

SUN PARLOR SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

115 Talbot St. N.,

Essex, Ontario

Sun Parlor School first opened its doors in January, 1959, with four pupils, under the sponsorship of the Windsor Association for Retarded Children. Because of transportation difficulties, parents of children in the county were unable to enroll their children in Churchwood School, Windsor.

Through the generosity of the Sandwich South School Board, a one room school was turned over to the parents. Classes were half-day, and by June, 1959, there were nine children attending the little red brick building at the corner of South Talbot and Malden roads in Sandwich South Township.

In June 1959, the Essex Town and District Association received its charter from the Ontario Association for Retarded Children, and parents and friends of these children who make up the Association, set about to carry on, on their own, serving 5 townships and the town of Essex.

Due to the increasing number of applicants and the need for wider service to the county, early in 1961, the parent group applied for and was granted, change of name, and service area. THE ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CHILDREN is now serving all parts of Essex County not already serviced by the Windsor Association.

With the growth of the school, larger quarters were necessary. The home of Dr. Clare in Essex was purchased and made ready for classes by October 1, 1961. Thirty nine children moved into this new school. By June 1962, enrollment had dropped to 37 as two children entered Cedar Springs Hospital School, but enrollment for September of 1962 will be over forty pupils.

The children, because of the wide area, must be transported to and from school by station wagon. They remain at school all day and have lunch there. Classes are small, and children are grouped according to their varying needs and abilities. SUN PARLOR SCHOOL provides training for those children whose capacity and learning rate are below the standard of the regular schools. The total programme is directed toward personality development, physical fitness, good work habits, and academics according to individual needs.

This summer, a residence camp was held at the Leamington Kiwanis Camp near Union. This two week project proved a happy and successful holiday for the children.

Funds to operate the Sun Parlor School are derived from several sources. Approximately 75% of actual school expenses are covered by a grant from the Ontario Department of Education. This however, does not cover transportation, capital expenditures and other items. Previously, additional grants were sought from local town and township councils from areas where the children were. This year, the Essex County Council has allocated a total grant to cover transportation and the balance of operating expenses.

Visitors are always welcome at the school. Admission forms for any child may be obtained from the Association Secretary, Mrs. Stan Welsh, Oldcastle, Ontario; from the Principal, Mrs. Sunny Ray, R #1, Windsor, or directly from Sun Parlor School, Box 721 Essex, Ontario.

REMEMBER, A RETARDED CHILD CAN BE HELPED TO HELP HIMSELF AND OTHERS.

DON'T LET A RETARDED CHILD BECOME A DISCARDED CHILD!