

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. schedule	re: Schedule of the President for Thursday, April 17, 1997 [partial] (2 pages)	04/17/1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Staff Secretary
Todd Stern
OA/Box Number: 11210

FOLDER TITLE:

Events-Childcare [1997]

2019-0774-S

rs3401

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-17-97

*Events
Childcare*

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997 FINAL

Note: The Weekly Economic Briefing will be on paper.

9:30 am-	MEETING with Erskine Bowles
9:45 am	MAP ROOM
9:45 am-	BRIEFING with Sandy Berger
10:00 am	MAP ROOM
10:00 am-	BRIEFING with Bruce Reed, Melanne Verveer
10:30 am	MAP ROOM
10:35 am-	MEET AND GREET
10:45 am	BLUE ROOM

NOTE: The first session of the Early Childhood Conference is on satellite. The satellite ends at 1:10 pm.

10:50 am-	WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY
1:00 pm	CHILDHOOD
	EAST ROOM
1:10 pm-	MEETING with Stephanie Streett
1:15 pm	OVAL OFFICE
1:15 pm-	MEETING
2:00 pm	CABINET ROOM
2:00 pm-	PHONE/OFFICE TIME
2:45 pm	OVAL OFFICE
2:45 pm-	WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY
4:30 pm	CHILDHOOD
	EAST ROOM

NOTE: The First Lady is scheduled to address the White House Conference on Early Childhood Reception between 5:15 - 5:45 pm on the South Lawn.

4:30 pm-	PHONE/OFFICE TIME
6:30 pm	OVAL OFFICE
	EVENING OFF
BC AND HRC RON	THE WHITE HOUSE

COPY

Thursday, April 17, 1997

10:35 AM

White House Conference
on Early Childhood

- Event Memo/Panel Bios Tab A
- Opening Remarks Tab B
- Panel 1 "Script" Tab C
- Closing Remarks for Panel 1 Tab D
- Panel 2 "Script" Tab E
- Closing Remarks Tab F
- Background
 - Audience List Tab G
 - Administration Accomplishments Tab H
 - Zero-to-3 Poll Summary Tab I

Option:
Between
5:15 PM and
5:45 PM

White House Conference
on Early Childhood Reception
and Remarks

Tab J
To Be
Forwarded

'97 APR 16 PM6:48

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997

FINAL

SCHEDULING DIRECTOR:

STEPHANIE STREETT

HOME: 202-332-5651

OFFICE: 202-456-2823

WHCA PAGER: 4033

PRESS COORDINATOR:

JEREMY GAINES

HOME: 202-362-5475

OFFICE: 202-456-5771

WHCA PAGER: 4194

WEATHER:

Washington, DC

Cloudy with a chance of rain. Wind northwest at 15 to 20 knots. Low 46 to 51. High 52 to 57.

April 16, 1997 (6:20pm)

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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**SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1997
FINAL**

Note: The Weekly Economic Briefing will be on paper.

8:00 am-
9:00 am

(b)(6)

9:30 am-
9:45 am

MEETING
MAP ROOM
Staff Contact: Erskine Bowles

9:45 am-
10:00 am

BRIEFING
MAP ROOM
Staff Contact: Sandy Berger

10:00 am-
10:30 am

BRIEFING
MAP ROOM
Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Melanne Verveer

10:35 am-
10:45 am

MEET AND GREET
BLUE ROOM
Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Melanne Verveer
Event Coordinator: Sarah Farnsworth-Burke
WHITE HOUSE PHOTO ONLY

NOTE:	The first session of the Early Childhood Conference is on satellite. The satellite ends at 1:10 pm.
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10:50 am-
1:00 pm

**WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY
CHILDHOOD**
EAST ROOM
Remarks: Carolyn Curiel
Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Melanne Verveer
Event Coordinator: Sarah Farnsworth-Burke
POOL PRESS

- **The President** and the First Lady are announced into the East Room and proceed to the podium.
- The First Lady makes welcoming remarks and introduces **the President**.
- **The President** makes remarks.

1:10 pm-
1:15 pm

2:00
1:15 pm-
2:00 pm
2:45

1:15
2:00 pm-
2:45 pm
2:00

2:45 pm-
4:30 pm

- **The President** and the First Lady proceed to their seats at the table.
- **The President** opens a discussion with participants.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, **the President** concludes the session and departs.

MEETING
OVAL OFFICE
Staff Contact: Stephanie Streett

BUDGET
MEETING
CABINET ROOM
Staff Contact: Erskine Bowles

PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EAST ROOM
Remarks: Carolyn Curiel
Staff Contact: Bruce Reed, Melanne Verveer
Event Coordinator: Sarah Farnsworth-Burke
POOL PRESS

- **The President** and First Lady, Vice President and Mrs. Gore are announced into the East Room and take their seats.
- Mrs. Gore makes welcoming remarks and introduces the Vice President.
- The Vice President makes remarks and invites the First Lady to moderate the discussion.
- The First Lady introduces the panel participants and opens a discussion.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, **the President** concludes the session.
- **The President** and the First Lady, Vice President and Mrs. Gore depart.

