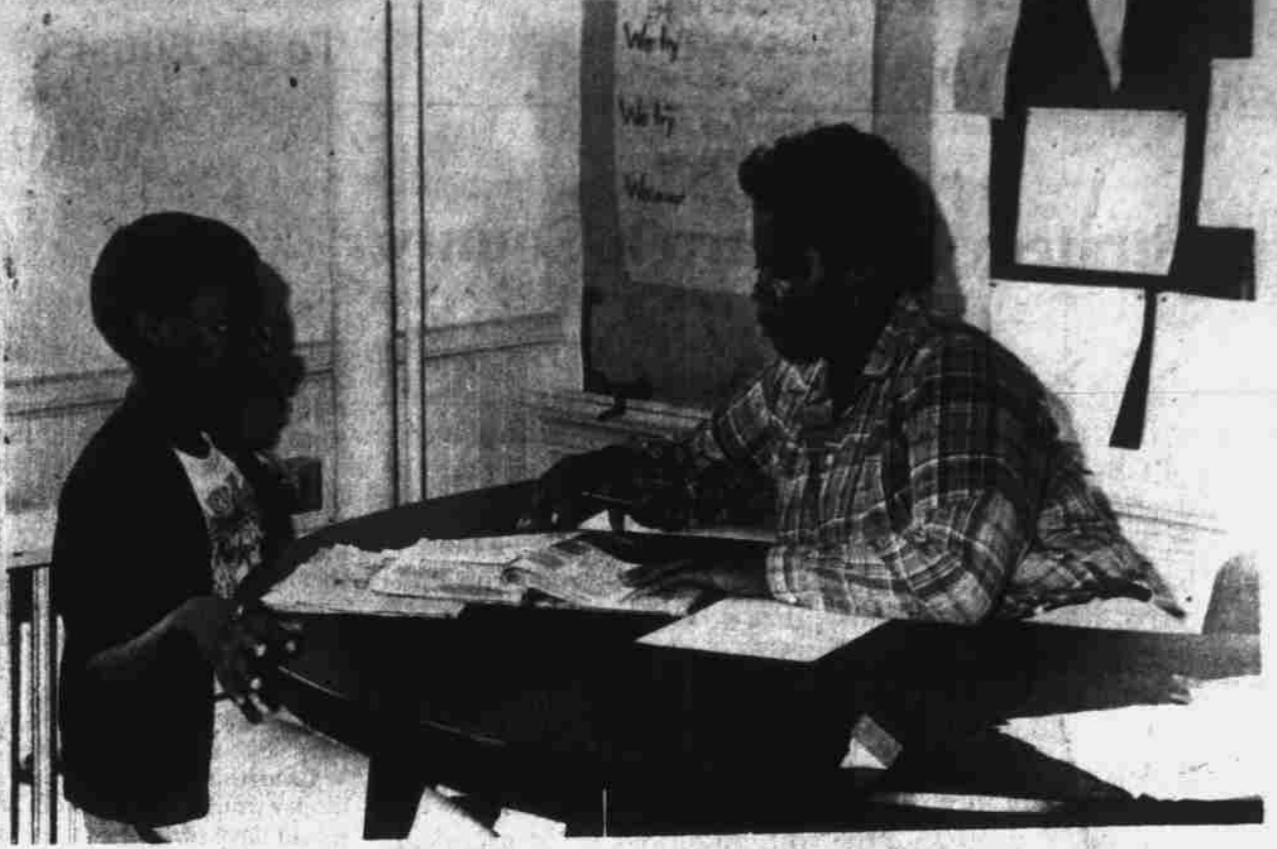




IN LAST YEAR'S PARENT FOLLOW-THROUGH PROGRAM, parent-educators such as Ms. Charlene Ryals (left) and Ms. Dorothy Nelson (right) worked closely with

elementary school youngsters to help them improve their school work. Ms. Ryals is shown working with Cedric Thompson, a sixth grader last year. He is now attending



middle school. As the teacher, Mrs. Helen Burgess looks on, Ms. Nelson is shown providing special attention to a small group of students.

This year, both parent-educators have been promoted to primary reading aides.

## Followthrough Program Begins In October

By Pamela Banks  
Jeffery Funderburg, a nine-year-old 4th grader at Holloway Street School, now reads and does math much better since spending eight months working with Ms. Charlene Ryals.

Ms. Ryals is not a school teacher. She's a tutor with the Parent Followthrough Program sponsored by the Community Education Department of the Durham City Schools.

The program in which specially trained parents work with students both in the classroom and their parents also in the home gets underway again October 1 for the current school term. Last year the program ran from January until August during its first eight months of operation.

The program works this way.

A parent volunteers for the program, and is trained to be a parent-educator. In the classroom, the parent-educator works closely with the teacher and individually with students to help them with troubling subjects.

Then the parent-educator contacts the youngster's parents, and works with them so they are better able to help their child at home with school work.

"What we have with this program is an extension of the classroom to the home," said Thomas Taylor, Holloway Street principal. "This program helps us to take school into the home."

Taylor observed the extra interest parents took in the school after the program started and hopes more parents in the attendance area will get involved this year. The principle targets are students and parents in the Edgemont-Few Gardens neighborhoods.

Mrs. Judy Stevenson, one of the teachers working with the parent-educators, believes the program has helped improve student conduct as well as academics because parent-educators are from their communities and know their parents.

"Our effort in community education is to form a partnership between the community and the school," said Al Huey, director of Community Education. "And this program is an excellent example of reaching out to determine what the community's needs are and how we can fulfill them."

Mrs. Joan Burton, director of the Edgemont Community Center, coordinates recruitment and training of the parent-educators.

The parents come from the Edgemont and Few Gardens communities which are part of the Holloway School attendance area.

