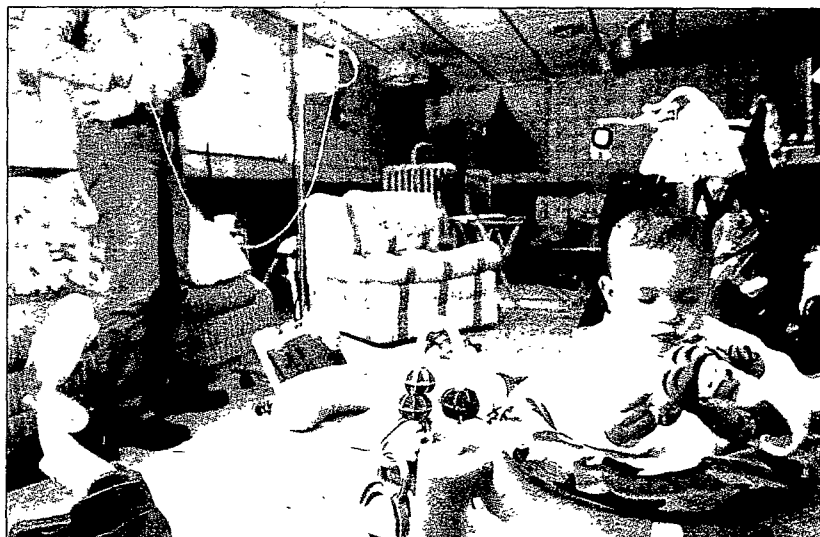




Massage therapist Julia Alaimo works with 2-year-old Nora Sample, who suffers from a genetic disorder. The disorder has caused Nora to have a heart defect as well as lack of muscle tone.



One-year-old Shaelyn Crispino (right) occupies herself with a stuffed toy as Waldman holds 1-year-old Jaron, who is being nourished through a feeding tube.



Child-care provider Cheryl Waldman holds 1-year-old Sean Brennan at Daystar, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pittsford. The bones of Sean's skull prematurely fused, and surgery was required to separate them. Sean also receives nourishment through a feeding tube because his esophagus did not finish growing to his stomach.

Photos by Karin von Voigtlander

ological damage caused by a difficult birth.