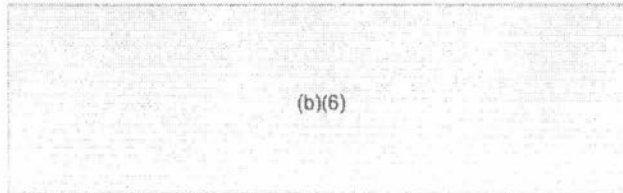
NOTE: The First Lady is scheduled to address the White House Conference on Early Childhood Reception between 5:15 - 5:45 pm on the South Lawn.

4:30 pm-
6:00 pm

PHONE/OFFICE TIME
OVAL OFFICE

6:00 pm-
7:00 pm

8:00 pm



BC AND HRC RON

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 16, 1997

CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

DATE:	April 17, 1997
LOCATION:	The East Room
TIME:	1st Panel: 10:45 am - 1:00 pm 2nd Panel: 2:45 pm - 4:30 pm
FROM:	Bruce Reed/Elena Kagan

I. PURPOSE

To call attention to new scientific research on brain development in very young children and the practical applications of these findings. This is also an opportunity to showcase what your Administration already has done to enhance early childhood development and to announce some new initiatives.

II. BACKGROUND

You and the First Lady will be hosting two panel discussions, with the Vice President and Mrs. Gore joining you for the afternoon session. During the morning session of the conference, leading researchers and child development experts will discuss the new research and what it means for parents and caregivers. The afternoon session will highlight model community efforts to support parents and enhance early childhood development. The First Lady will moderate the afternoon session.

The morning session will be broadcast to approximately 100 satellite sites attended by, among others, subcabinet officials, and regional administrators. The hosts of these satellite conferences will put on programs of their own in the afternoon.

This conference builds on the Administration's investment in children and families. The Administration has invested heavily in research to help us better understand the importance of the first few years of a child's life, including increasing the funding for NIH children's research by 25%, from \$1.3 billion to \$1.6 billion. In addition, the Administration raised funding for Head Start by 43% over the last four years and created the Early Head Start program to support families with children ages zero to three. Your FY 1988 Budget further increases participation in the Head Start program to reach 122,000 more children in FY 1998 than when you first took office. The Administration also dramatically increased participation in the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program.

This conference is an opportunity for you to announce the following new policy announcements:

- **Executive Memorandum to DOD:** Based on reports from child care experts that the military child care system is now the best in the country, you will be issuing an executive memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to use the Department's expertise to help improve child care across the nation. The memorandum urges the Department to consider: (1) creating partnerships with civilian child care centers in the community to help them improve quality; (2) providing training courses for civilian child care providers; (3) sharing the materials and models for worker training, accreditation and evaluation, facility design, financing, and other ingredients of the military's success; and (4) working with States and local governments to enable military child care facilities to serve as training sites for welfare recipients moving from welfare to work.
- **Children's Health Initiative:** You will announce that the Association of American Medical Colleges issued a letter of support for your children's health proposal. Your FY 1998 budget proposal includes a children's health initiative that will extend coverage to up to 5 million uninsured children by the year 2000 by strengthening Medicaid for poor children, building innovative State programs to provide coverage for working families, and continuing health coverage for children of workers who are between jobs.
- **Expanding Early Head Start.** The Department of Health and Human Services is requesting proposals for new Early Head Start programs to expand Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Created by the Clinton Administration in 1994, the Early Head Start program brings Head Start's successful comprehensive services to families with children ages zero to three and to pregnant women.
- **America Reads Early Childhood Kits: "Ready, Set, Read."** America Reads is releasing early childhood development activity kits that offer suggestions to families and caregivers about developmentally appropriate activities for children ages zero to five. They will be distributed in May to early childhood programs across the country and to callers to the Department of Education's 1-800-USA-LEARN hotline. (The kits are being handed out to all of the participants and press at the conference.)
- **Safe Start.** The Department of Justice is establishing "Safe Start" to change the way law enforcement officers respond to children who are the victims of or witnesses to violence. The program will provide training on early childhood development to community police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, school personnel and mental health providers. It will better prepare law enforcement officials to respond to young children exposed to violence. The initiative is built on the successful partnerships between community police officers and mental health providers funded by DOJ in New Haven, Connecticut and three other communities. (*The New Haven Police Chief will be participating in the afternoon panel to discuss the success of this partnership in New Haven.)