"One thing that gives me much satisfaction is seeing the school system as an institution, and parents working together," said Mrs. Burton. "This is the first time the Edgemont Center has been actively cooperating in a school project."

The cooperative effort is apparently working. For example, Ms. Ryals worked with four students including Jeffery, and his mother can see the difference.

"I have one little boy in it (the program) and it helped him a lot," said Mrs. Barbara Jean Funderburg. "I could see improvement in his school work after going through the program."

According to Mrs. Funderburg, her son is slated to be enrolled in the program again this year.

Though the parent followthrough program is only eight months old, the genesis of its idea goes back two years, according to Huey, when a city school study showed that parents are quite concerned about the high dropout rate in the city schools, and called for programs to help solve that problem.

But a solution would not be easy to implement mainly because the city's schools had no money for such a program. The state-funded community education program was then financed by the state on a county-wide basis. According to Huey, many issues identified by city schools parents were not being addressed by the county program.

So city schools officials got a state grant to establish a community education division in the city schools. The state gave the schools a \$25,000 grant, and after Huey was appointed director, the city schools began developing programs for the system.

The Followthrough idea came from a workshop attended by Durham teachers, and conducted by personnel from the Richmond (Va.) Parent Followthrough Program. Durham teachers like the idea.

Finally, the city schools got a \$9,000 one-time federal grant through the State Department of Public Instruction. The grant stipulated that the school system must pay for the program in subsequent years. This year, the program got \$5,000 from city schools, but has hired but five parent-educators.

Huey explains the drop in parent-educators is not due entirely to budget cuts. Two of the parents are now full-time parent educators for the city schools.

Ms. Ryals, one of those hired by the system, is stationed at Holloway Street School and the other is at Club Boulevard School.

Two other parent-educators dropped out of the program leaving the total by the end of last school year at five.

"We also will be getting in contact with companies to see about getting them to adopt this particular program to come up with the additional funding we need," said Huey. "Based on our projections, we will need someone to adopt us in the amount of \$3,400."

Also, the program leaders are hoping the

companies have employees that are willing to train as parent-educators and to volunteer their services. If enough employees participate and enough funding is available the program could be established at other schools.

Funds cover the cost of materials, training expenses and stipends of an average \$80 per week to each parent-educator.

Mrs. Burton said parents chosen to serve in these special positions do not have to hold a high school diploma.

They are tested to determine their proficiency in the basic skills. If weaknesses are diagnosed, efforts are made to strengthen skills in biweekly training sessions at the center.

"Basically, we look for parents who are active in the community," said Mrs. Burton. "We look for parents who are

willing to give time."

In October, parent-educators, teachers, and school administration representatives will go to Richmond again for another training session.

Mrs. Brown, who serves as training adviser to the program, said a summer program involving the same children as during the school session was held this summer, July 6-August 13, at the Edgemont Community Center.

"This was in a desire to help them to retain more of the material and improve their skills," said Mrs. Brown, "plus there were field trips."

Ms. Ryals, who worked with the summer program as well, said they visited the Life and Science Museum, the computer center at North Carolina Central University, the airport and the Math and Science School.

## SHOPPING FOR A NEW CAR?

# Shop Auto Loan!



A new '82 could be part of your lifestyle.

Who you finance that new automobile with is just as important as selecting the car! Let us be a part of that choice with an auto loan you can live with...

"We're Helping to Make Things Better"

**Mechanics & Farmers Bank**

3 Convenient Durham Locations

• 116 West Parrish Street • 615 Fayetteville Street • 411 E. Chapel Hill St.



# Sears AUTUMN Jamboree

## Outfit Your Baby for Travel

### SAVE 25% Umbrella Stroller

SAVE \$7  
Regular \$29.99

# 22<sup>49</sup>

Soft seat of polyester, cotton woven in various plaids and solids. Chrome-plated tubular steel frame. Folds for easy storage. With restraining strap. A great value.

Ask about Sears Credit Plans

**SAVE \$2**  
Blanket Sleeper  
Toddler Size  
Reg. \$6.99

**4<sup>99</sup>**

**\$1 OFF 2 Packages**  
Disposable Diapers  
Reg. \$5.97  
Pack of 40

**5<sup>47</sup>**

**Kids' Ski-Look Jackets**  
At These Low Prices

Little Kids **14<sup>88</sup>** Big Kids **19<sup>88</sup>**

What a price... Little kids' sizes have snap-off hoods, storm cuffs. Big Kids' sizes convert to vests. Just zip-off sleeves.

**SAVE \$380**  
Patchwork Walker  
Regular \$14.99

**11<sup>19</sup>**

**SAVE \$250**  
Playtex Nurser Kit  
Regular \$9.99

**7<sup>49</sup>**

**25% OFF**  
ALL KIDS' SWEATERS

Stock up—our entire collection of kids' sweaters is on sale now! Pullovers, cardigans, fisherman and ski-styles, Braggin' Dragon™ looks and more. Sizes for toddlers and big and little boys and girls.  
Reg. \$5.99-\$16.99 ..... **4.49-12.69**

You can count on **Sears**  
Sears, Roebuck and Co.  
Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back

- |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Durham</b><br>Northgate Mall<br>Shop Monday thru Saturday<br>9:30 A.M. - 9 P.M.<br>Phone 286-2951 | <b>Raleigh</b><br>Craibroe Valley Mall<br>Phone 782-6800 | <b>Greenville</b><br>Carolina East Mall<br>Phone 756-9700 | <b>Goldsboro</b><br>703 Berkley Road<br>Phone 778-0200 | <b>Rocky Mt.</b><br>128 North Church St.<br>Phone 442-3131 | <b>Jacksonville</b><br>New River Shopping Center<br>Phone 347-2171 |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|