

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	Nicole Rabner to Geraldine Barton (partial) (1 page)	05/20/1997	P6/b(6)
001b. letter	Nicole Rabner to Rose Niles (partial) (1 page)	05/20/1997	P6/b(6)
001c. letter	Nicole Rabner to Olin Thornton (partial) (1 page)	05/20/1997	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Domestic Policy Council (Nicole Rabner)
OA/Box Number: 15415

FOLDER TITLE:

Nicole Rabner/Hillary Rodham Clinton Letters on [Early Childhood Development]
Conference

2012-1035-S

kc1045

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Pam 3/14

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

GREER, MARGOLIS,
MITCHELL, BURNS
GMMB&A
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

May 5, 1997

Ms. Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy
Office of The First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Nicole:

Just a short note to thank you for all of your help during the Conference.

I can't imagine the number of people who must have been pulling on you, but you really came through.

Everyone I've talked to shared the belief that the Conference was first rate. You, and the rest of your office, should be very proud.

For all of your help, you have my sincere thanks.

Best regards,


JIM MARGOLIS

You're the best!

MEMORANDUM

sent

TO: Alice Pushkar, Katie Barry
FROM: Nicole Rabner
RE: Follow-up to White House Conference on Early
Childhood Development and Learning

Would you please send a thank you notes from Mrs. Clinton to the attached list of 20 people who were instrumental to the success of the regional satellite conferences of the April 17th White House Conference? It would be a nice gesture to enclose a Conference transcript, as well. Please let me know. Thank you.

Suggested language for the note:

I want to thank you for your hard work on the satellite conference of the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. The nearly one hundred satellite conferences that took place across the country made the event a truly national conference, bringing together diverse groups of community and business leaders, advocates, experts, and policy-makers, to pause to consider the profound importance of the earliest years of life.

Parents want to do right by their children, and we all have a role to play in making sure they have the tools they need to do the best job they can. I hope that the White House conference played a role in making the latest scientific research more accessible and understandable to America's families. And I thank you for doing your part to spotlight this important issue.

Other language:

The Conference was a call to action to parents, to businesses, to caregivers, the media, the faith community and the government, each to do their part to enhance the earliest years of life. The Conference grew out of the President's commitment to find new ways to support parents and help their children reach their God-given potential.

Region 1

Elaine Guiney

SBA

10 Causeway St.

Room 812

Boston, MA 02222-1093

(617) 565-8415

Thank you

Region 2

Allison Greene

US Dept. of Health and Human Services

26 Federal Plaza

3835

New York, NY 10278

(212) 264-2600

⑤ Lisa Wager
26 Federal Plaza
Suite 18-102
New York, NY 10278

Region 3

Lynn Yeakel

US Dept. of Health and Human Services

3535 Market St.

Room 11480

Philadelphia, PA 19104

(215) 596-6492

Region 4

Barbara Kelly

US Dept. of Labor

6B75 Atlanta Federal Center

61 Forsyth St., SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 562-2000

⑥ Patricia Ford-Roegner
101 Marietta Tower Bldg.
Suite 1515
Atlanta, GA 30323

18th and F Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20405

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Region 5

Stephanie Jones
US Dept. of Education
111 N. Canal St.
Suite 1094
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 886-8215

⑬ Brent Hoffman

→ same address

Region 6

John Pouland
GSA
819 Taylor St.
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 978-22321

→ ⑭ George Hozendorf
GSA

819 Taylor St.

Fort Worth, TX

Region 7

Sandra Walker
US Dept. of Education
10220 N. Executive Hills Blvd.
Suite 720
Kansas City, MO 64153
(816) 880-4000

→ Woody Overton
GSA

1500 East Bannister Rd.

Kansas City, MO

64131

Region 8

Lynn Simons
US Dept. of Education
1244 Speer Blvd.
#310
Denver, CO 80204
(303) 844-3544

Region 9

Jennifer Peck
US Dept. of Education
50 United Nations Plaza, Room 205
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 437-7526

Region 10

Rick Desimone
GSA
400 15th St., SW
GSA Center
Auburn, WA 98001
(206) 931-7020

Names and Addresses for Thank-You letters from POTUS for White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning, April 17, 1997.