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

The First Lady
John Podesta
Bruce Reed
Elena Kagan
Melanne Verveer
Sarah Farnsworth
Carolyn Curiel

Morning Panel Participants:

The President
The First Lady
Dr. David A. Hamburg, President of the
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Dr. Donald J. Cohen, Director of the Yale
Child Study Center (Behavior Development)
Dr. Carla J. Shatz, Professor of Neurobiology,
Univ. of California, Berkeley (Neuroscience
Overview)
Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl, Speech and Hearing
Sciences at the University of Washington
(Language/Cognitive Development)
Dr. Ezra C. Davidson, Jr., Drew University
of Medicine (Obstetrician)
Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Harvard Medical
School (Pediatrician)
Dr. Deborah Phillips, Institute of Medicine
(Child Care expert)

Afternoon Panel Participants

The President
The First Lady
Mrs. Gore
The Vice President
Arnold Langbo, Kellogg Corporation
Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Avance Program
Sheila Amaning, Early Childhood PTA
Melvin Wearing, New Haven Police Chief
Harriet Meyer, Ounce of Prevention
Rob Reiner, "I Am Your Child" Campaign
Governor Bob Miller, Nevada

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR FIRST PANEL

- You will briefly greet panelists in the Blue Room.
- Panelists are announced into the East Room and take seats at table.
- You and the First Lady are announced into the room and proceed to the podium.
- The First Lady makes welcoming remarks from the podium and introduces you.
- You make remarks from the podium.
- You and the First Lady then take seats at the table.
- You will call on the first speaker, David Hamburg to open the discussion.
- David Hamburg makes remarks and introduces the next three consecutive speakers.
- Dr. Donald J. Cohen makes remarks.
- Dr. Carla J. Shatz makes remarks.
- Dr. Patricia K. Kuhl makes remarks.
- You will thank the first three speakers and call on the next three speakers to discuss the implications of the information being discussed, beginning with Ezra Davidson.
- Ezra Davidson will make remarks.
- The President will ask Ezra Davidson a follow-up question.

- Dr. Berry Brazelton will make remarks.
- The First Lady will ask Dr. Berry Brazelton a follow-up question.
- Dr. Deborah Phillips will make remarks.
- You will ask a follow-up question
- At this point, you and the First Lady can pose one or two additional questions to any of the panelists.
- You will thank participants and close event.

SEQUENCE FOR SECOND PANEL (All speakers are SEATED while speaking)

- You will briefly greet participants in the Blue Room.
- The panelists are announced into the East Room and take their seats.
- You, the First Lady, the Vice President, and Mrs. Gore are introduced into room and take seats.
- Mrs. Gore makes welcoming remarks.
- The Vice President makes remarks and introduces the First Lady to moderate the discussion.
- The First Lady introduces all the panel participants and calls on them individually to speak, beginning with Mr. Arnold Langbo.
- Mr. Arnold Langbo makes remarks.
- You could ask Mr. Langbo a follow-up question.
- Dr. Gloria Rodriguez makes remarks.
- The Vice President asks Dr. Gloria Rodriguez a follow-up question.
- Sheila Amaning makes remarks.
- Mrs. Gore asks Sheila Amaning a question.
- Police Chief Melvin Wearing makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow up question to Police Chief Wearing.
- Harriet Meyer makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow-up question to Harriet Meyer
- Rob Reiner makes remarks.
- You could ask a follow-up question to Rob Reiner.
- Governor Miller makes remarks.
- You will thank Governor Miller and other participants and make closing remarks.

VI. REMARKS

Morning Panel: Opening and closing remarks prepared by Speechwriting.

Afternoon Panel: Closing Remarks prepared by Speechwriting

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Bios on panelists
- Script of each panel
- Administration Accomplishments
- 0-3 Poll Executive Summary

SECOND PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Arnold Langbo, CEO, The Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan

Last fall, Kellogg launched "Learning Now!" a community-wide partnership between local business and education leaders to provide practical early brain development information to every Battle Creek parent and caregiver. The campaign includes print, radio and TV ads, mailings to parents with information tailored to the age of their children, and brown-bag lunches in hundreds of businesses. The goal is to ensure that every student arrives at school ready to learn.

Gloria Rodriguez, President and CEO, AVANCE, Inc. Family Support and Education Programs, Texas

The AVANCE Program, founded by Dr. Rodriguez in 1973, is a widely acclaimed community and school-based family support program that serves over 7,000 low-income children and parents a year in predominantly Hispanic communities throughout Texas. AVANCE operates in public housing centers, elementary schools, and through its family service centers. It presents classes on child development and parenting activities, conducts home visits by trained staff, reaches out to fathers, and disseminates information on community services and education classes and job training.

