

Headstart offers youngsters a better start

Time is the most valuable gift a child can receive from an adult. The child has so much to learn, the adult much to give.

Learning is an ongoing process beginning at birth. A child learns to use his hands and his mind increasingly as he gets older. Both are important in attaining that positive self concept needed to become a confident adult.

Teachers at the Headstart rooms are trained to help a child develop to his fullest potential at different levels. Working with children in groups and as individuals they help the child develop and learn quickly.

Using profile charts teachers view each child, helping him learn skills such as brushing teeth, using eating utensils, building with blocks, reading, drawing, using scissors and in general developing motor skills.

Academics are not a main concern with these three and four-year-olds although they do get work in colors, numbers and shapes. Developing motor skills and a good self-image are of primary importance in these earlier years.

One teacher comments, "Each child has special talents." The teachers strive to bring

that talent out helping the child along the way.

Headstart came to Warm Springs in 1965 at the same time the program was being initiated across the nation. Prior to the Headstart program a pre-school cooperative was in operation.

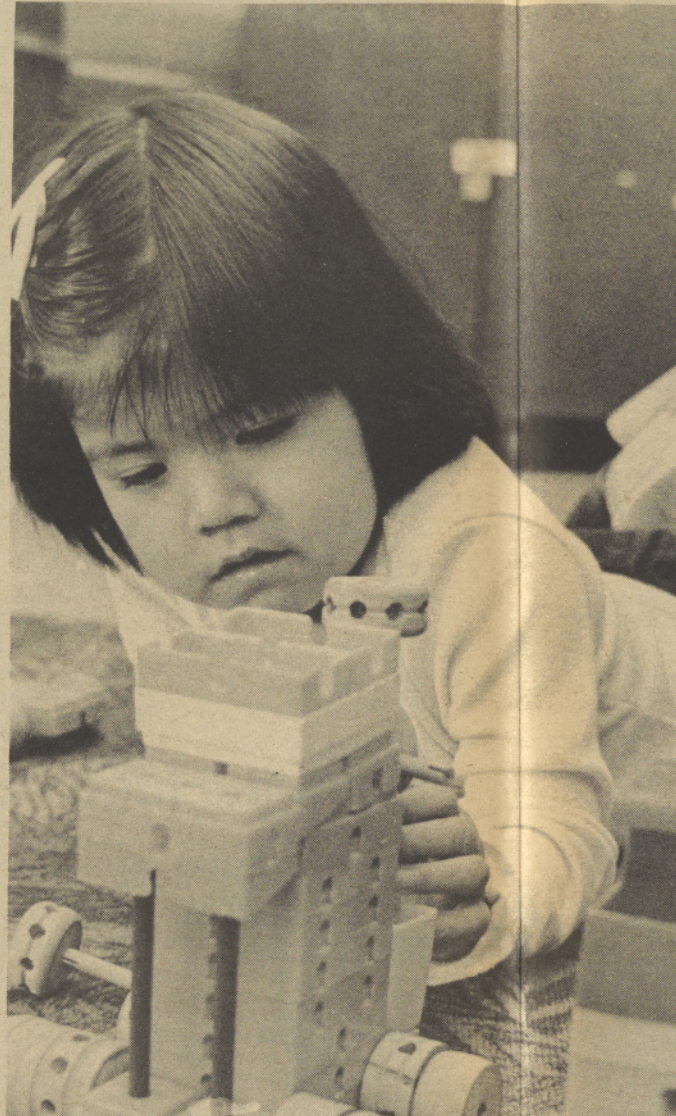
Today 110 children are enrolled in the Warm Springs Headstart program with 12 teachers conducting the daily sessions. In addition the Headstart program employs two cooks, a bus driver/cook, the curriculum coordinator, parent/health and handicap coordinator, secretary and director.

Two teachers are in training for their associate degree in child development while ten have already earned a CDA degree. Workshops are conducted throughout the year enabling teachers to keep up on the most recent developments in child development teaching procedures.

Headstart teachers work to give quality time to the children in their classrooms helping them develop at their potential, adding encouragement to their learning. They are working to give these children a better start—a headstart.