Dr. Donna Dailey
Director of Child Development Unit
University of Kansas Medical Center
3901 Rainbow Blvd
Kansas City, Kansas 66160-7340
Phone: (913) 588-5900

Dr. Eugene Eubanks
Professor, Education/Urban Affairs
University of Missouri Kansas City
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64110
Phone: (816) 235-2448

Ms. Barb Friedmann
Executive Director
Coalition for Positive Family Relationships
6811 West 63rd Street, Suite 808
Overland Park, Kansas 66203
Phone: (913) 362-6611

Dr. Howard Kilbride
Chief, Section of Neonatal Medicine
Children's Mercy Hospital 2401 Gillham
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
Phone: (816) 234-3124

Ms. Mary Kay McPhee
Past Chair/Women's Center
1205 West 76th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64114
Phone: (816) 363-2538

Ms. Doris Threatt
Business Administrator
Truman Medical Center
2301 Holmes
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
Phone: (816) 5556-3000

*Specific to
Kansas City
Satellite Conference*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Ms. Barbara Lambroza
Managing Director
MacDonald Communications Corporation
135 West 50th Street
New York, N.Y. 10020

Dear Ms. Lambroza:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Judsen Culbreth, Editor-in-Chief of Working Mother, inviting Mrs. Clinton to speak at the Work/Family Congress on September 15 and 16 in New York City. I have forwarded the invitation to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady, for consideration.

Best wishes in your important efforts to honor family friendly workplace practices. Please keep us updated on your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

cc: Patti Solis Doyle
Director of Scheduling for the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Dr. Christine Johnston
Department of Educational Leadership
Rowan College
201 Mullicxa Hill Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701

Dear Dr. Johnston:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

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[001a]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Ms. Geraldine Barton

P6/(b)(6)

Lillington, NJ 07946

Dear Ms. Barton:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. letter	Nicole Rabner to Rose Niles (partial) (1 page)	05/20/1997	P6/b(6)

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[0016]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Mr. Rose Niles

P6/(b)(6)

Rye Brook, NY 10573

Dear Dr. Niles:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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[001c]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Mrs. Olin Thornton

P6/(b)(6)

Amarillo, TX 79106

Dear Mrs. Thornton:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Mr. Robert N. Schmidt
President, Cleveland Medical Devices Inc.
11000 Cedar Avenue
Suite 439
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Dr. Evelyn G. Lipper
Department of Pediatrics
Director, Child Development
The New York Hospital - Cornell Medical Center
525 East 68th Street
Room N-1101
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Dr. Lipper:

Thank you for your kind letter regarding the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. I was gratified to learn that you found the conference useful and interesting. Thank you also for your interest in two efforts discussed at the conference - the Prescription for Reading program and the military child care initiative. I hope the enclosed transcripts and background information provide you with useful information. For more information on the military child care, I recommend you contact Linda Smith, Director of the Office of Family Policy at the Pentagon, at (703) 696-5733. To follow up on the Prescription for Reading effort, please feel free to call Dr. Barry Zuckerman, who runs an innovative program called Reach Out and Read, which seeks to encourage pediatricians to "prescribe" reading to the parents of their young patients. Dr. Zuckerman is reachable at (617) 534-5701.

In addition, please feel free to call me at (202) 456-6266 with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Dr. Robert C. Titzer
Department of Kinesiology
Southeastern Louisiana University
Hammond, LA 70403

Dear Dr. Titzer:

Thank you very much for your letter to the First Lady regarding your research on early brain development and for your interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. I regret that we received your letter too late to give your request for participation in the conference full consideration. Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference proceedings. The conference report will be forwarded to you when completed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1997

Dr. Charles Weiss
County Superintendent of Schools
Ventura County Superintendant
Administrative Services Center
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012

Dear Dr. Weiss:

Thank you for your kind letter and for expressing interest in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children. We are completing a Conference report, which we will forward to you soon. In the meantime, enclosed please find the transcript of the conference proceedings.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1997

Dr. Steven Marans
Yale University Child Study Center
Yale University
Post Office Box 207900
New Haven, CT 06520-7900

Dear Dr. Marans,

Please accept my belated thanks for your advice on and assistance with the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Mr. Melvin Wearing spoke eloquently about the need throughout the justice system for increased understanding of children's development and pointed to New Haven's impressive example. I have enclosed a copy of the Conference transcript, which I thought might interest you.

