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Talking doll developed to aid retarded

A talking doll which acts as a therapy aid for mentally retarded children has been produced by members of the Staten Island Council, Telephone Pioneers of America, and will be donated to Willowbrook State School within the next two weeks.

The employe organization at Nassau Smelting and Refining Co., Tottenville, is part of a larger organization which is observing a statewide day today.

The talking doll, about 2½ feet tall, is equipped with a transistor two-way radio and cordless microphone.

It can be used with youngsters who refuse to talk with adults, but who will communicate with toys. A therapist stands with the mike out of the child's sight. The child can speak to the doll, and the doll can answer, through the therapist.

Parts for the doll cost about \$160, according to Raymond Peterson, council president. Telephone Pioneers volunteered the time it took to make the toy.

It will be presented to Willowbrook after it is shown to other councils in the area, he said.

S. F. ADVANCE