

Mental program working

TENNESSEE COLONY, Texas — A program to aid mentally impaired inmates is becoming a model for U.S. prisons, authorities say.

The program, begun under a court order issued by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler, offers nine months of training to inmates with IQs of less than 73, far below the average IQ of 100.

There are currently 326 inmates in the program, which provides a detailed education plan for each mentally retarded inmate and specialized training prior to their release from prison, is the first of its kind, said Miles Santamour, a specialist with the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.