## ent-A-Kid Growth Past xpectations, Chief Says

## **By PLU TRIBBLE** Editor

"Rent-A-Kid is going beautifully. Beyond all ectations," Southsider Mrs. Joy Ruyle, adistrator of the program, said in a recent inview. Began last summer to help West End s earn more money for essentials and for k-to-school necessities, the program has wn to encompass 11 locations with an enrollnt of 800 teenagers, ages 14-16.

The idea for renting kids for jobs originated Joy Ruyle's creative mind. But, she doubted could make it become a reality. With the

ouragement and help of Father Edward Dilthen with St. Anthony's Catholic Church in st End, Rent-A-Kid not only became a reality a thriving one which helped 400 young

ple last summer. Now, the program is a pilot project in metro anta, and if it works here this summer, the

gram will be instituted in all major cities of United States. From the success the pro-

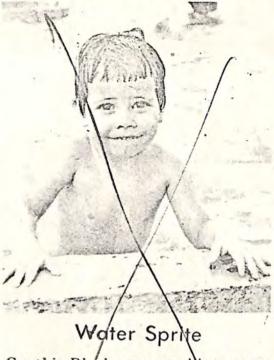
m is meeting at its one-third mark, Rent-Ashould become a national program next

"We are cataloging job titles and descripis of jobs which are available and accepta-" Joy said. These will be used to set up pro-ms elsewhere. Acceptable jobs, Mrs. Ruyle plained, are those which conform to federal I state child labor laws.

Some of the jobs handled by the teemagers baby sitting, ironing, cleaning, helping thers, assisting in packing for movers and packing, window washing, yard work, paint-under supervision, loading, unloading, stack-

ing, stuffing envelopes, most any kind of temporary,part time work.

The girls particularly like serving as party



Cynthia Rhodes emerges like a water sprite from the wading pool at the College Park Recreation Center. Cynthia. who will be four in August, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rhodes of College Park. (Photo by Bill Grimes)

## Rent-A-Kid

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Last year at the end of the program, Mrs Ruyle received a letter from one of the West End Rent-A-Kids, thanking her for the job opportunities. He said that means a lot to these teenagers

He had been able to buy shoes for all of his brothers and sisters and himself. He paid his locker fee at school. For the first time he had a gym suit. "Now I don't feel different," the young boy wrote. "I don't mind going to school

this year." "By helping teemagers at the age of 14 and 15, we can keep them from dropping out of school and joining the hard-core unemployed at the age of 16, before their motivation is killed,' Mrs. Ruyle said.

She estimates there are 30,000 kids in the metro area who want and need employment. There are not enough jobs for them. Industry and business can't absorb this many kids. "Rent-A-Kid is helping to fill the gap.

The program is funded this summer by the US Department of Labor and the Metro Atlanta Commission on Crime and Juvenile Delinquency. "This is the first time the US Department of

Labor has ever paid for any kind of program for kids younger than 16," Joy said.

Presently job orders and the kids enrolled in the program are about even. "We would like to have double the number of job orders we now have, Mrs. Ruyle said, "so before the summer is over we can enroll the 2000 teenagers we have slots for." As job orders increase, enroll-ment can be increased. ment can be increased.

Joy is optimistic that 2000 will be en-rolled in the program before summer ends. "If Atlanta keeps cooperating as it is now, we will get this many enrolled." She believes the only way Rent-A-Kid could fail anywhere is if a city is not open and warm in its reception of the program as Atlanta is.

The Optimsits Club in the metro area have given the program a big boost. They have fur-nished T-shirts with "Rent-A-Kid" across the front. After a teenager works eight hours on a job in the program, he is eligible for one of the shirts and wears it on his job.

A Rent-A-Kid orders are going through a central office this year. The phone number to call is 577-5252.

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toy. And a paper company, desperate for old pac ers to reprocess, is furnishing trucks at fou Rent-A-Kid locations and has hired six kids each center to work on the paper drive. T

Atlanta motels and hotels.

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paper drive locations, are Kirkwood, Disc. Hills, Forest Park and Perry Homes. Mrs. Ruyle said people can take their papto these locations or call Rent-A-Kid at 577-525 if they have too much paper to haul, and a true will come by and pick up the papers which c not have to be bundled or tied. This pick up se vice will be in effect the first two weeks of July

assistants," Mrs. Ruyle said. "They help in serving and cleaning up at parties." Presently the girls also provide baby sitting services at

Some of the job requests are a little unusua

the adminsitrator said. One caller asked for a baby sitter-for four St. Bernard dogs. A radio

station is using Rent-A-Kid to answer phone during a contest. Last week a department stor

hired three Rent-A-Kids to demonstrate a new

"The exciting thing about this program. Joy said, "is that it has opened a new lab market. It has stimulated jobs in an untoucr. area that will continue to provide employme for teenagers. The grass keeps growing. Pecc keep having babies. Dust keeps collecting."

The most satisfying aspect of the progra according to its administrator who is employment specialist for EOA, is what it meant and continues to mean to the kids. ults sometimes don't realize what is important to a young person," she said.