

6,000 handicapped kids have fun day

Coney Island may not be the center of summer fun and games it once was, but for almost 6,000 handicapped youngsters it must have seemed like heaven yesterday.

With open eyes, smiling faces and squeals of joy, the busloads of teen-agers and pre-teens began arriving at "Astroland" amusement park at 9 a.m. to enjoy the rides, refreshments and sunshine and by mid-afternoon the troops were weary enough to accept their rides home.

About 200 Staten Island youngsters participated in the annual outing, sponsored by the Community Mayors of New York State. Most came from Willowbrook Developmental Center or from the various special programs under the Board of Education.

Accompanying the children

were dozens of city workers who volunteered their "off-duty" time to help make the day one of safe enjoyment.

The amusement area was

reserved solely for the special event yesterday and rides like the ferris wheel and log flume were special targets of interest. Several private businesses

supplied lunches for the throng.

As one Island policeman said simply when it was over, "It was a tremendous day."