

November 7, 1964

Miss Barbara Schwartzbaum
507 Mobile St.
Hattiesburg, Miss.

Dear Barbara:

Sorry, but I can't help you right away. I've written for some pretty good pamphlets which haven't arrived yet, but I'll send you some when they do come, and anyway I gave them your name in case they would send them direct.

I have a VERY SMALL bit of experience with preschool programs, in that I've watched and tried to help out in various centers. Basically, you do the things that come naturally, but you have to change activities a lot because they won't sit still for very long. I have the following observations from different centers: kids love records if you have childrens' records; they like to sing, but about the only way you can get them to sing together is to have them moving together. Linda Allenstein does a good thing--she gets the children moving in a circle, holding hands. They march around and sing, somewhat in unison. Dancing is crazy, if you can teach it--also dramatics. I think anybody can lead small role-playing situations and the children really love them. Reading stories is good, but it doesn't last long. Outdoor play is really necessary, because they will only go so long before they turn into ~~wailing~~ shrieking animals. The basic activity, though, as close as I can tell, is painting. Paints are the best, but crayons will do. I'm trying to digest an article somebody gave me about print-making, because I think it has possibilities, but basic painting and drawing is very popular with children. You have to keep an eye on it, and they respond very well to specific suggestions, so that if you plan out what you want to do, you can make some teaching points with art work. Also, I've noticed that they paint incredibly fast; you need to have lots of paper so that they can make several pictures at a session. And they like to have you praise specific things about the painting. I hope you can find things here which you didn't already know, but if not, it should give you a good idea of how little we're geared to "coordinate". I'll try to catch Mrs. Peggy O'Neal and send some materials with her.

pre-teen recreation: you really have me stumped there. I don't know anything specific about pre-teen recreation. I imagine the best thing there is sports for boys, for which we have no equipment, and board games for girls (they like them, and we have so little for girls), of which we don't have any either, but maybe Bob Beach

can dig up some from his ~~kid~~ friends and neighbors. Or your own contacts. As with any age group reading and painting are good, and you just have to experiment with tailoring it to a particular group's interests--I don't have the experience to help you with that. Is there any ~~place~~ place nearby which would be good for a trip? Any historical landmarks, or exchanges such as going down to the Coast projects to meet MSU kids there, or younger? Also, the older the kids are the better they sing, so you might be able to organize a choir. They write nice poems and stories at this age, but you have to work with them to do it. And I have no materials for you. I'll send what we have with Mrs. O'Connor. (There's an ABC photographer shining lights on me and taking my picture, so it's very difficult for me to concentrate on what I'm saying; pardon any incoherence.)

I hope this gives you some ideas---and if you have any that I don't know about, please write me. I'd ~~like~~ like as usual to get to H'Burg, and if I can get away, I'd like to come down. Before I make definite plans, though, I'll call and ask about housing.

Yours truly,

Lois Chaffee

P.S. You've been in contact with Lorne, haven't you, about getting people for this training program? She told me that she went down there to see about it.