

PRE-SCHOOL STUDY GROUP

As the name implies, the Pre-school Study Group concerned itself with the family life of the child before he enters school. It stresses parent-child relationships rather than school-child relationships. The group held monthly meetings in the homes of the members during evening hours. It was felt in the beginning that this best suited the needs of the mothers comprising the membership. One of the specific differences between this and the Study Group was that only mothers belonged to this organization.

Through recommended reading programs, demonstrations, discussions, lectures etc. the group hoped to provide useful information enabling the parent to teach children the values of getting along in a society, adjusting to supervision, sharing experiences as well as material things, and many other problems peculiar not just to one family but more or less common to the average family. Occasionally the unusual problems attacked, but for the most part the common everyday approach to good family relationships was their main area of study.

Originally, a 25¢ dues was imposed on each member and this helped provide a \$50.00 gift to the kindergarten each year. It was not set up as a money making organization but they were interested in good equipment or materials for use in the kindergarten, and directed their efforts to this end. As all school interested people know, kindergartens receive no aid from the state. Many attempts have been made to pass laws providing such aid, but so far all State Legislatures have turned thumbs down on all such bills introduced to date in this regard. Consequently, kindergartens are supported by local school corporations only and interested personnel and patrons.

In the middle 1940's PTA Council stressed the fact that Pre-school and Study Groups were sub-divisions of PTA and should not impose separate dues on members. In other words, anyone becoming a paid member of PTA automatically were members in either one or both of the study groups if he cared to belong. Miner mothers were reluctant to change their policy of charging the nominal dues of 25¢ because they wished to retain the \$50.00 annual project which you just read about. Consequently, they withdrew from the Council Pre-school group and have maintained an independent organization since; although, they still participate in the accepted endeavors of Pre-school group activity such as Orientation day, pre-school surveys etc. Many items of educational toys and equipment have been provided by funds furnished by this group for Miner's kindergarten. These include dolls, clothes, bedding, trucks, books, supplies and many varied items to enhance the learning experiences of our kindergartners. In recent years an ice cream social each fall sponsored by Pre-school provided extra funds for kindergarten assistance. One year a total of \$125.00 was given to this cause.