Pleased by Interest

Dr. Dolce said he was especially pleased by the interest shown by classroom volunteers.

Mrs. Lucille Hayes, supervisor of the project, said “everything is rolling as if the classes had been open for three weeks.”

She said children will continue to be registered through Friday to allow centers with space left to take them.

Mrs. Hayes said some parents had experienced difficulty in obtaining birth certificates in time for Sunday’s deadline.

Parents registering children must present the child’s birth certificate and must agree to bring the child to and from school each day. They must also agree to take part in the educational program.

A total of 45 public schools are providing the special classes for some 3,500 children. The parish school board is working with Total Community Action Inc., the New Orleans Poverty Program agency.

More than 600 adults, including teachers, volunteers, team room mothers, social workers, doctors, dentists and nurses are taking part in the program.

Dr. Edwin Stumpf, acting director of the program for the school board, said the program will help those youngsters who come from homes where they are many children, from money and few books or other educational aids.

These are the children who begin a little behind their classmates when they report for kindergarten and gradually find the gap widening rather than being narrowed, he said.

“It’s our hope for these youngsters that they will never find themselves in the position of being 17 years old and still in junior high school. When that happens, dropping out of school is almost inevitable and society usually finds it has inherited a problem rather than an asset,” he said.

Dr. Stumpf said that by the end of the day Monday, an additional six teachers had been hired to handle the increasing influx of students.

He reported a few “red-eyed” youngsters who were apparently frightened at this first experience of being away from home.

“But for the most part, the children eagerly were entering into the scheme of things,” he said. “There was a good positive reaction to the first day of classroom activity.”

Headstart Gets Off to Good Beginning, Officials Agree

Registration to Continue Through Friday

Orleans Parish school officials agreed that Project Headstart, which offers pre-school training to children from disadvantaged homes, got off to a fine start Monday.

Dr. Carl Dolce, who will replace retiring Supt. O. Perry Walker next month, said he was “very pleased with the response of children, parents and teachers.”

Dr. Dolce said additional classes will be opened in some areas. He said he visited several of the special classes on their first day of operation and noticed overcrowded conditions in some.

“The project is off to a good start, particularly in view of the fact that it’s such a massive program began only a few weeks ago.”

Registration for Pre-School Project

Some 3,500 New Orleans youngsters began attending classes at 41 public schools. The operation is aimed at offering preschool training to children from underprivileged homes.