Sheila Amaning, Co-President, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Early Childhood PTA, North Carolina

This Early Childhood PTA gives parents of pre-school age children the opportunity to share ideas with each other and become involved in their children's learning from the start. Ms. Amaning has participated in this Early Childhood PTA since her son was two years old.

Melvin Wearing, Chief of Police, New Haven, Connecticut

With support from the Department of Justice, the New Haven Police Department has partnered with mental health clinicians at the Yale Child Study Center to develop innovative ways in which community police officers can deliver better serve children and families exposed to violence.

Harriet Meyer, Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention, Chicago, Illinois

The Ounce of Prevention Fund combines public resources with private funds to develop and test innovative early intervention strategies for replication. The Ounce's Center for Successful Child Development provides child care, Head Start and Early Head Start, home visits, medical care, and other services to families in public housing. The Ounce's Beethoven Project was one of the models for the federal Early Head Start program established in 1994.

Rob Reiner, Founder, "I Am Your Child" Campaign

The "I Am Your Child" campaign launched this week brings together entertainment leaders, corporations, foundations, elected officials, and early childhood experts to work together to promote family and community involvement in the early stages of young children's lives.

Gov. Bob Miller, Governor of Nevada, Chair of the National Governors' Association and Co-Chair of the National Governors' Association's Children's Task Force

The National Governors' Association has formed the Children's Task Force to explore what actions states can take to enhance early childhood development.

'97 APR 16 PM8:17

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

OPENING REMARKS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

APRIL 17, 1997

I want to begin by thanking our First Lady, my wife, Hillary, for bringing together the scientists, doctors, sociologists and other experts whose work is the basis for our discussion today. And because our subject will have enormous impact on the lives of all Americans, we are also being joined by satellite by thousands of people at more than 80 sites around our country. Today, we have brought a village to the White House.

There have been many White House conferences, but this one is different. It's about helping America's future by giving our youngest children the opportunity to develop their fullest potential.

And it's about supporting, in every way we can, the efforts of parents. We've begun that job, with the Family and Medical Leave Act, and with our proposed expansion to allow parents time to attend parent-teacher conferences, find child care or care for an elderly relative. We gave parents the V-chip and a TV ratings system so they could better control what their children watch. We took on the tobacco industry to stop their ads from reaching children. We're working to bring down juvenile crime and violence.

Government doesn't raise children. Parents do. But these actions show we can and must do more to support families and relieve some of the stress on parents.

Now, we can help parents by sharing what we have learned from new scientific research about how very young children learn and develop. We are devoting this entire day to this project -- but this is only a start. We must look at the practical implications of this research for parents, care givers, policy makers and others who can have an impact in the lives of children. And we must continue to work in this area in the months and years ahead.

Make no mistake: What we are undertaking is exciting and enormous and important to America's future.

The research that brings us here has opened a new frontier. Great exploration is not new to America; we have always sought to expand our horizons, but that has usually meant looking outward, far away from home.

This great exploration takes us as close to home as we can be, to examine a mystery that we hold in our very arms -- our babies.

Thanks in large part to federally funded research, we are discovering that the earliest years of life make the biggest difference, that they are also a critical window of opportunity for developing peak emotional and intellectual potential.

Every child needs proper nutrition and access to health care and a safe home and environment. And every child needs teaching and touching, reading and playing, singing and talking. How we care for our youngest children affects how they will do in school and in life.

My Administration has been committed to supporting this research and to build on it -- to take concrete steps to move toward optimum development for America's children. Today, I want to share with all of you some steps that we are taking now.

First, we want to improve the quality of child care. That is a great challenge, and it will take years to accomplish.

We must consider carefully a range of proposals to make sure that child care is both high-quality and affordable. I look forward to working with the Congress on this effort, which might include a proposal for additional tax credits to make child care better and more available to everyday Americans.

It might surprise some people, but the model for child care is the military's system, which many experts consider to be the best in the country. But we should not be surprised, because we know that anything the American military undertakes, it can do well. The man responsible for administering the Navy's child care system, Rear Admiral Larry Marsh, is here today.

The military should be proud of its achievement: a child care system with high standards, including a high percentage of accredited centers; a strong enforcement system with unannounced inspections. Parents have a toll-free number to call to report concerns they may have. Training is mandatory. Wages and benefits are good, so staff tends to stay on. I am proud that the military places such importance on helping the families of the men and women who serve our country.

We want this kind of quality to extend beyond the military.

So today, as just one step in addressing the scarcity of good and affordable child care, I am issuing an executive memorandum, asking the Department of Defense to share its success. I want the military to partner with civilian child care centers and help them to improve quality and become accredited; provide training to civilian child care providers; share information they have on how to operate successfully; and work with State and local governments to give on-the-job training in child care to people moving from welfare to work.

