



THE BLADE/NEFFAL LONG

Teacher Deb Rowland supervises a game of tag at Historic Brandville School.

LIVING HISTORY DAY CAMP

Students step back in time

Old-school education shows how pioneers lived

By MEREDITH BYERS

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Nick Krieger, 10, of Oregon was shocked to learn about life in the late 1800s in Ohio. "I can't believe that they didn't have things like TV," he said.

Children entering grades 3 through 5 were given an opportunity to learn about life in the early days during the Oregon-Jerusalem Historical Society's Living History Day Camp, a four-day program last week at the Historic Brandville School and Museum Complex in Oregon.

The camp featured a different theme each day.

On Tuesday, lessons were taught in a traditional one-



See SCHOOL, Page 2 Ben Andrus does a math exercise on a chalk slate.



Elizabeth Martin, center, and her friends Olivia Ickes, standing at left, and Ashia Owens examine the masks that they made on the last day of a weeklong program at the East Toledo Family Center to help children become better readers. The program was sponsored by the center and WGTE TV 30. The lessons are incorporated with the PBS program *Super Why!*, a literacy-oriented program for preschoolers.

THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

HARRIS-ELMORE

Historical materials will soon be online

BLADE STAFF

Historical documents from the Harris-Elmore Public Library's local history room soon will be available online.

The library, located at 328 Toledo St. in Elmore, will receive an Ottawa County Community Foundation grant to make some of the library's historical materials available online. There is also a branch of the Harris-Elmore library on 602 West St. in Genoa.

The grant will help cover costs for the library to digitize obituaries, marriage records, probate records, military records, photographs, newspaper clippings, and scrapbook items from Ottawa and Sandusky counties.

The library, one of 19 grant recipients, will receive \$1,950 to purchase software to begin the process. The Oak Harbor Public Library will receive the same grant, but for \$1,500.

Pam Hoesman, director of the

See LIBRARY, Page 2

'Raising Readers' outreach equates literacy with fun

By MEREDITH BYERS

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Cheryl Amborski, a preschool teacher at the East Toledo Family Center, knows the importance of making learning fun.

"You have to make learning exciting or the children won't respond," she said.

To prove this, the East Toledo Family Center and WGTE TV 30 are working together on a research project designed to find the most effective ways to teach young children how to read.

The weeklong program, called "Raising Readers," offers a prescribed curriculum that includes activities like Alphabet Bingo and teaching skills such as identifying letters and sounds, problem solving skills, learning the letters in

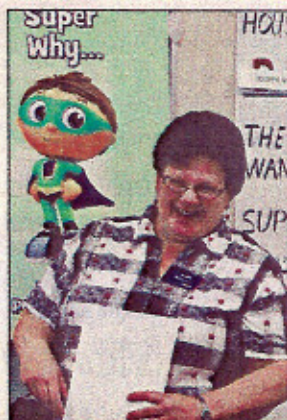
their names, opposites, and spelling activities.

The lessons are incorporated with the PBS program *Super Why!*, a literacy-oriented program for preschoolers.

"The children just love the music," said Sally Brinkman, a school readiness specialist with WGTE who helps out with the program.

