



Audiology preschoolers learn

By Rosemary Freriks

A preschooler draws her hand across her cheek and rotates her hands in the air, mimicking the sign for warm and cloudy as she talks about the weather with her classmates.

The students in the UN-L audiology department's preschool learn the names of colors and objects, how to draw and paste, and to get along with others. What separates this from other preschools in Lincoln is that these students, ranging from 2 to 5 years old, must learn to cope with a world they can't hear.

The preschool has been operating on and off since the audiology clinic was opened in 1940, according to instructor Barbara McCulloch, supervisor of the preschool since 1968.

The department of Speech Pathology operates two similar preschools for children with speaking disabilities.

Furnished classroom

In 1973, the Lancaster County chapter of the National Foundation of the March of Dimes

furnished the classroom in the basement of the Temple Building, a structure the departments of audiology and speech pathology share with the drama department.

By January, these two departments, their clinics, and the specialized offices for the deaf and hard of hearing will move to the Barkley Center for Communicative Disorders now being built on East Campus. Funds for the building were provided by a \$135,000 gift from the late William E. Barkley, a Lincoln banker.

Preparation of teachers

Work at the center will emphasize speech disorders, preparation of teachers for the deaf and training of deaf adults, said assistant professor of speech science and pathology, Dr. Walter Manning.

Manning said the present clinic offers individual help to clients for a fee of \$3 to \$5 per hour, depending upon the extent of the therapy and whether the sessions are held in the clinic or at the client's home. The university's policy of

financially self-sufficient clinics prevents free help in most cases.

The clinic also provides teaching practice for students in the last two years of a five-year master's degree program in audiology or speech pathology.

One-to-one

In a one-to-one relation with the preschoolers at the clinic, graduate students concentrate on teaching total communication, according to Mrs. McCulloch.

"This includes signing, speech and auditory training for those with some hearing," she said.

Mrs. McCulloch said a child is considered deaf "if he cannot develop speech and language through auditory channels with or without a hearing aid, without a special education program."

The preschoolers meet three days a week for an hour and a half, to learn basic communication skills.

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