Thank you also for sharing the materials on the Yale project, and for the copy of your book, The Police-Mental Health Partnership. I very much look forward to reading it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nicole Rabner", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Mr. Matthew Melmed
Executive Director
Zero to Three National Center for
Infants, Toddlers and Families
723 15th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20005-1013

Dear Matthew,

I want to thank you so much for all your wise counsel and support during the planning of the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. We were proud to have the Zero the Three poll released in conjunction with the White House conference. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you and your wonderful staff.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Ms. Ellen Galinsky
Co-President
Families and Work Institute
330 Seventh Avenue
14th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Dear Ellen,

I want to thank you so much for all your wise counsel and support during the planning of the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. We were proud to have *Rethinking the Brain* released in conjunction with the White House conference. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Mr. Michael Levine
Program Officer
Education and Healthy Development
of Children and Youth
Carnegie Corporation of New York
437 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Michael,

I want to thank you so much for all your wise counsel and support during the planning of the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner

Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Mr. Rob Reiner
CastleRock Entertainment
335 North Maple Drive, Suite 130
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Rob,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and pleasure to work with you. As the First Lady noted at the Conference, your commitment to and passion for this issue is contagious and admirable.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole".

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Mr. Arnold Langbo
Chairman of the Board and CEO
Kellogg Company
One Kellogg Square
P.O. Box 3599
Battle Creek, MI 49016

Dear Mr. Langbo,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicole Rabner", followed by a horizontal line.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Mr. Melvin Wearing
Chief of Police
1 Union Avenue
New Haven, CT 06519

Dear Mr. Wearing,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rabner", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. Gloria Rodriguez
President and CEO
Avance Family Support and Education Program
301 South Frio, Suite 380
San Antonio, TX 78207

Dear Dr. Rodriguez,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicole Rabner".

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Ms. Harriet Meyer
Executive Director
Ounce of Prevention Fund
122 South Michigan Avenue
Suite 2050
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Harriet,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

*It was a pleasure to sit with you at lunch
and hear about The Ounce's extraordinary work.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. Deborah Phillips
Director of the Board on Children, Youth
and Families of the National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Harris Building, Room 156
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Deborah,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you. I hope you won't mind if we call on you again for advice and counsel in planning the White House Conference on Child Care.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. Patricia Kuhl
Professor and Chair
Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences
University of Washington
1417 NE 42nd Street
Seattle, WA 98105-6246

Dear Pat,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

Pat, your presentation was exceptional - thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. Ezra Davidson
Professor and Chairman
Department of OBGYN
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
12021 South Wilmington Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Dear Dr. Davidson,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicole Rabner", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton
Professor of Pediatrics Emeritus
Harvard Medical School
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02163

Dear Dr. Brazelton,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

Thank you again for all your advice.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

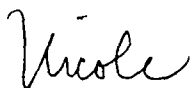
Dr. Carla Shatz
Professor of Neurobiology
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Carla,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

Carla, your presentation was truly exceptional.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. Donald Cohen
Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Psychiatry,
Pediatrics and Psychology
Yale University
Post Office Box 207900
New Haven, CT 06520-7900

Dear Dr. Cohen,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

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Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 1997

Dr. David Hamburg
President
Carnegie Corporation of New York
437 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Dr. Hamburg,

On behalf of the First Lady, I want to thank you for participating in the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. Please know how grateful we are to you for being so generous with your time and for lending your expertise and enthusiasm to the event. On a personal note, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with you.

Enclosed please find a transcript of the conference, as well as an extra copy of the formal program. Please feel free to call on me at 202/456-6266 if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Rabner
Associate Director for Domestic Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1997

Dr. Jerome Kagan
Daniel and Amy Starch
Professor of Psychology
Harvard University
William James Hall
33 Kirkland Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-2044

Dear Dr. Kagan:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and advice about our planning for the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning. I appreciated your candor and share your concern that we use the emerging knowledge on early childhood development to its best advantage, and guard against the unintended consequences you outlined.

My hope is that the White House Conference will help to reinforce the message that how we as a society care for our children in their earliest years of life is critically important. The explosion of research in this area has a great deal to contribute to this discussion, and has an important role to play in public policy development. At the same time, the research reinforces what many parents know instinctively -- that stimulating children appropriately is good for their development.

