

New Project - Child Development

Preliminary to Introduction -

There has been so much interest shown in child development as presented at farm women's short courses and at leaders' meetings, that the Associate in Home Economics Research, whose training has been along the lines of child development and parental education, was diverted from her research problem for a short period and two visits per year arranged for each of two counties.

Iredell and Craven were selected on the basis of interest and training of the home agents, as well as for interest of the home demonstration club women in child development.

Miss Rachel Everett, of Craven County, and Miss Daisy Caldwell, of Iredell, were called together for a discussion of plans and the necessary study for carrying out the project. It was urged that the work be undertaken in an experimental attitude, and that in each county the project be adapted to the existing situation.

Miss Everett worked out a plan whereby two child development leaders should be selected from each club and should meet at New Bern for monthly meetings. The Associate in Home Economics Research was asked to conduct the first meeting in which there was a talk explaining the possibilities of this work and a discussion of the phases in which the group might be interested. About fifty women from all over the county were present. They were much interested and very responsive. The Home Agent, however, decided that she did not think it wise to try to carry out the plan of meetings in view of the

existing political situation and the lack of time for study and preparation on her own part.

At this same time the Associate in Home Economics Research was asked by the Craven County Superintendent of Schools to talk to the supervisors and principals. After the meeting she was further invited to give an Extension course in child development to this group. This, however, was impossible.

After discussing the matter with her clubs, Miss Caldwell decided to have the Wayside Club take up the study of child development as a minor project. The Associate in Home Economics Research met with this club and discussed the plan of meetings and subject-matter with the members. They were most interested in beginning a study of adolescence. This subject was discussed by the Home Agent briefly at the next meeting, but no other discussions were held on the subject due to the inability of the Associate in Home Economics Research to return to the county.

The plan for carrying child development as an extra minor project in these counties, therefore, cannot be considered as having been very successful, due to the fact that there was no specialist to help carry the work and the agents had little time for study.

Other Beginnings -

The young mothers of Stanly County asked that some work in child development be given them and that the Associate in Home Economics Research, together with the nutrition, clothing, and home management

specialists make a program where each could contribute programs for two meetings during the year. This plan of work is tried as an experiment but seems to be working out very well, although some modifications might be necessary should the plan be followed in other counties.

Research in Home Economics

The Division of Home Demonstration Work in cooperation with the Director of Research selected ^a project in farm family living as its problem of research.

The Associate in Home Economics Research is making a study of factors conditioning the living of 35 typically successful farm owner families in Wake County in North Carolina. This involves a case study of each family where a number of visits are made into the home.