[Child care is vitally important. With so many two-worker families, parents should feel secure in knowing that their child is the best set of hands next to their own. For that reason, this fall, we will be holding another White House conference, devoted to child care.]

Second, we are working to boost our children's development by extending health care to as many as 5 million uninsured children by the year 2000. We can do that with our Children's Health Initiative in my balanced budget proposal. It would strengthen Medicare for poor children, provide coverage for working families through innovative State programs, and continue health coverage for children of workers between jobs.

I am very pleased that the Association of American Medical Colleges announced today that they are supporting our initiative.

Third, we place a great importance on early education. So, today, I am announcing an expansion of Early Head Start enrollment by one-third next year. Early Head Start is something we created in 1994, and it has been a great success in bringing Head Start's nutritional, educational and other services to families with children age 3 and younger and to pregnant women. Today, we are requesting new Early Head Start programs to _____ accomplish this expansion.

And, to help parents and care givers to teach the very young, we have developed a tool kit. It's called the "Ready, Set, Read" Kit -- part of our America Reads Challenge. It gives tips on stimulating activities for young children. It's going out to early childhood programs across our country and we'll have a hotline number to call for anyone else who wants a kit.

Fourth, we must protect the safety of children where they live, play and go to school. And in particular, we must do more to help young children who are victims of abuse and violence.

Today the Department of Justice is establishing a new program called Safe Start, which is based on efforts in New Haven, Connecticut, which you will hear about this afternoon. This program will train police officers, prosecutors, probation and parole officers and mental health professionals in child development, so that they will be better equipped to handle situation involving young children. This will go a long way toward keeping our kids safe.

It will take a partnership across our national community to help our kids reach their full potential. But the toughest job will always belong to parents.

They are the first teacher and the main nurturer. Being a parent is a joy, but the challenges never quit. It is not a job you can walk away from, it is not one you can show up late for, and you dare not fall asleep on this job.

The world moves too fast, and that means more worry for parents. Work demands compete with family demands.

Finding a balance has never been more difficult. Parents need and deserve our help. We need to come together to help them.

There is so much science to be discussed today that I want to come back to the bottom line.

The more we understand, think about and focus on the earliest years, the more we will really assist children and our whole society. These are the years that count.

A generation ago, a child development pioneer, Selma Fraiberg, said: "The experiences of the first 3 years of life are almost entirely lost to us, and when we attempt to enter into a small child's world, we come as foreigners who have forgotten the landscape and no longer speak the native tongue." It's true that a small child doesn't speak our language yet. But a child, no matter how young, understands a gentle touch, a smile, a loving voice. Babies understand so much more than we have understood about them. Now, we can begin to close the gap.

Today America takes a bold step across the threshold to the next century. This conference is about doing the best by our children, by giving every child the opportunity to develop to the fullest of their God-given potential, by using teaching and nurturing to lift up the very young. Together we are venturing into a new field of wonder and reason. And what we begin today may affect generations of Americans to come.

Thank you all for being a part of this great effort.

FIRST PANEL OUTLINE OF EVENTS

'97 APR 16 PM 9:36

The President opens discussion following his remarks by introducing David Hamburg, who will serve as moderator for the first panel.

David Hamburg, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York

The Carnegie Corporation produced the Seminal 1994 Study "Starting Points." Last year David Hamburg received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

David Hamburg will make very brief remarks and introduce the panelists. The following three speakers will make consecutive presentations:

Dr. Donald Cohen, Director of the Yale Child Study Center

Dr. Cohen will discuss emerging knowledge in the field of behavioral development.

Dr. Carla Shatz, Professor Neurobiology at the University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Shatz will explain brain development and wiring.

Dr. Patricia Kuhl (COOL), Chair, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, University of Washington.

Dr. Kuhl will discuss how infants learn language.

It is important to move quickly to the second portion of the panel where there is a greater opportunity for discussion. Below is a suggested question if you would like to make comments at this time.

OPTIONAL QUESTION (to Kuhl): *Can you tell us more about how the interactions between children and adults affect children's language development?*

The President will turn to the next three speakers on the panel and ask them to discuss the implications of this scientific research in each of their fields.

"We're now going to hear from three experts in obstetrics, pediatrics, and child care. They are going to tell us how they make use of this knowledge to help parents and children."

Dr. Ezra Davidson, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, Los Angeles

Dr. Davidson is an expert on prenatal and perinatal services and their importance for early childhood development.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *How can we encourage people who work with expecting parents to talk to them about the importance of early learning?*

Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Brazelton is America's best-known pediatrician. He has written 26 books on subjects relating to child development. He will discuss the pediatrician's role in early childhood development.

