

working on combing out and setting a manikin's hair. It looked like a session in a beauty training course with everybody obviously enjoying their work.

Miss Scifo, who had been a hairdresser, explained. "I wanted them to see what the outside world is all about and make them feel pretty and glamorous too," as she showed them how to comb and style the hair.

In another area of the center, Jim Allocco, recreational therapist, and Vicki Chin, occupational therapist, were working with a resident with a spastic condition. They had a basketball they were tossing into her hand.

Idea Behind Exercise

"The idea," according to Allocco, "was to get the girl to keep her head in line. It tends to tilt backwards," he explained, as the resident came forward to catch the ball.

Allocco praised the programs at the center and said "There's no doubt but in the short time we've been here they have come a long way."

Lou Vaiano, another therapy aide who was teaching recreational and physical therapy to some of the young male residents seconded Allocco's thinking.

"By teaching them self awareness, stimulating their senses as well as giving them tender loving care it all seems to be paying off and the staff is pretty proud of their residents," Vaiano said.

Director Stein said that the place has a long waiting list. "All the residents must come from Willowbrook but we prefer to keep the numbers small here. If they get too high it's back to institutionalized living type of arrangement rather than what we have striven for here as an interim care facility."

Stein also noted on the basis of Nina Eaton's success rate the United Cerebral Palsy people are now aiming their sights towards bringing up a proposal for a similar type of program in the Bronx with the residents maximum age being 15. The property the UCP have their eye on is currently a skilled nursing home for geriatrics that the owner proposes to sell.

"Another plus in running a place like this," Stein said, was "that the cost factor is about \$26,000 per resident a year whereas at Willowbrook it runs anywhere from \$30 to \$35,000 for each resident a year."

News photos by Jim Garrett
Carmen Scifo works with youngsters during class dealing with personal grooming.

