

each with their own rules. Our houses gave each family a private place in Bristol.

### GRANTS

26. Grants were given to any family suffering significant need. This was generally interpreted as:

- (i) unplanned admission with a new baby
- (ii) prolonged stay in Intensive Care
- (iii) transfer to a hospital away from Bristol
- (iv) any recommendation by a Social Worker.

Half of the cost of installation of a telephone was covered and the remainder was in almost every case funded by Social Services.

### PLAY

27. The provision of high quality play facilities for children admitted to hospital is of great importance to the Heart Circle. Upon until 1986, on the Cardiac Unit a volunteer play leader came several afternoons a week and organised simple play in the parents' dining-room.

28. When the Unit was upgraded in 1986 I tried to persuade the management to recognise the importance of a playroom away from the children's sleeping area and it was only when I sent a letter to everyone involved in the upgrading that I received a response. A small room was re-allocated for play and the Heart Circle fitted this out with a computer and relevant toys and games.

29. Shortly after this the first 'Hospital Play Therapist' was appointed, again with the support of Sister Julia Thomas and funded by the Heart Circle. Helen Passfield was appointed and not only did she prepare children for surgery through play, spend time with them in Intensive