

PRE-SCHOOL/

Where lessons
are child's play



Adam Cox shared "monster cookies" on his birthday.

Pre-school is fun for kids anywhere, but Hoodland residents say it's especially important for their children, many of whom are isolated. Without kindergarten or neighborhood playmates, the winter days can seem long and boring to a small child.

A group of mothers formed the Mt. Hood Pre-School Co-op five years ago to meet their children's social needs. The co-op is now an incorporated non-profit agency and a resource center where mothers of pre-schoolers share ideas and discuss their common concerns.

Teacher Mary Anne Doty leads 25 children in daily activities which teach them to share and to play together, and to simply have fun.

The co-op is funded mainly by community support, according to Doty. Several fund-raising events are held each year and business and civic groups make sizable contributions. The Hoodland Women's Club provides the facility for a minimal rent. "There are no grants or federal funds used," Doty said. "We could never survive without the cooperation of the community."

Story, photos by Kaye Barton



Mrs. Doty listens -- to several at once or one-to-one.



Hoodland kids learn to love books at Mt. Hood pre-school.