

## **Children & the Arts | Info Sheet**

1973, 22 minutes, color, Judith A. Rubin

### ***Full Description:***

Like "Operation Head Start," the Model Cities Creative Arts Program shown here was designed to help children in neighborhoods under socioeconomic stress where they were at high risk for the development of emotional problems. The program was directed by an art therapist (Judy Rubin), who supervised a talented collection of artists, teachers, and clinicians working in a variety of settings, including community centers, churches, and schools.

The film, like the programs it reflects, includes activities in music, dance, art, and drama--with an emphasis on the mental health values common to all.

The viewer will see how the arts come naturally to children, who can create spontaneously, but who need to practice and learn control in order to achieve competence. It stresses the feelings of well-being which accompany mastery, and the multicultural social benefits of participation in the arts with others.

Perhaps most relevant for therapists, the film demonstrates the many ways in which the arts help children to sublimate socially unacceptable impulses, in a variety of art forms--from the body (dance) to the sound (music) to the word (drama), to the symbol (art).

The sound track was improvised by three jazz musicians, one of whom (John Eskridge) was the coordinator for a center in Pittsburgh's Hill District, a place made famous by one of its sons, playwright August Wilson. His collaborators are two then-young jazz musicians, Spider Rondinelli (keyboards) and H.B. Bennett (drums), who went on to highly successful careers in Pittsburgh. The script was written and narrated by Judy Rubin.