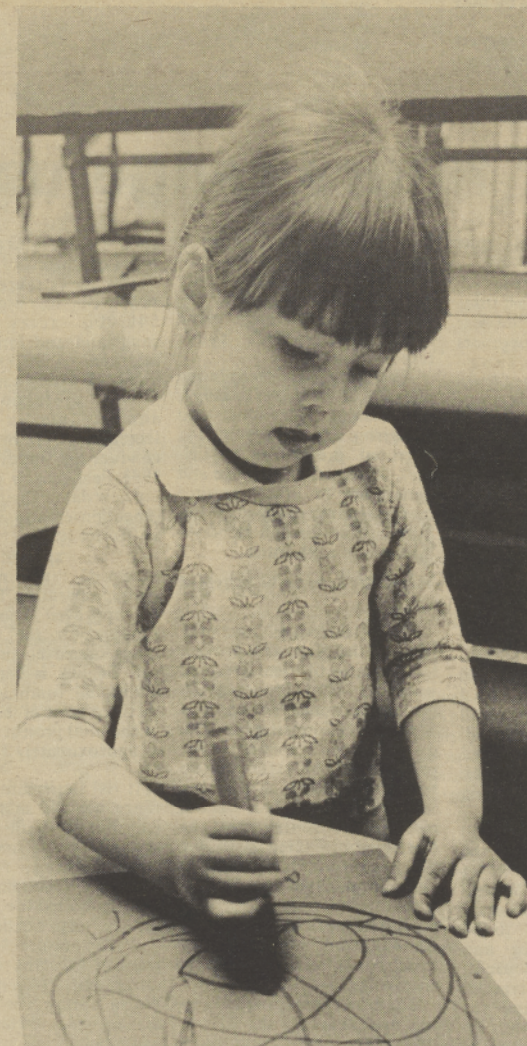
Teachers work with children on both a group and individual basis helping them develop motor skills. Marcle LeClaire helps Jessy Adams and Pi-ta Pitt with block construction ideas.



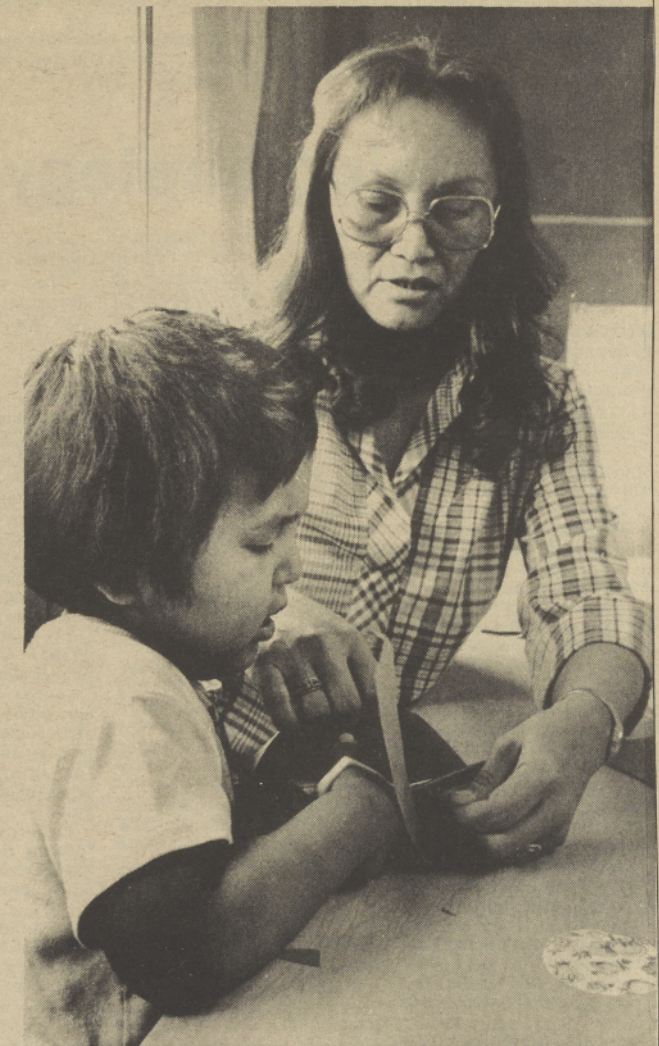
Three-year-old Kelly Miller plays with building blocks constructing her own wheeled toy.



James Sam reads aloud to Ramona Sam in the four-year-old Headstart room.



Theresa Stottlemire picks up drawing techniques through practice with paper and felt markers.



Teacher Marle Tom works with three-year-old Andy McCloud while he learns to use scissors.



Headstart field trainer and curriculum coordinator Dorothy Earl observes teacher and records findings regarding her work with children for CDA certification.



Learning to pray before meals, Melissa Knight and Gerald Tuffl fold their hands.

Spillyay Tymoo photos by Marsha Shewczyk