

## [Text]

child care worker going into the home of some of these or you could have a training program for those parents, but it would be linked into a support system and a specialized training resource. I do not want to get into that now, but it seems to me we should be flexible on that point.

## [Text]

## [Translation]

besoins spéciaux. Par exemple, un membre du personnel de la garderie pourrait se rendre au domicile de certains enfants, ou bien on pourrait organiser un programme de formation à l'intention des parents de ces enfants. Ce genre d'activité serait reliée au système principal. Je ne veux pas entrer maintenant dans les détails, mais on pourrait envisager un système aussi souple que cela.

## [Text]

**M. Hochstadt:** Cela me paraît très intéressant.

**Mme Jewett:** À moi aussi.

**La présidente:** Monsieur Belsher, aviez-vous une question à poser?

**Mr. Hochstadt:** It sounds good to me.

**Ms Jewett:** That sounds like a great idea.

**The Chairman:** Mr. Belsher, did you have a question?

**Mr. Belsher:** I just want to come back to make sure that I hear you correctly. I gathered that you are crying out for children with special needs, that we do not have it adequately covered in our educational system, and for the diagnostic part of it to take place at an early age. Do you see the greatest need in the current educational system or at the day care level?

**Ms Stewart:** I see both, actually. Because early diagnosis . . . The indicators for a learning disability show up in infancy and in the pre-school years. The day care operators, were they trained and had they a place to go once they were able to identify a potential learning-disabled child, had they a diagnostic centre where they could refer the child for special remediation according to that individual child's cluster of learning disabilities, and if the continuity would continue from that diagnostic centre to a prescription, either back in the day care setting and/or in the school system . . . I see that the continuity of care is pertinent to both the pre-school years and the school years. And it is a continuing thing. That learning disability—or presuming of special needs from the other parents' point of view—does not go away. It is not how you get over it; it is how you go around it.

**Mr. Belsher:** Thank you.

**The Chairman:** As parents of children with special needs, do you prefer that they can be taken into the rest of the groups as part of a group of children? Or would you prefer special care within the home for them? Which would be your preference?

**Mrs. Freda MacDonald:** Well, with my case, the best thing for my son is to be in the program with the other children, with the normal children because he feeds off of what the normal children are going to do. In order for me to try and get him to do what a normal child is going to do, the best thing for him is to be there. Now, for me to take him home and keep him home all day he is not going to learn. I cannot tell him and teach him how to act the age and the category he is supposed to act unless there is a child there to show him.

**The Chairman:** So he is better in the group situation.

**Ms Freda MacDonald:** Oh, yes; that is the place for him.

**The Chairman:** How about you, Kathy?

**M. Belsher:** Merci.

**La présidente:** En tant que parents d'enfants ayant des besoins spéciaux, préférez-vous que vos enfants restent avec les autres enfants, ou qu'ils soient confiés à un établissement spécialisé?

**Mme Freda MacDonald:** Dans le cas de mon fils, il vaut mieux, pour lui, participer au même programme que les autres enfants, parce qu'il réussit quand même à en tirer quelque chose. Pour qu'il puisse voir et comprendre le comportement d'un enfant normal, la meilleure chose pour lui est de rester avec les autres enfants. Si je le gardais à la maison, il n'apprendrait pas grand-chose. Je ne pourrais pas lui montrer comment un enfant de son âge est censé se comporter, et la meilleure façon, donc, c'est de l'envoyer avec les autres enfants.

**La présidente:** Il vaut donc mieux pour lui d'être en situation de groupe.

**Mme Freda MacDonald:** Exactement.

**La présidente:** Et vous, Kathy?