FLOTUS QUESTION: *As I mentioned earlier, the organization Zero to Three today released the results of a nationwide survey of parents of young children, which tries to find out what parents know and what they don't know about their children's development. It is clear from the poll's findings that parents are hungry for information on how to enhance their children's development. Dr. Brazelton, what are the best things that every parent can do to nurture their young children.*

Dr. Deborah Phillips, Director of the Board on Children, Youth and Families of the National Research Council's Commission on Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Institute of Medicine.

Dr. Phillips is an expert in child care services; she will talk about the implications of this new scientific research for how we care for our youngest children.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *How can we equip parents to figure out what child care settings will be good for their children?*

FLOTUS QUESTION *Some people argue that what this research really tells us is that women with very young children shouldn't work outside of the home. Can you comment on that?*

The President then thanks participants and makes closing remarks.

'97 APR 16 PM9:01

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
FIRST SESSION
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING CONFERENCE
CONCLUDING TALKING POINTS**

I'd like to thank Dr. David Hamburg, Dr. Donald Cohen, Dr. Carla Shatz, Dr. Patricia Kuhl, Dr. Ezra Davidson, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, and Dr. Deborah Phillips for participating this morning.

Your research demonstrates that the earliest years of a child's life are a critical window of opportunity for emotional and cognitive development. I'm committed to continuing this research: Increased NIH funding by 23% in the past four years, balanced budget proposal increases it further; the federal government has supported over 90% of all children's research.

Now we must turn this latest research into action by providing parents with the tools they need to nurture their children and help them to develop. After lunch we will hear from representatives from model parenting and child development programs from across the country who are already helping parents in this way.

I'd like to say a special thank you to the thousands of you who are joining us today by satellite at over 80 sites around the country. Your participation has helped to make this a truly national conference. I challenge you to continue this discussion with one another and explore the ways in which your community can build on these remarkable discoveries.



SECOND PANEL

(Suggested questions are for POTUS unless otherwise indicated)

- Mrs. Gore will make welcoming remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks and introduce the First Lady to moderate.
- The First Lady will introduce panelists and call on Mr. Langbo to make remarks.

Mr. Arnold Langbo, CEO, The Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan

Last fall, Kellogg launched a community-wide effort to provide practical early brain development information to every Battle Creek parent and caregiver.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *What kind of employment policies can businesses adopt to support their employees as parents?*

Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Founder, President and CEO, AVANCE, (A-VON-SAY) Inc., Texas

The AVANCE Program is a widely acclaimed community and school-based family support program that serves children and parents in low-income hispanic families throughout Texas.

***VP ASKS QUESTION:** *Can you tell us about the role of fathers in AVANCE?*

Sheila Amaning (A-MON-ING), Co-President, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Early Childhood PTA, North Carolina As a parent, as co-president of the Early Childhood PTA, and as an employee of a non-profit that provides information to parents on early learning, she is committed to enhancing childhood development.

MRS. GORE ASKS QUESTION: *What have you learned from other parents and teachers in the Early Childhood PTA program that has helped you as a parent?*

Melvin Wearing, New Haven Chief of Police, New Haven, Connecticut

Through a DOJ-funded program, Police Chief Wearing works in partnership with the Yale Child Study Center to train community police officers to use child development principles in their work.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *Do you think this effort will help to reduce crime in the long term?*

Harriet Meyer, Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention, Chicago, Illinois

The Ounce of Prevention Fund is a statewide program in Illinois that develops innovative early childhood programs and runs model Early Head Start and child care programs.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *What do you think are the advantages of home visiting?*

Rob Reiner, Castle Rock Entertainment, Founder of the "I Am Your Child" Campaign

The "I Am Your Child" campaign being announced this week brings together entertainment leaders, corporations, early childhood experts, etc. to work together to promote family and community involvement in the early stages of young children's lives.

SUGGESTED QUESTION: *What do you think is the media's responsibility to improve children's lives through the entertainment they provide?*

Gov. Bob Miller, Governor of Nevada, Chair of the National Governors' Association and Co-Chair of the National Governors' Association Children's Task Force.

The President will thank participants and make closing remarks.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
SECOND SESSION
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
CONCLUDING TALKING POINTS
APRIL 17, 1997

'97 APR 16 PM9:01

Thank You: The First Lady, the Vice President, Mrs. Gore, Gov. Miller, Mr. Arnold Langbo, Dr. Gloria Rodriguez, Ms. Sheila Amaning, Police Chief Melvin Wearing, Ms. Harriet Meyer, and Mr. Rob Reiner.

It's time to leave this table and carry on the mission of enhancing the development of our children. It is up to us to expand upon the work that doctors, scientists and social workers in this field have devoted their lives to. We must educate parents, because above all it's parents who raise children; we must encourage our teachers to implement the findings and practices discussed here today; we must challenge our communities to share the responsibility and provide the tools to support parents and enhance early childhood development.

