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A Sit-In for Retarded

By ROGER WETHERINGTON

Scores of parents of severely retarded children sat in yesterday at a center on the lower East Side to protest state plans to close the center and move the youngsters to the overcrowded Willowbrook State School to Staten Island. Officials admit that the children would get less attentive care at Willowbrook.

Meanwhile a hearing was scheduled for today on a mother's suit to block the move. She contends that some of the youngsters, all

to wheelchairs, will die at Willowbrook because of insufficient care.

Parents of the 194 children at the center, the Gouverneur Division of Willowbrook, at 621 Water St., began their sit-in with a vow to prevent the transfer of any of the patients. Fifty to 100 parents sat in at various times.

The closing of the division and the firing of the 200 employes has been ordered by the State Department of Mental Hygiene to cope with a state budget cut of \$34