

Sister Mary Ann, principal of St. Patrick's Grade School, is excited to have Brain Gym® as a part of her school's curriculum. In her words, "To me, one of the best things about the in-school Brain Gym® classes is that no child is singled out or labeled. Everyone participates and everyone benefits. We noticed our students needed less repetition. We felt our students' listening skills improved. Use it; you'll like it. I encourage all educators to implement this program into their curriculum. Brain Gym® is something that should be in every school, it is an educational tool that should be used every day." Sister Mary Ann noticed her students were more focused, more confident and had less behavioral problems after doing the exercises.

Options Center was awarded a Chapter One Federal Grant to implement a Brain Gym® summer program at **Brimfield Public Grade School**. The participating group, consisting of students grades one through four, had been recommended for this unique summer school experience due to moderate or significant academic difficulties during the preceding school year. Initial testing consisted of Diagnostic Screening Tests by Slosson in Reading and Math and video filming of eight coordination movement exercises. The Slosson tests showed a 1.05 overall average grade gain in Reading and a 0.73 overall average grade gain in Math. Of the movement coordination skills, 5.4 of the 8 movement skills showed noticeable improvement.

In one of the teacher's words: "My disbeliefs have changed to praise for the efforts of the program and the results I have seen develop. The slumped shoulders and hung heads now walk tall with confidence; the jumping minds have calmed with self-composure as the previously inarticulate children communicate joyfully a wealth of new information. Parents are pleased to see their children ready for a much less frustrating school year, and I'm anxious to use what I have learned here in my classroom this coming year. I feel this unique summer school program was a complete success."

