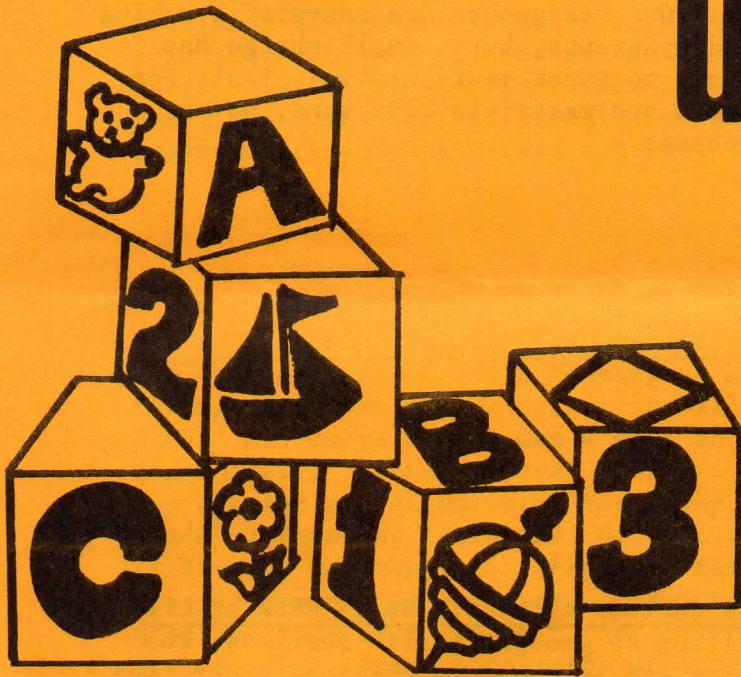


937 5464

**The many organisations
Concerned with under-
fives in the Royal Borough
of Kensington & Chelsea
join forces to Present**



**under
fives
week**

10-15 March, 1975.

WESTWAY EXHIBITION HALL, INFORMATION AND AID
CENTRE, 140 LADBROKE GROVE, LONDON W10.

THE COUNCIL'S NURSERY SERVICE provides for children under five at six day nurseries staffed by nursery nurses. Priority is given to mothers without support, to those suffering from ill health or whose living conditions are very poor, or where the child might otherwise have come into care. Parents pay according to means. The Council also helps to pay for a few such 'priority' children to go to private nurseries, play-groups or child minders (all of which are registered by the Council). Child minders are regularly visited, inspected and helped.

THE INNER LONDON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION has 17 Playgroups in Kensington and Chelsea. Though each Playgroup is independent, and administered by its own committee of parents, they all work towards certain common aims laid down by the Association.

The children aged 3 to 5 and in groups of up to 20, are involved in creative and constructive play. As far as possible the activities provided are similar to those in state nursery classes, though most Playgroups meet in church halls or other premises not specifically designed for small children, and everything has to be cleared away each day. The sessions last 2 to 3 hours, and parents are involved in every way possible, mothers often helping in the group on a rota basis.

The Playleaders have attended courses organised jointly by ILEA and the ILPPA, and parents too are encouraged to join these classes. Our Playgroups are non-profit making and partly financed by grants, but a small charge has to be made to parents to cover rent, heating, fruit for the mid morning snack and materials like sand, paint, etc, and other expenses.

THE KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY In addition to general Health Services, the following provisions are relevant to children under five years old.

The Health Visitor visits all homes where there are known to be children under five years, and can advise on any aspect of child management and health.

She will discuss and arrange the following services:- routine physical and mental developmental assessment, immunisation, dental care, vision testing, hearing testing, speech therapy and play facilities in the creches. Some group health education activities are arranged, such as mother's clubs and parent craft classes.

The community midwives provide early care, and support for, mothers who have home confinements or 'early discharge' from hospital.

The District Nurses give nursing care for the sick patient at home, as requested by the general practitioner or hospital.

INNER LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY is responsible for providing nursery education for children between the ages of 3-5. This is provided by trained teachers either at nursery schools or in nursery classes attached to primary schools. At some classes children attend fulltime, at others they attend for the morning or afternoon only. There is no charge for admission.

There are not enough nursery schools and classes for all the children whose parents would like them to attend, but by 1982, when the Authority hopes to complete its nursery expansion programme there should be places available for 80% of all 4-year-olds and 60% of all 3-year-old children.

In Kensington and Chelsea there are two nursery schools and nine nursery classes (a complete list is attached) providing altogether places for 180 children attending full-time and 440 children attending part-time.

It is hoped to provide three new classes in the current year, and plans for additional provision in later programmes are being worked out now.

POP-IN PLAYGROUP FOR THE CHILDMINDERS OF NORTH KENSINGTON

The childminders of North Kensington are fortunate in having their own playgroup, it is called the 'POP IN GROUP' and meets four times a week in St. Michaels Church Hall, Ladbroke Grove. Minders can come along to any session and either stop for a cup of tea and chat to other minders, or leave the children at the playgroup while they go shopping. There are facilities for all ages from birth to five years and a toy lending library also operates from the hall, so children can benefit from playing with a wide range of carefully selected toys.

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND is a registered charity, it has about 150 playgroups including 28 in hospitals in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - mainly in large Cities. These include Community and hospital groups, a Gypsy group, Playbus, Home playleaders and Gypsy Roadside Group. The aims of the SCF are to provide a happy, stimulating and creative environment where young children can grow freely and develop to their full potential; where children are recognised to be members of the family and parents and brothers and sisters are welcomed into the playgroup. Hospital playschemes also concentrate on the therapeutic aspects of play, bringing comfort, security and understanding to the sick child often bewildered by the alien atmosphere and separated from home.

THE WESTWAY NURSERY CENTRE

THE WESTWAY NURSERY ASSOCIATION, a registered charity, was formed about eighteen months ago by a group of local people interested in the care and education of pre-school children and their families, not only in North Kensington but throughout the Borough. After many discussions and two public meetings it was decided that the Association would attempt to build a comprehensive preschool centre for about 110 children and their parents underneath Westway, at Maxilla Gardens.

The Centre would provide the long hours and caring qualities of a day nursery with the educational stimulus of a nursery school, as well as providing back up facilities like a parents centre, a pre-school resource and information centre and a toy library.

We have managed to raise all the necessary money to build the centre from the Inner London Education Authority, the Home Office's Urban Aid programme and the Vanessa Lowndes Charitable Trust, and hope that building will commence later this year.

THE COLVILLE NURSERY, planned to open 1975-76, will provide combined day care and nursery education for fifty-five children aged three to five years in the Colville/Tavistock area of North Kensington. It will be based in part of two specially converted houses owned by the Notting Hill Housing Trust at 4/5 Colville Square, W11. and will have an equipped outside play area as part of the new Borough lay-out of Colville Square.

This Centre has been planned via a partnership of the I.L.E.A., the Royal Borough Social Services Department, Powis Playgroups, and the Notting Hill Housing Trust. There will be links with the Colville Infants School and it is proposed that a Management Committee representing the statutory bodies, local community groups, Nursery Centre Staff and parents will form a charity to manage the Centre. Eight nursery teachers and assistants under the direction of a full-time Co-ordinator will be responsible for day to day running.

The cost of converting the two houses into a Nursery Centre is estimated at £39,000 and funds via an appeal have so far been granted by the Campden Charities, City Parochial Foundation and the Chase Charity. The annual running costs of £28,000 will be divided equally between the I.L.E.A. and the Royal Borough.