Play. Much of his ability and capability is learned through play. Development of physical health, coordination, communication with others, socialization, being part of a group, etc. The child needs someone to play with him. He is not as content as a normal child to play with toys by himself. Parents are excellent as playfellows. Much of language can be taught through play, providing we do not become discouraged too readily or try to force our children too much. Provide as much stimulation as possible to encourage learning of language - games - activities about the house. Keep up a steady patter with the child while going about chores.

Too many parents are overly protective about their retarded children - particularly in the area of physical activity. Let them play. They need it for good posture and to walk properly. They must learn to run, jump and lift.

When the child has developed to the point where he can benefit from a program outside of the home (nursery schools, special classes, etc.), parents must be interested in what the child is doing in school and try to supplement the learning at home, also. Being with other children is

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LAST MEETING (cont'd.)

good for the retarded (speaking of classes for the retarded, not those of normal children). He learns give and take, cooperation, doing what others ask. Learns the social skills. It will assist him in intellectual development - teach him discrimination, as red from blue, etc. It will teach him number, color, family relationships, home.

We want to teach him ability to deal with household responsibility. We may teach him to set a table and things of that sort. We may teach him to cook or make a sandwich - to prepare something for himself. He will enjoy it.

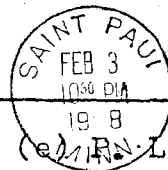
Musical training, playing piano, drawing pictures; all of these things can have a compensating value in making him more appreciated by society.

5. Intellectual health. Good disposition and respect for authority will make him much better appreciated by others. A channel for productive work during the lifetime of the child (sheltered workshops, crafts, industrial) can be invaluable.

In educating the public, our national and smaller associations throughout the country have been very helpful. The individual parent also has a large role to play in gaining acceptance for his child. The parent must thoroughly accept his child. Display of normal love for the child, display of appreciation of what the child does - all these will help.

(Notes by Pat Masterman)

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