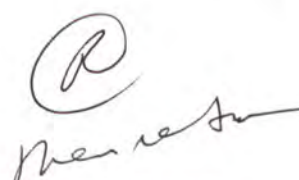




Bernard van Leer Foundation

P.O. Box 82334
2508 EH The Hague
The Netherlands


Executive Director

Ms Marjorie Craig-Benton
581 Ingleside Park
EVANSTON IL 60201
USA

The Hague, 24 January 1997

Dear Marjorie,

I understand that the President of the United States of America will visit The Netherlands towards the end of the month of May 1997. We would hope that the First Lady would join on this trip to The Netherlands and we would be extremely delighted if she could visit the Bernard van Leer Foundation at that time.

Let me mention a few points that may be relevant for a hopefully positive decision regarding such a visit:

1. the Bernard van Leer Foundation is a world-wide operating foundation supporting innovative approaches to enhance the development of children that are socially, culturally and economically disadvantaged. The Foundation at present has programmes in approximately 50 countries in North America, South America, Africa, Asia and Europe. Some relevant materials are attached;
2. one of these countries is the USA, where the Foundation has been active for the last 25 years, funding projects dealing with family support systems, teenage pregnancies, maternal health, child-centred violence prevention, anti-bias education and community based early childhood development. Presently projects are operational in Boston, New York, Baltimore, Hartford, Philadelphia, the Appalachian region/Mississippi delta and the Glades;
3. the Bernard van Leer Foundation has an international Board of Trustees with two members coming from the US. We are particularly proud to have you on the Board of the Foundation as the President and the First Lady are well aware of the crucial role you have played in the US society at large and the Democratic Party in particular;
4. the Bernard van Leer Foundation has worked and is working in partnership with many US foundations (for example, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, C.S. Mott Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation), US government (local, state and federal level), US based multilateral and international organisations (for example, The World Bank, Unicef, Inter American Development Bank), US universities and a wide range of US NGOs;
5. the Bernard van Leer Foundation has financially supported in 1995 and 1996 the Family Reunion Conferences moderated by Vice President Al Gore and has participated in such conferences together with you as our Trustee;



6. the Ford Foundation has decided to produce a video about historic moments in philanthropy as seen through the vision of the founders of major foundations. The video will form the opening of the 1997 Annual Conference of the US Council on Foundations in Hawaii. Although the video will focus on well-known American philanthropists, a part will be devoted to Bernard van Leer. This week I was interviewed by two US media producers to this effect;
7. the Bernard van Leer Foundation has been visited by and has made presentations to a variety of important people from all over the world, like members of the Dutch Royal Family, the First Lady of Chile and Mrs Elaine Wolfensohn (the wife of the President of the World Bank);
8. personally I am not only Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Board Member of the European Foundation Center in Brussels and President of the Hague Club (i.e. the association of foundation executives in Europe) but also the first European to be a member of the board of the US Council on Foundations in Washington DC and Chairman of the International Committee of the US Council on Foundations.

We would consider it a great honour if the First Lady of the United States could visit the Foundation for a presentation of our work on behalf of young children in the world, including in the United States. Of course we would be pleased if she would make a few remarks, and we would be delighted to invite other guests from The Netherlands that she would like to meet with.

Best regards,

Rien van Gendt
Executive Director

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Annual



Review



1995



Changing the nature of

television for children

Growing up in France

Promoting resilience in children

What is a project

Annual and financial reports

Bernard van Leer Foundation

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Publications & videos Publicaciones & videos

from the Bernard van Leer Foundation



January 1996



We are your children: the Kushanda early childhood education and care dissemination programme Zimbabwe, 1985 - 1993

Salih Booker

The Kushanda Project takes its name from the Shona expression, *Kushandisa zviripo*, which means 'to use what is there', or, 'to make what is there work'. This saying not only captures the Project's spirit of self-reliance, but also the fact that for the children of Zimbabwe's rural majority, early childhood services were only likely to become accessible if their parents learned how to use the material and human resources available in the immediate environment to make community-based pre-schools a reality. Kushanda's mission was to show how this could be done.

