

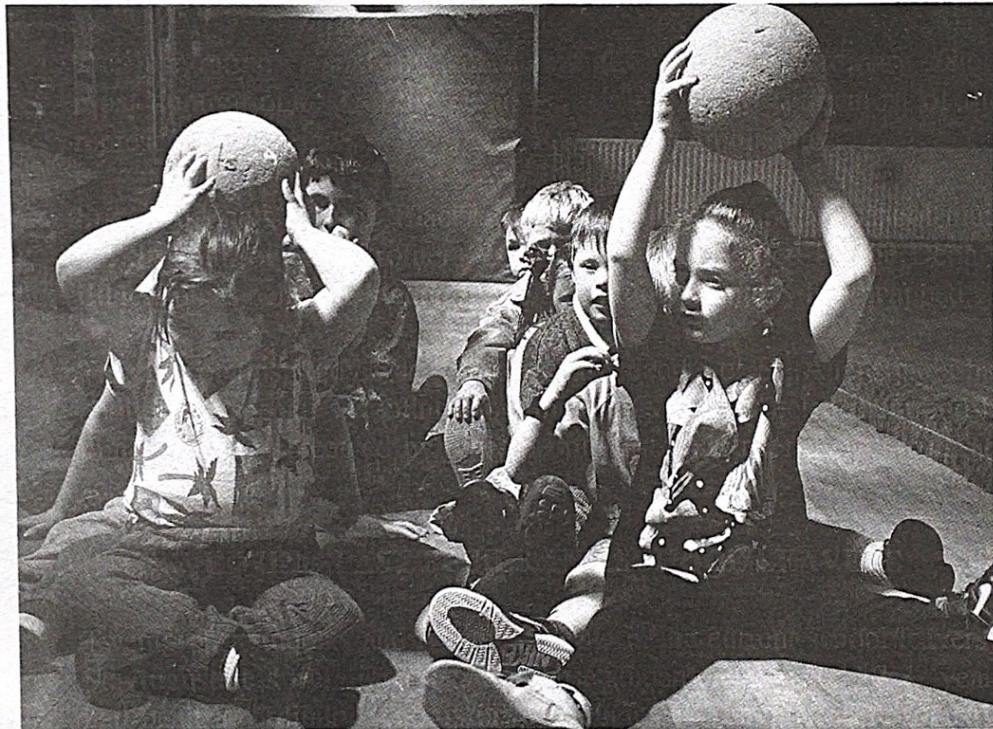
## Making Contact: Special and Ordinary Schools Working Together

For some time, children from the North Dublin National School Project (NDNSP) have been sharing timetabled classes and activities with children in St. Michael's House Special National School in Ballymun on a weekly basis. The activities, planned co-operatively by the teachers of both schools, include P.E. and games, swimming, art and craft, gardening and horticulture, educational outings and religious events.

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Some of the pupils of the North Dublin National School Project (NDNSP), Glasnevin, tell of their reactions to their shared classes in St. Michael's House.

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Children from St. Michael's House, Ballymun and the North Dublin National School Project, Glasnevin, in a joint P.E. activity.

*(Photo by Graham Masterson)*

## CHILDREN'S COMMENTS

It is nice to go to St. Michael's House to meet new friends because if you get to know them they will be friendly with you and play with you (*Claire, 6*).

My name is Caralosa and I'm in 5th class. During the year I went up to St. Michael's House to play hockey and football. I think it is a very good idea to be able to mix with the handicapped children. They are good fun, friendly and very good at sport. I like going to St. Michael's House and I hope I can go again (*Caralosa, 11*).

My name is Caoimhe. I am a twelve year old girl. I am in fifth class. When I went to St. Michael's House we played hockey with the people there. Twelve people in my class go in every term. Being there was good fun and we got a chance to meet new people. I think it's a good idea to let people like us meet people like them because there's really no difference between us (*Caoimhe, 12*).

I thought at first it would just be painting and sketching which I don't really like but I decided to go anyway. When we first walked in the door it looked good. The teachers, Mary and Marian, were very nice to us. So were the kids there. We first made paper plate puppets which were very good and they were fun too. We all straight away changed our minds about it. Now every Friday in school I look forward to going there. The kids talk to us a lot which is nice because we all like them. When the Easter break came we were all sad because there was no more art for a few weeks. I appreciate St. Michael's letting us use their time and materials (*Lara, 12*).

I like most of the children there and they are no different to any of us in the inside (*Audrey, 12*).