

Center continues work despite uncertain grants

By PAMELA GOVERNALE
Of the Emerald

Uncertain funding is "taken for granted" by programs at the Center on Human Development. They have always relied on hard-to-get grants. This insecurity is bound to intensify as federal money, the major grant source, becomes even harder to get.

The center, a division of Special Education and Rehabilitation, coordinates a variety of programs for handicapped people, from pure research to educational and diagnostic services.

'The center helps the severely and profoundly impaired.'

Grants supply the bulk of the center's \$2.6 million budget, says Lane Hoxworth, Special Education and Rehabilitation business manager. Some money also comes from smaller sources such as county and state agencies.

Not surprisingly, keeping track of possible fund sources is a major undertaking, says Bob Schwarz, center director.

"Last year there were 298 applications from across the

country for this grant, and 11 were funded," Schwarz says. "That's a 3-percent chance."

It may not be worth the 50-100 hours required to prepare an application, he says.

One of the projects at the center is a vocational program geared to severely and profoundly retarded adults. The specialized training, directed by Tom Bellamy, has developed a workshop model where workers produce sprockets, electronic cables, circuit board parts, and other mechanical and electrical components.

The workshop presently employs 16 people.

"The tasks they perform are not necessarily simple," Bellamy says. "They may be quite complicated and take time to learn, but that is the investment the program makes to give the workers a saleable skill."

Bellamy says there are no plans to expand the shop. Instead, expansion will occur by making the program available to other communities who share Bellamy's commitment to "realize the potential for productive work of people who are severely retarded."

Currently 10 workshops based on the Eugene model operate in four states, with plans for more to open.

"I'm not too worried about continued funding," Bellamy says. "We're dealing with an area that hits pretty close to home for a lot of people."

The main source of funding for handicap service programs across the country is facing a possible cut from \$4 million annually to \$3 million as recommended by a House committee, or even to \$2.4 million, proposed by a Senate committee.

'Last year 298 applied . . . only 11 were funded.'

Diane Bricker of the Early Intervention Program at the Center, says she is also concerned about funding.

"Our programs could well be in jeopardy if appropriations are maintained at the level Congress is aiming at."

Bricker directs a research program and a service program that rely on separate grants. Both three-year programs are in their second year.

The research project is a study of "at-risk" babies who have spent three or more days in the newborn intensive care unit at Sacred Heart Hospital. According to Bricker, at-risk infants are known to risk later developmental delays more

