

Turntables in need of young DJs

Camps from 1B

Berry Recreation Center: students got frustrated very easily by having to use a textbook and learn the fundamentals of spinning tracks.

"Most of them thought that on Day One they would be able to do scratching," Parker said, referring to the distinctive sound that comes from moving a record back and forth on a turntable. "There's a lot more that goes into it. ... It's not as easy as it looks on TV."

It was a different scene at the West Charlotte Recreational Center, another location holding a DJ camp during this cycle. There, in an aging yellow cinderblock room normally used for senior nutritional seminars, Tracy Stateman ("Cat-X"), 41, drilled his students Thursday on the anatomy of the \$569 Battlepak turntable system, provided



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Nkosi Wallace, 14, spins a track during DJ camp at the West Charlotte Recreation Center. It took him three days to catch on.

to the camps by Sam Ash Music.

"You don't just want to know how to play the turntable, you

want to know where everything is," he instructed Jaimar Brown, 15, of Charlotte. "Pick your nee-

dles up!" he added as Jaimar came dangerously close to damaging a record.

The grant that allows students to attend for free helps a lot, Stateman said.

"It's a good incentive. ... We're looking at a hard, low-income area here," he said. "It's a whole positive outlook - getting the kids off the street where they could be doing something else."

Stateman said that of his nine students, perhaps four are seriously interested in being a DJ. After only three days, however, 14-year-old Nkosi Wallace caught on. Doo-ragged heads bobbed up and down across the room as Nkosi took his turn at spinning tracks.

Nkosi has his eye on a bigger prize at the front of the stage, though; he wants to be like his idol, Notorious B.I.G.

"I've always been about music and rap," he said. "If I don't get that, I can fall back on this."