Please know that we will continue to keep your advice in mind. I have taken the liberty to share with you a copy of a recent speech I gave on this subject to the Society for Research in Child Development.

With best wishes and gratitude for your support, I am

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

Enclosure

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

JEROME KAGAN
Daniel and Amy Starch
Professor of Psychology

WILLIAM JAMES HALL
33 KIRKLAND STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138-2044
OFFICE: 617-495-3870
FAX: 617-495-3728

March 17, 1997

Ms. Hilary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20599

Dear Ms. Clinton:

I learned today through a conversation with a television journalist and an article in this week's New Yorker magazine that you and the President are planning a meeting in late April on the brain and education. I am a developmental psychologist who has studied children for over 40 years and hope that the following comments, which will be brief, will be helpful to you as you plan the meeting.

There is no question that the brain sciences have made dramatic advances over the last several decades. My colleagues and I celebrate these scientific victories. However, it is still far from clear that this new knowledge has obvious implications for the vast majority of American infants. There is no question that a proportion of American infants -- probably no more than 10 to 15 percent -- are not receiving the proper amount of play, stimulation, and predictability necessary for healthy development in contemporary American society. I applaud the administration's efforts to correct this very undesirable state of affairs.

However, it is less clear that the vast majority of American infants are deprived of the proper amount of stimulation and play necessary for healthy growth. I fear that a White House conference that adopted the position taken by the February 3 issue of Time magazine would be dangerous and create a great deal of worry and guilt in perfectly adequate mothers. The vast majority of American mothers are loving and provide their young children with sufficient stimulation and nurture for their healthy development. It would be undesirable if the prestige of the White House was used to imply that these mothers could do even more to help their infant's growth. Consider an analogy with vitamin C. If a child is not receiving the minimum daily requirement of vitamin C, the child's health is compromised. However, for the vast majority of children who are receiving adequate amounts of vitamin C, further administration of vitamin

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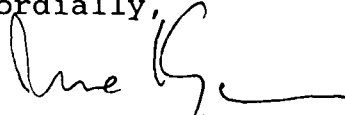
Ms. Hilary Rodham Clinton
March 17, 1997

C is of no benefit. The reporter who wrote the Time magazine article was exaggerating in a major way by suggesting that every time a mother looked at her infant a synapse closed and the baby's brain moved a little bit closer to perfection.

You and the President are well aware of the fact that the major problem in the United States is the increasing gap between the children of the poor and the children of the middle class. That gap must be closed if our society is to prosper and avoid future difficulties. That goal is not enhanced by causing middle-class mothers to worry that they are not providing their young children with enough stimulation. Middle-class mothers will take that advice seriously; the uneducated mothers living in poverty will not and our efforts must be directed at this latter group.

I have been and continue to be a supporter of the Democratic Party and a fan of both the President and yourself. I applaud your efforts to heal our society and hope that these comments will be helpful as you plan the April meeting.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome Kagan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerome Kagan

JK:pcm

March 26, 1997

Mr. John M. Doe
Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, State 20001-Zip

Dear John:

Thank you for your interest in the *White House Conference on Early Childhood Development and Learning: What New Research on the Brain Tells Us About Our Youngest Children*. As President Clinton announced in his State of the Union Address, he and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will host this conference to showcase current scientific research on early brain development and to examine the applications of this research for parents, caretakers, and policy makers. Announcing this Conference, the President said, "Learning begins in the first days of life. Scientists are now discovering how young children develop emotionally and intellectually from their very first days, and how important it is for parents to begin immediately talking, singing, even reading to their infants." (February 4, 1997)

Over the past weeks, the President's announcement has generated a great deal of interest. We have heard from experts, grassroots practitioners and concerned citizens from around the country. It is hoped that the White House Conference will play a role in equipping parents and child caretakers, as well as those in the medical, business, and faith communities, with the best information on how to enhance children's development during their earliest years of life.

The conference will be held Thursday, April 17, 1997. Although space is limited for this event, we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to forward written comment or supplemental materials to:

Ann Eder
Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20502

The President and Mrs. Clinton appreciate your interest
in this most important topic.

Sincerely yours,

Alice J. Pushkar

Alice J. Pushkar
Director of Correspondence
for the First Lady

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by state
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