

CRAIN'S

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REAL ESTATE DEALS

School for autistic kids books space

Largest facility in U.S. to open this fall on E. 30th; stationer inks 2nd SoHo deal

A FOR-PROFIT education company will open the country's largest school for autistic children this fall. The Rebecca School has signed a 20-year lease for

61,000 square feet at 40 E. 30th St., between Park Avenue South and Madison Avenue.

The 200-student school, a division of MetSchools, will occupy the basement through the seventh floor of the 12-story building and also will have a rooftop playground. The asking rent at the building is \$35 a square foot.

One in every 166 children is now diagnosed with autism, compared with one in every 10,000 children a

decade ago, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 600 families have already inquired about the school. The second-largest autism facility, in Michigan, has 110 children, says Tina McCourt, program director at the Rebecca School.

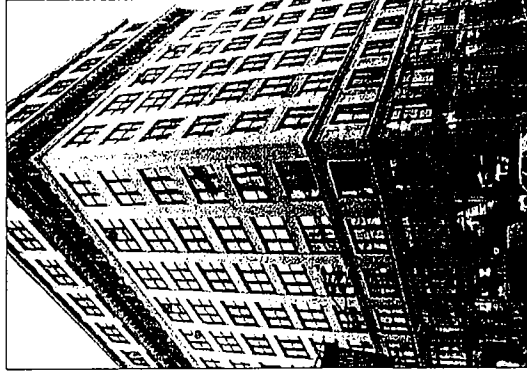
"The need is so overwhelming," Ms. McCourt says.

The Rebecca School's real estate search took a year to complete, says Howard Kessler, a senior managing

director at Newmark Knight Frank. "These are special-needs children, so we had to find a forward-thinking landlord that was willing to accommodate us," Mr. Kessler says. Among the school's requirements were low floors, an outdoor space and a private entrance.

Newmark represented both the landlord and the tenant in the deal.

The building, which is near the East 28th and East 33rd street subway stops on the No. 6 line, has



LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER: Kate's Paperie is locking in reasonable rents at 72 Spring St., its second site within just a couple of blocks.

40,000 square feet available for lease on floors eight through 12. The space, which comes with its own lobby and elevator banks, will become available in June.

"It is a building within a building that would be a good fit for any tenant that wants its own private space," says Scott Klau, an executive vice president at Newmark.

—JULIE SATOW