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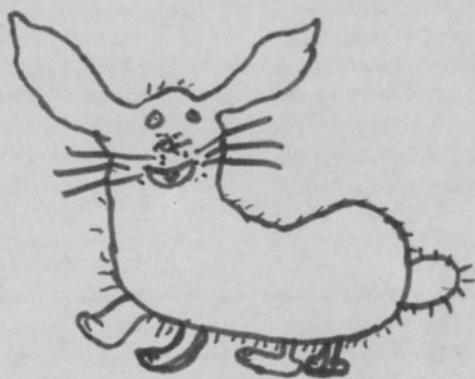## *How to Start a Treatment Program*

We have been providing day treatment for children for nearly 30 years and have accumulated an extensive list of questions that are commonly asked of us. One of the most common is, "How do you start up a program?" Another is, "What were the major problems during your early years, and how did you solve or attempt to solve them?" These obviously represent some of the most pressing questions around the organization and beginning of a day treatment center.

As the reader will see, many different patterns of start-up and financing are possible. The first chapter, by William Swan, a clinical psychologist, Mary Wood, a professor of special education, and Joan Jordan, an administrator in the State of Georgia Department of Education, contains information on building a unique statewide program for mental health services for children. Each of these authors was important in beginning this innovative model program. An important part of this comprehensive statewide service, in fact its cornerstone, is day psychiatric treatment. This is, perhaps, the only statewide model in the United States that makes day treatment an integral part.

The second chapter, by Laurel Kiser and David Pruitt, respectively, a clinical psychologist with a master's degree in business administration, and a child psychiatrist, recounts the experience of setting up a day treatment program in a university health sciences center and details the considerable assets and also some of the liabilities of such a venture. Each of them had an important role in starting up this unique program.

The third chapter investigates architectural considerations in the construction of a building that was specifically planned for a day treatment center for children. It is a rare opportunity to plan a day treatment center from the ground up, and in this chapter by Victor Hornbein, we are privy to the private musings of a thoughtful and sensitive architect whose primary concern is designing the best treatment setting possible.