

BABY UNIT:

The suggestion of some plan for caring for infants was made by Ira E. Nuzum, housing manager at Sunflower Village. He had received a number of inquiries about the possibility of such a service and felt that a definite need existed. It was his suggestion that some plan be worked out for care of babies by Village women in their own homes--the plan to be administered by the staff of the Child Service Building. Upon consulting several doctors this plan was discarded, since they were unanimous in the opinion that too much responsibility was being taken for a situation over which too little control could be exercised.

With the present large scale attempt by Hercules Powder Company to enlist more workers at S. O. W., the problem has become more acute. Plant officials have suggested the service several times as one which would be invaluable; numerous inquiries from parents about the availability of the service have come into the Child Service office. With this demand it was deemed wise to attempt to work out a feasible plan for the operation of a unit for care of infants.

It was found that a dwelling unit in the Village could be used to house the infant nursery. A four room unit will be used; one room is a kitchen, one will be used for baskets for very young babies, one will be used for cribs for older babies, and the fourth will be used as play space for the older babies. We plan to take infants between the ages of three and eighteen months. Children over the age of eighteen months will be accepted at the nursery school.

As with all the other services located at Sunflower Village, the baby nursery will be open twenty-four hours daily, seven days weekly. The fact that workers on the assembly line at S. O. W. are on rotating shifts (see discussion under nursery school units) makes this necessary.

On our present nursery school staff we have Mrs. Amanda Duffin, who was in charge of the nursery at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. The responsibility for the baby unit will be hers. She will be assisted by two other registered nurses, (one nurse, then, on each eight-hour shift) and by a lay person who will be on duty when the nurses take their weekly day off and at other times when needed.

The health of the infants will be scrupulously cared for: (1) physical examinations before enrollment is accepted; (2) constant observation by the staff of nurses. Isolation will be possible by the use of the isolation unit which will serve all of the child care facilities.

Mothers of babies still on formula will be asked to bring sufficient amounts when the baby is brought to last through the infant's hours in the nursery. It will then be the responsibility of the staff to warm the bottles and feed the babies. Food for the older babies will be prepared in the kitchen at the child care building and carried to the infant unit.

NURSERY SCHOOL UNITS AT VILLAGE:

The nursery school unit was opened at Sunflower Village on February 14, 1944, with seven children enrolled. In less than three months it has grown until over fifty children are in attendance. The nursery school is housed in the Child Service Building planned to accommodate two nursery school units. Since, at the present time, the extended care unit is also housed in the Child