



(Photo by Hogg)

A Day at Day Care



(Gale photo)

Think this is fun?!

A tricycle may seem easy to an adult, but to Joshua Stokes of Richmond Hill, the world is already filled with Sunday drivers.

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What's that?

A furry visitor to the centre has captured the attention of Pria Nippok, 2½; Amy Winston, 2½; Angela Bick, 3; and teacher Hannah Rubenstein. "Do they eat mittens?" wonders Angela.

By Tom Gale
RICHMOND HILL — What happens when you have healthy, happy, learning, laughing, giggling, running, jumping, riding, climbing, sulking, digging, throwing, baking, crying, shouting, sliding kids in one place?

You have the Richvale Day Care Centre on Avenue Road in Richmond Hill!

From 7:30 every morning to 6 every night, the seven teachers, cook, housekeeper, and supervisor have their hands full... and love it. And the fun has its serious side.

"With the development of inner control, children can move out into the world, socialize, sit down and listen. Otherwise, they can develop negative habits; fighting the environment."

Assistant Supervisor Sandra Bowles feels development of this inner control is the single most important task for children and teachers alike.

To this end, controls and limits are formed; toys must be put back, sharing is encouraged, frustration should be expressed verbally and not physically.

"Nothing should be done to hamper that curiosity, that eagerness to learn," says teacher Hannah Rubenstein.

She is especially concerned with the integration and needs of the centre's five handicapped children.

So well does she do this task, that to the casual observer there are no handicapped children! Physio and speech therapists pay regular visits.

Teacher Rubenstein is careful to point out day care is an educational process, and not a babysitting service.

From the time the children arrive in the morning, they are learning. Learning to control their own bodies, learning to socialize, learning to share, learning to learn.

The children are divided into three age groups; 'tweety birds' (2 to 2½); 'tiggers' (2½ to 3½); and 'bluebirds' (3½ to 5). All enjoy a morning and afternoon snack, lunch, and a 2½ hour nap.

According to Assistant Supervisor Bowles, most children have working parents.

There are several living in single parent situations. Several others are there with the help of government subsidy. The cost per child is \$44 a week.

Is there room for improvement?

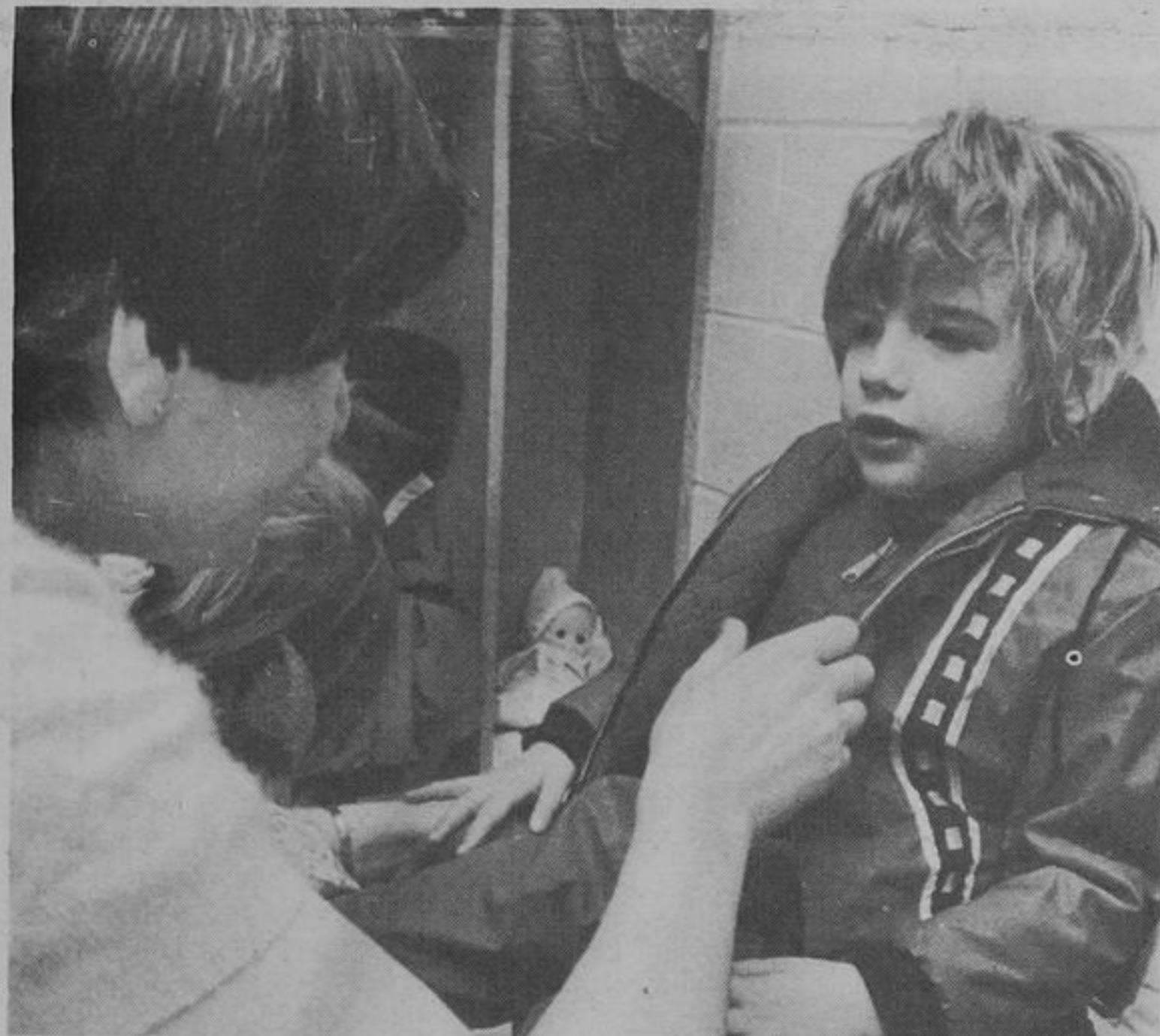
"Well," says Supervisor Trudy Weller, "it would be a nice asset to have male teachers, but the pay is too low for most men."

Also the playground, though adequate, is the minimum size allowed under provincial statutes, and could be bigger.

"Nothing you'd like to work there? Think you'd like to work there? If you're over 17, warm, friendly, and with a love of children, you're invited to volunteer at the Richvale Day Care Centre. This would involve at least one morning a week.

"Volunteers," says Ms. Rubenstein, "mean that teachers have more time to work with the special needs of the handicapped."

Interested? Call Hannah at 883-1279.



(Photo by Hogg)

"Before you go..."

Making sure the kids are dressed for the weather. Five-year-old Katherine Woronko of Richmond Hill remains patient while Diane Skinner makes adjustments.



(Gale photo)

"Want some?"

"Would you like some blueberry pie?" asks 3½-year old Susanne Borden of Richmond Hill. The photographer asked if he could wait until it cooled.



(Photo by Hogg)

A housing crisis?

How many little people can you fit into a little house? Carson Fee, Arnold Lee, Alfie Micheli and Angelo Quattrociocchi seem intent on finding out.



(Gale photo)

Going up!

Little Amy Winston, one of the centre's five handicapped children, surprised teacher Hannah Rubenstein by climbing "up" the slide.



(Gale photo)

This one's mine!

Laura Capobianco, 2½, of Richmond Hill pushes young Aaron Wilson, also of the Hill. A Seneca pre-school teaching student is on hand.