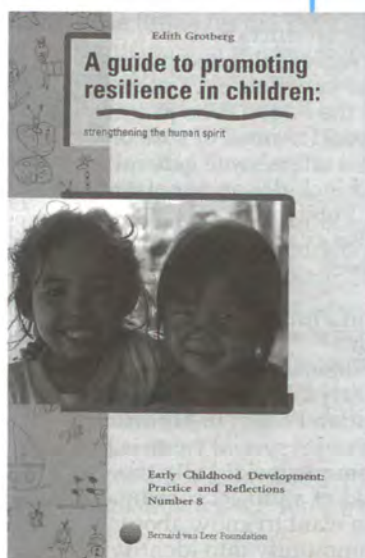
Early Childhood Development: Practice and Reflections No 7.
Published August 1995. 88 pages. ISBN 90-6195-036-8

A guide to promoting resilience in children: strength- ening the human spirit

Edith Grotberg, Ph.D.

Resilience is a universal capacity which allows a person, group or community to prevent, minimise or overcome the damaging effects of adversity. Results from 14 countries that participated in the International Resilience Project show that fewer than half of the adults caring for children promote resilience in them. This Guide, based on the findings, will help individuals and programmes to incorporate the promotion of resilience into their work with children.

Early Childhood Development:
Practice and Reflections No 8.
Published October 1995.
56 pages ISBN 90-6195-038-4



Enhancing the skills of early childhood trainers

Kate Torkington with Cassie Landers

This Training Pack consists of five separately bound parts: 1. Introduction; 2. Delivering effective training; 3. Guide to the development of the young child; 4. Rationale for experiential/participatory methods; 5. Resources.

The Pack is intended to persuade, not to prescribe, and can be used by individual trainers for self-learning, or by groups of trainers. Developed by the Foundation, it was co-published with UNESCO in 1995.

It is available only from
UNESCO Publishing,
Promotion and Sales
Division
1 rue Miollis
70032 Paris Cedex 15,
France.
Fax 33.1.4273 3007
ISBN 92-3-103130-9
Price French Francs 150.



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Bernard van Leer Foundation **Newsletter**

Number 84 October 1996

Children touched by violence



children have a right to expect loving care from their parents (Nicaragua)

Violence takes many forms, and can be seen as a continuum that starts with a slap given to a child through to the worst kinds of devastating violence that children suffer in war. And it appears to have

a similarly wide range of causes: social injustice, marginalisation, poverty, ignorance, the dynamics of society, discrimination, political systems, attitudes towards women and so on. While projects and organisations working on the 'frontline' provide valuable experiences, most of the available research on violence and children comes from American and European sources. Though the settings of the projects and the research may be different, there are sufficient similarities between them to draw parallels.

Any projects working in disadvantaged areas increasingly have to cope with violence in the course of their work. Because of this the Foundation is interested to learn from the projects that it supports and others about the issues at stake, and about ways of effectively working with children and their families and communities in situations of violence. We welcome any ideas or experiences that you may wish to contribute; and will also consider them for publication in future *Newsletters*.

In this edition, we look at violence, and its physical and psychological effects, in the family, in child care centres and schools, and in the community.

The home – a safe haven?

... families constitute the training ground for aggression. If families do not instil non-violent values in their children, those children are more likely to develop violent behaviours as they become adults.¹

This quote reinforces the fact that homes can be poles apart. For most children they are a haven of love, happiness, and security; but for a disturbing

In this issue

Children touched by violence: some of the ways that children experience violence and are affected by it; together with ways of dealing with it.

With contributions from **Jamaica** page 4; **South Africa** page 6; **Mexico** page 8; **Thailand** page 8; **Venezuela** page 11; **Nicaragua** page 13

Network News page 14

Reports from the field: **Europe:** anti-bias training in the early years p16; **Australia:** Aboriginal pre-school teacher training page19; **Malaysia:** training project page 20; **Zambia:** the environment and messy play page 21