This conference has laid out the necessary pieces for improving the well being of our children . . . and the picture that will emerge from our work is one that will include a brighter future for every American child. I thank all of you for being a part of this conference -- truly a first of its kind.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING
April 17, 1997

THE PRESIDENT & MRS. CLINTON
THE VICE PRESIDENT & MRS. GORE

Dr. John Lawrence Aber
Director, National Center for Children in Poverty

Dr. Duane F. Alexander
Director, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

Ms. Sheila Pegues Amaning
Co-Chair, Early Childhood PTA

Ms. Carolyn Becraft
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel Support, Families
and Education

Ms. Helen Benham
Scholastic, Inc.

Mrs. Carol Berman
Zero to Three National Center

Ms. Julie Bernas-Pierce
Blind Babies Foundation

Hon. Sheldon C. Bilchik
Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
Department of Justice

Ms. Barbara "Bobbi" Blok
Executive Director, Washington Child Development Council

Dr. Thomas Berry Brazelton
Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

Mr. David V.B. Britt
President & CEO, Children's Television Workshop

Mr. James Larry Brown
Director, Center on Hunger, Poverty & Nutrition Policy, Tufts University

Dr. John Bruer
President, James S. McConnell Foundation

Mr. Shannon Romandos Bryant
Student Team Leader, Jumpstart

Mr. Patrick Butler
Vice President, The Washington Post Company

Hon. Jane L. Campbell
Cuyahoga County Commissioner

Rev. (Dr.) Joan Brown Campbell
General Secretary, National Council of Churches

Ms. Joy Carlson
Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

Hon. (Gov.) Lawton M. Chiles
Governor of Florida

Dr. Harry T. Chugani
Director, PET Center, Children's Hospital of Michigan

Dr. Donald Cohen
Director, Yale University Child Study Center

Dr. Jordan J. Cohen
President, Academy of American Medical Colleges

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

2.

Ms. Janice Cox
President, Georgia State Parent Teacher Association

Mr. Dwayne Crompton
Executive Director, KCMC-Early Child Development Corporation

Ms. Judsen Culbreth
Editor-in-Chief, Working Mother

Ms. Sharon Darling
President, National Center for Family Literacy

Dr. Ezra C. Davidson
Professor & Chairman, Dept. of OBGYN, Charles R. Drew University
of Medicine & Science

Dr. Karen Davis
President, The Commonwealth Fund

Hon. (Rep.) Rosa DeLauro
D/Connecticut

Ms. Barbara Dellinger
Director for Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Head Start

Ms. Deborah Eaton
President, National Association for Family Child Care

Ms. Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund

Ms. Isela Flores

Ms. Yolie Flores Aguilar
Los Angeles, CA

Dr. Henry W. Foster
Acting President, Meharry Medical College

Ms. Ellen Galinsky
Co-President, Family & Work Institute

Hon. (Dr.) John H. Gibbons
Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy

Ms. Ellen Gilbert
International Creative Management

Hon. Daniel Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture

Mrs. Katharine Graham
Chairman of the Board, The Washington Post Company

Ms. Sarah Greene
Chief Executive Officer, National Head Start Association, Partnership Project

Dr. Stanley Greenspan
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Pediatrics, George Washington Medical School

Ms. Elinor Guggenheimer
Child Care Action Campaign

Dr. Megan Gunnar
University of Minnesota

Ms. Margaret Hale
Executive Director, West Virginia Kids Count

Ms. Martha D. Haley
Director, Public Affairs, Lifetime Television

Dr. David Alan Hamburg
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

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3.

Dr. Robert E. Hannemann
President, American Academy of Pediatrics

Hon. (Sen.) Thomas R. Harkin
D/Iowa

Mr. Irving Harris
Chairman, The Harris Foundation

Mr. William Harris
KidsPAC, Head Start

Dr. Jane M. Healy
Author

Ms. Judith Nolte Heimer
Editor-in-Chief, American Baby Magazine

Mrs. Teresa Heinz
Chairman, Heinz Family Foundation

Ms. Harriet Meyer Horwitz
Executive Director, Ounce of Prevention Fund

Mr. Jeffrey Jacobs
President, Harpo Entertainment, Inc.

