



DAVID GREEN PLAYS WITH SOME OF THE components of agriculture kits made this summer by the North Oxford District Women's Institutes. David was playing on the porch of Helen Wollny's Lakeside home while several institute members worked indoors on the kits. The agriculture kits are designed for use in a variety of courses for kindergarten to Grade 4 students.

'...develop
a respect
for the
land...'

Oxford Women's Institute Makes classroom agrikits

Agriculture is being brought into the classrooms of Oxford County, thanks to the efforts of the North Oxford District Women's Institutes.

Representatives of the organization recently presented the Oxford County Board of Education with two of five agriculture kits they prepared over the summer.

The project is modelled after a similar undertaking by women's institutes in Middlesex County last year, originally instigated by the U.S. Women in Support of Agriculture.

Each kit includes resource material and educational activities, including reproducible worksheets, games, puzzles, audio and video tapes, and crafts.

Valued at about \$175, each kit also contains the four members of the Fairfield family—Mike, Becky, mother Alice and father George, along with 15 puppets, farm implements and vials of seed and soil samples.

The kits are designed to help

kindergarten to Grade 4 students develop a general working knowledge of common farm operations and an understanding of the role agriculture has played in the development of Canada. They can be used in a variety of programs ranging from math to environmental studies.

Local commodity groups, the board of education, the Township of Zorra, area farm dealers and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food have all contributed to the development of the kits.

Eighty per cent of the population of Oxford County derives income from the food industry, either from primary production or spin-off industries.

Members of the women's institutes are hoping the hands-on approach of the agriculture kits will help both rural and urban children develop a respect for the land, and an understanding of the importance of effective soil and water management and conserva-

tion practices.

Institute members compiled the kits and made the dolls and puppets in their spare time and at a number of organized work bees.

The first two kits were presented at a professional activity day on Sept. 30, which featured four workshops to demonstrate the educational application of the material.

Two kits will be given to the county's separate school board and one will be retained by the institutes.