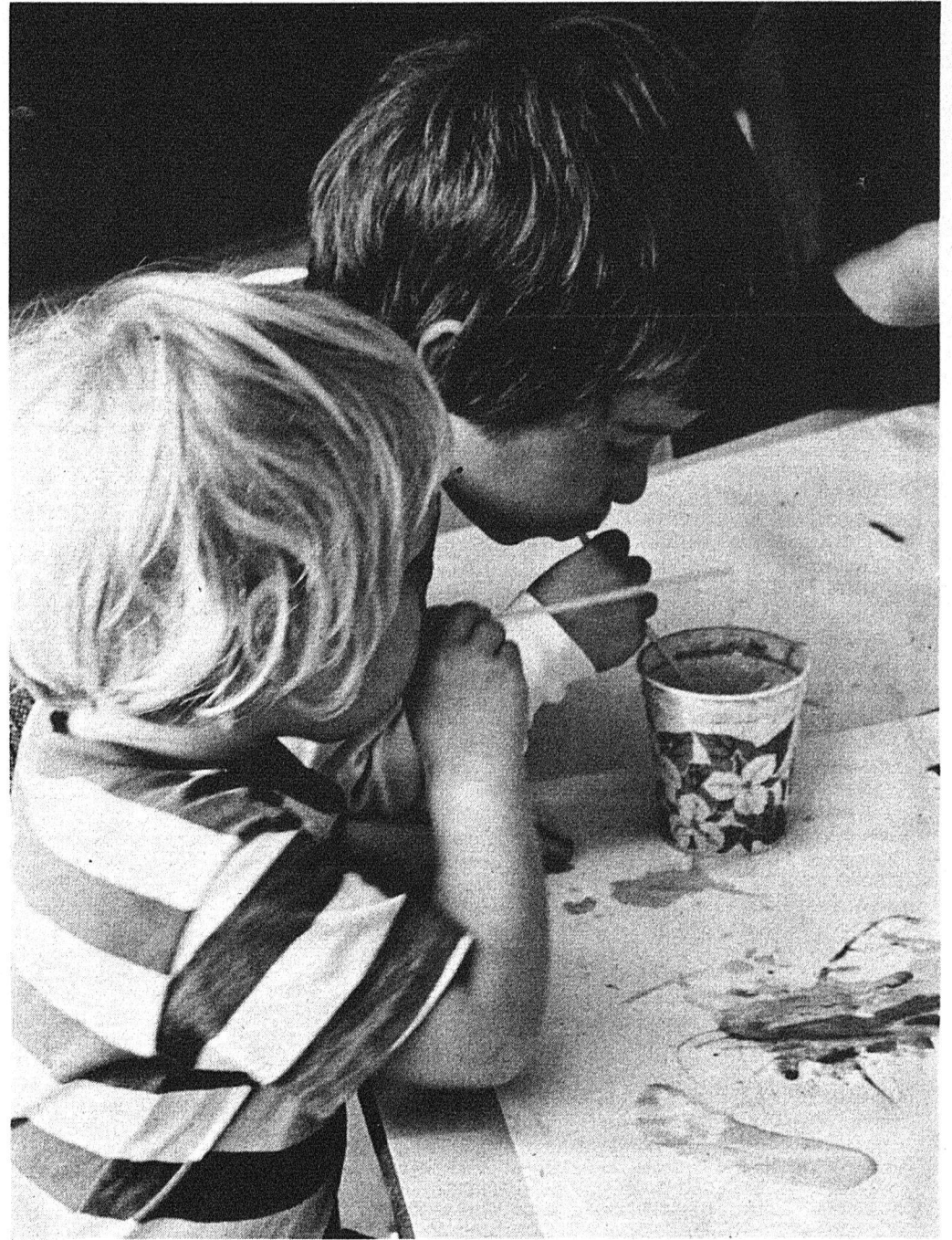


Facilities for infants



rooms in at least one school in each district. This would eliminate the transportation problem as well as the separation of school chums from friends at home with which the child would normally associate.

The need for after school facilities is increasing, and the trend seems to be to start your own centre. Through great determination and hard work to acquire facilities and funding for the project, several such centres have recently begun operation. One after school care programme in the university area is located in Garneau United Church and is a community project designed to meet the needs of school aged children in the Garneau district.

More funding

Preventive Social Service Legislation was enacted to provide a means for the province to help the city fund day care centres. Eight subsidized centres are now in operation. Present day care centres are unable to meet the demands for their services. Families who can afford to pay the high price for private day care find there is no available space. The same is true for low-income families as well as single parent homes who require a subsidized service. With all existing facilities full to capacity, a long waiting list is the result.

Due to the emphasis placed on early childhood development on a wider social and educational scale, a more positive attitude towards day care on all levels must be adopted.

With increasing public awareness of the need for (and lack of) quality day care facilities, it is not enough unless this information is put to use and acted upon to bring about necessary changes to improve the situation.

Photos taken at
HUB Day Care Centre

Not enough facilities

Mike Day, day care director for the City of Edmonton, advises regardless of the specific needs of the family requiring Day Care services, shelter for infants, pre-school, or school-aged children and in spite of location, financial position or quality requirements, the existing Day Care facilities are unobtainable to all but few. The Social Service Department of the City operates a Day Care Service Branch which

acts as an information centre and counselling service for groups desirous of establishing Day Care services or individuals requiring placement and welcomes inquiries.

There is also the Licensing Branch of the Department of Health and Social Development for the Province of Alberta which keeps all Day Care centres in the city under the rules and regulations that they must follow in order to obtain a license. They are in contact with all existing services and would appreciate any enquiries concerning the Day Care programme.

