

# AVCP administers Head Start programs

AVCP Head Start Director Marge Larsen tells of the Program's effort to improve the quality of programs available in villages.



"Show N View" AVCP Head Start Bethel

Nearly one million children of low-income families enter school for the first time each year. The nationwide HeadStart Program is designed to meet the emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs of these children. Providing services to meet these needs, the Association of Village Council Presidents administers four HeadStart Programs in Bethel, Pilot Station, Kotlik and Kupuk.

Through a comprehensive plan for child development, parent involvement, staff training and career development and the coordination of needed services with various local and state agencies, AVCP has provided a HeadStart Program in these villages for 76 families and their children between 3 to 5 years of age.

This school year AVCP has provided employment for 11 native staff people of these villages. A portion of these jobs are CETA funded while the others are program funded through



AVCP Head Start Bethel Dental Chair

the Division of Indian Migrant Programs which is the source of funding for other programs in Alaska also. Staff have received training and ongoing career development through a variety of workshops, college courses and training sessions throughout the year. It is expected that many of this year's staff will return to their jobs with AVCP HeadStart in the coming year.

Of the 79 children served this past year, 65 completed all medical screening, 72 received dental screenings and 66 completed all immunizations. Of those children not reached through program efforts, attempts will be made through the summer to complete these services prior to school openings in September, 1980.

Parents have received training and services at the local level as well as being given the opportunity to attend parenting skills sessions conducted throughout the year. Parents receive numerous materials and pub-

lications to aid them in their roles in their child's development. Each HeadStart center is aided by the Parent Committee which gives staff and parents a chance to be actively involved in the education of their children through group planning and operating activities. Many parents serve as members of the Policy Council and have a voice in administration and managerial decisions.

Handicapped children and their families receive a full range of HeadStart developmental services. All HeadStart staff members work closely with community agencies to provide needed services to meet the special needs of the handicapped child.

This summer AVCP HeadStart staff are launching an in-depth effort to improve the quality of their village programs. Planning and cooperation with parents and staff at all levels working arm in arm with the policy council will insure ongoing comprehensive delivery of services to the families and children we serve.



AVCP Head Start Class Bethel