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ECHOES FROM THE FIELD

Lois Robinson

The Portage Public Schools have initiated a Reading Improvement Program. The basic philosophy underlying this program emphasizes a cooperative approach to developmental reading. The reading consultants assist the classroom teacher in analyzing the severe reading difficulties some children experience. These children then receive corrective instruction.

To help children relate the printed word to the spoken word teachers in the first grade at Lincoln Community School, Kalamazoo, Michigan, are using tape-recorded stories. Children look at the book or duplicated sheet while listening to the story from ear-phones.

Children who have difficulty learning to read often have different speech patterns than are found in printed reading materials, therefore, they cannot guess adequately at words or phrases printed in the books they are asked to read. At Lincoln Community School the children of low reading ability are writing their own stories which are typed and all who attend the Lincoln Reading Center read them.