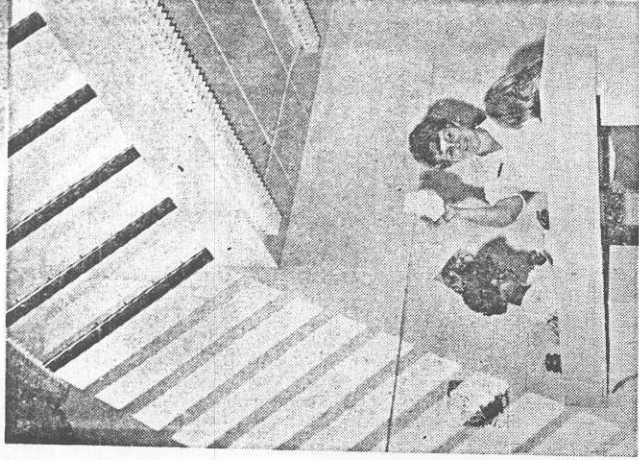
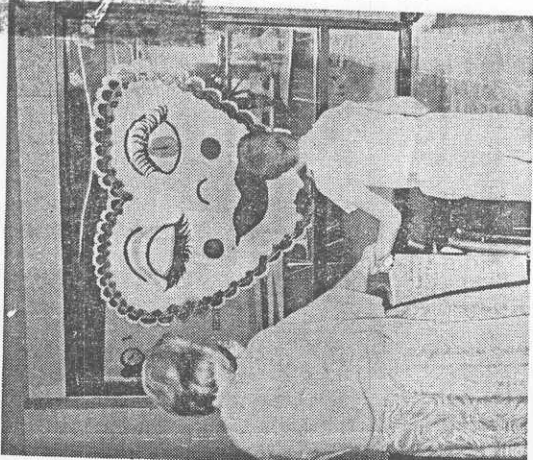


Willowbrook State School youngsters ride to lunch through the new \$1.2 million intensive therapy center. Escorting them are, from the left, Mrs. Mary Harris, Mrs. Margaret Blyeck, head nurse in charge of rehabilitation, and Miss Margaret Samuelson.

S.I. Advance Photos by Barry G. Schwartz



Mrs. Arlene LiButti works with a Willowbrook girl, right, and her favorite doll in a skylighted occupational therapy room.



A smiling valentine winks at a SERVE volunteer and a youngster, as they stroll through the new brick building.

# Where school and life are now a little brighter

By MAXINE SITTS

Sunlight streams in from dozens of skylights. Snowmen smile down from windows and walls.

Bright orange and red beams contrast sharply with the clean, white curved roof.

From classrooms which line the long corridors come sounds of laughter, talking and children's songs.

It's called a "high school," by those who go there — retarded tots 2 to 7 years of age.

The 40-room building is new, but the theory behind it is not. Start early with the training and education of mentally retarded children, increase the chance for turning them into self-sufficient adults.

Until two months ago, Willowbrook personnel were training preschoolers in closets, re-

measurable gain over three types of activities to "get

years of a child's life had been wasted, the staff found out. The years of makeshift facilities are over now; and 400 children with an assortment of mental and physical handicaps are based at the new therapy building, proudly named a "high school" by veteran students.

Learning is a slow process in the new center. "If there's a ball and action toys—several balls and action toys—are in use in each room.

Recreation includes singing, marching, finger games, all types of activities to "get

Two large skylighted recreation rooms — their walls and windows lined with colorful animal pictures—are filled with bouncing, somersaulting, ball-throwing boys and girls.

A circle of child-size chairs—steps—a large activity mat—

are in use in each room. Recreation includes singing, marching, finger games, all types of activities to "get