



SIDEWALK CHALK in hand, Gabbie Vontz (above) helped color in a drawing of "OES is the Best" on a downtown sidewalk last Wednesday. Aspen Gallentine (below right) held the hand of Emily Pearson as they walked back to school.

Extended learning families draw with sidewalk chalk

Students from Oberlin Elementary School went downtown and drew pictures on the sidewalks with their "extended learning families" last Wednesday.

The family-style program, known at the school as "ELF," started five or six years ago, said Principal Duane Dorshorst. The idea is to give the younger kids a support

system in the school, including kids from other classes and possibly a teacher other than the one in their classroom.

For the older kids, he said, the groups give them responsibility to help with the younger students in the school.

The "families" get together once a month to do an activity, like side-

walk chalk drawing downtown.

The classes each get a chance to decide what activity they want to do one month, he said.

Normally the groups meet over the lunch hour. That way, he said, the kids can eat lunch together as well as doing an activity now and then.



SHAKIRA COOK crouched down as she thought about what to draw next.