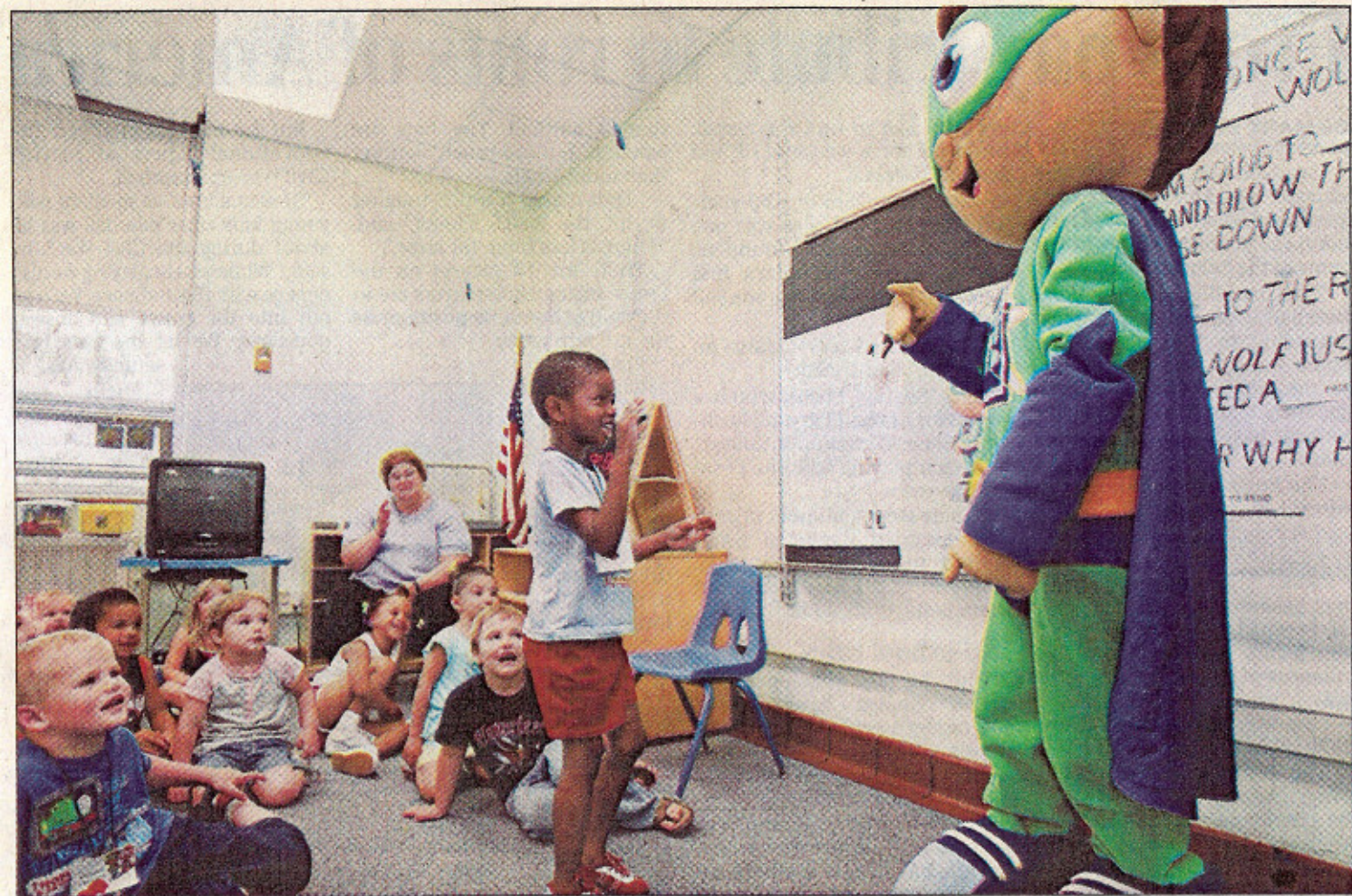
The reading program is part of a research project funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and managed by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

WGTE Public Media, a nonprofit organization providing media to northwest Ohio, west-central Ohio, and southeast Michigan, was selected



Sally Brinkman, a school readiness specialist with WGTE-TV, helps out with the program.

See READERS, Page 6



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

Isaac Green reacts to his meeting with Super Why! when the PBS character visited participants on the last day of the program.

Reading

Continued from Page 1

as one of the first five PBS member stations in the country as a partner in the new national PBS Kids Raising Readers literacy initiative.

Kathy Smith, the director of early learning and outreach for WGTE, said the station was selected because of the diversity of its viewing audience.

"One of the interesting things about our market is how ethnically diverse we are and how we

have so many different kinds of families," she said.

Only 20 stations were included in the grant, which is good for five years.

The local program is in its second year and was taught by Ms. Smith and Ms. Amborski, as well as Sally Brinkman and Lois Levison, both school readiness specialists for WGTE, and Tambria Williams, a childcare staff member of the family center in East Toledo.

Ms. Smith said that she held

a parent orientation to explain the program objective, because learning continues to occur even after the children leave the classroom.

The children have homework pages each night

A test follows each lesson, and the children have homework pages each night that follow up the day's activity.

The program aims to make the learning interactive.

The children, for example, play a variation of basketball where students pick up a piece of paper with a letter written on

it and are then asked to identify the letter and its sound.

Afterward, they crumple their letters into balls and get to make a basket.

Ms. Smith said the children who attended the recent program were recruited by the East Toledo Family Center, and most will begin kindergarten in the fall.

"We're looking at how we can use educationally rich media content and how kids who are living in low-income families will best respond to these messages," she said.