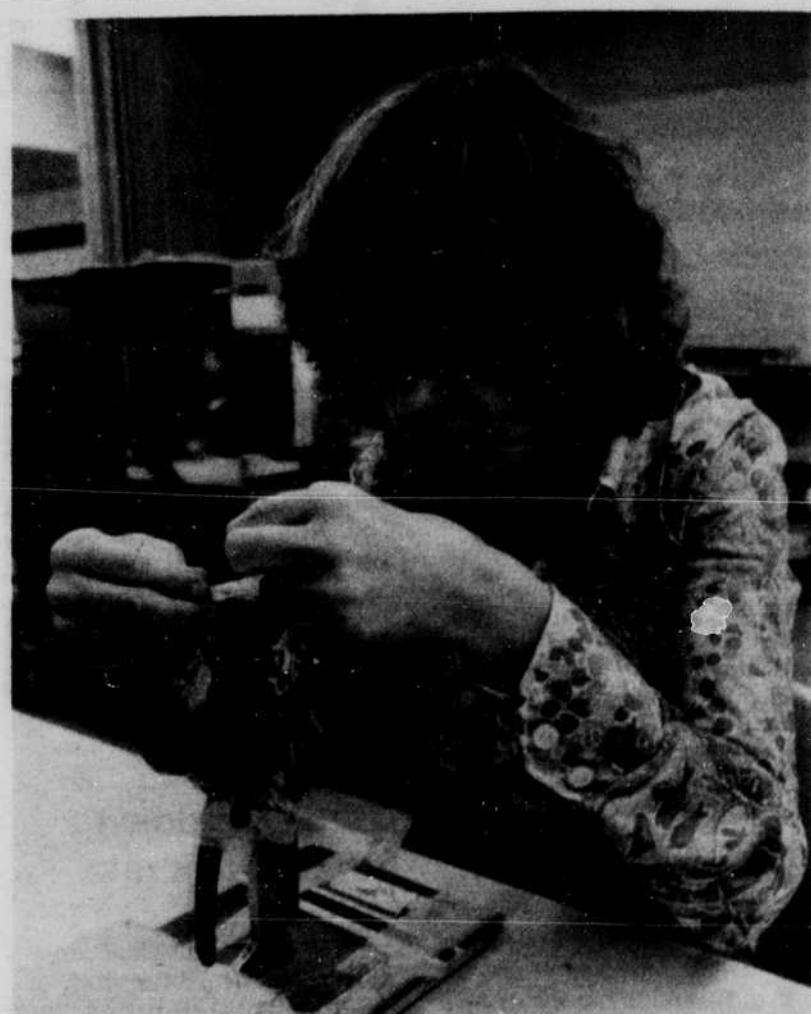


Photo by Mark Pynes

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The Early Intervention Program also develops educational curricula for children who have motor or visual impairments, physical or behavioral delays in development, or other problems.

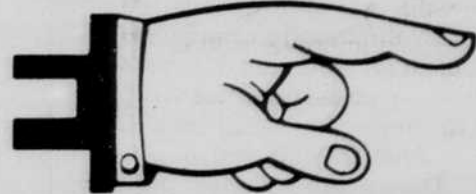
Personnel from the program visit children younger than 15 months at home, working closely with a child's mother or

father.

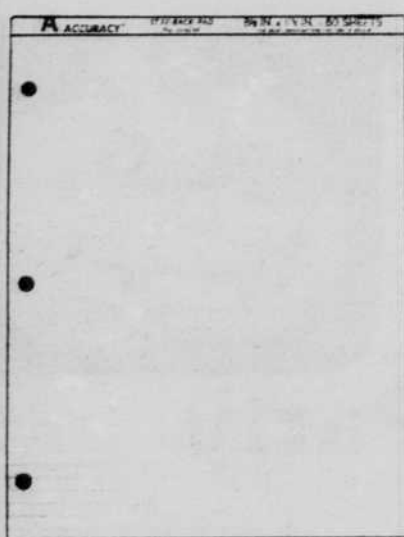
The program is funded by a federal grant that awarded \$20 million nationally in 1981; but the House committee would trim that to \$16.7 million, while the Senate prefers \$7.5 million.

"This means that some programs are simply going to be eliminated, and the others will be cut back," Bricker says.

SALE



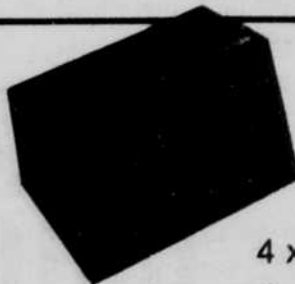
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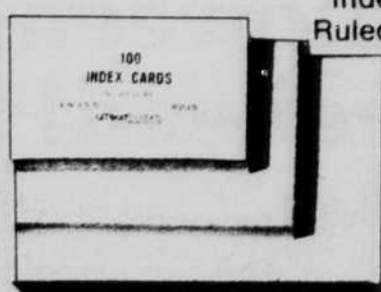
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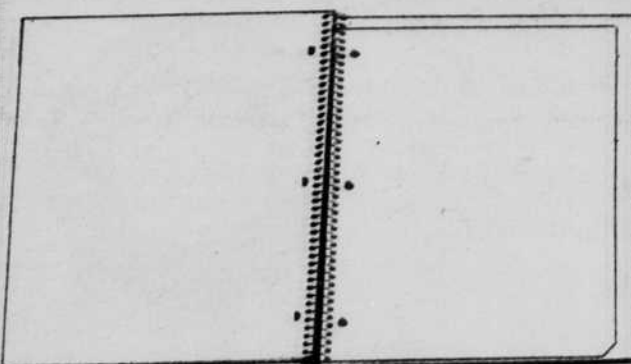
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