Ms. Eloise Jenks
President, National Association of WIC Directors

Ms. Judith Marie Jerald
Brattleboro, VT

Dr. Gloria Johnson-Powell
Judge Baker Children's Center

Ms. Judith E. Jones
Director, Free to Grow

Hon. Elena Kagan
Office of Domestic Policy, The White House

Dr. Elaine C. Kamarck
Office of the Vice President

Hon. (Sen.) Edward M. Kennedy
D/Massachusetts

Dr. Patricia Kuhl
Professor & Chair, Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences
University of Washington

Dr. J. Ronald Lally
Director, Center for Child & Family Studies, WestED

Dr. Philip J. Landrigan
Director, Office of Children's Environment Health, EPA

Mr. Arnold Langbo
Chairman of the Board & CEO, Kellogg Corporation

Mr. Ralph S. Larsen
Chairman and CEO, Johnson & Johnson

Dr. David M. Lawrence
CEO, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program

Ms. Geraldine B. Laybourne
President, Disney/ABC Cable Networks

Ms. Dolores Leckey
Executive Director for the Secretariat, Catholic Conference

Dr. Arthur Leibowitz
Chief Medical Officer, AETNA US Healthcare

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

4.

Dr. Michael Levine
Program Officer, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Mr. David Liederman
Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America

Dr. Carolynn Lindeman
National President, Music Educators National Conference

Dr. Evelyn Gruss Lipper
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Cornell Medical Center

Ms. Melissa Ludtke
Author

Dr. Shirley M. Malcom
Director of Education, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Rear Admiral Larry R. Marsh
Bureau of Naval Personnel

Mr. Lawrence A. McAndrews
President & CEO, National Association of Children's Hospitals

Dr. Bruce McEwen
President, Society for Neuroscience, Rockefeller University

Ms. Gail McGovern
AT&T

Mr. Matthew Melmed
Executive Director, Zero to Three National Center for Infants

Hon. (Gov.) Robert J. Miller
Governor of Nevada

Dr. Evelyn K. Moore
Executive Director, National Black Child Development Institute

Dr. Herbert L. Needleman
University of Pittsburgh Medical School

Dr. David Olds
University of Colorado

Dr. Bruce Perry
Senior Fellow, CIVITAS Initiatives

Dr. Carol Brunson Phillips
Executive Director, Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition

Dr. Deborah Phillips
Director, Board on Children, Youth & Families, National Academy of Sciences

Dr. Bruce Ramirez
The Council for Exceptional Children

Mrs. Michele Singer Reiner
Castlerock Entertainment

Mr. Robert Reiner
Castlerock Entertainment

Ms. Barbara Reisman
Executive Director, Child Care Action Campaign

Mr. James J. Renier
Renier & Associates

Ms. Nan H. Rich
National President, National Council of Jewish Women

Dr. Julius Richmond
Professor of Health Policy, Emeritus, Harvard University Medical School

Mr. John E. Riggan
Chairman of the Board, National Association of Child Advocates

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

5.

Hon. Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education

Ms. Geraldine Robinson
The Children's Museum

Dr. Gloria Rodriguez
President and CEO, Avance Family Support & Education Program

Ms. Susan Roman
Executive Director, American Libraries Association Services to Children

Hon. (Gov.) Roy R. Romer
Governor of Colorado

Mr. Edward F. Rover
Charles A. Dana Foundation

Ms. Esperanza Segura

Mr. Rudy Segura

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health & Human Services

Dr. Carla J. Shatz
Professor of Neurobiology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Mr. Jack Shifrel
Community Advocate

Ms. Marilyn Smith
Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children

Mr. Marshall Smith
Acting Deputy Secretary of Education

Mr. Richard M. Smith
Editor-in-Chief & President, Newsweek, Inc.

Dr. Mary Susan Stine
Section Chief of Developmental Medicine, DuPont Hospital for Children

Ms. Maria Gregory Taylor
Parent Education Specialist, Parents as Teachers Program

Ms. Inez Moore Tenenbaum
President, South Carolina Center for Family Policy

Ms. Ruth Tracy
Navajo Chapter Coordinator, Pilot Parents

Mr. Thomas Van Coverden
President and CEO, National Association of Community Health Centers

Dr. Harold Varmus
Director, National Institutes of Health

Hon. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President & Chief of Staff to the First Lady

Ms. Yasmina Vinci
Executive Director, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Mr. David Walker
Executive Director, North Carolina Partnership for Children

Ms. Claudia Wayne
Executive Director, National Center for the Early Childhood Workforce

Mr. Melvin Wearing
Chief of Police, City of New Haven

Dr. Betsy Weaver

President & CEO, Parent's Plus, Inc.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

6.

Ms. Bernice S. Weissbourd

President, Family Focus

Dr. Miriam Westheimer

Executive Director, HIPPY USA

Dr. Clarissa Leister Willis

Executive Director, Southern Early Childhood Association

Ms. Mildred Winter

Executive Director, Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.

Ms. Marti Worshtil

College Park, MD

Dr. Ernst L. Wynder

President, American Health Foundation

Dr. Edward Zigler

Professor of Psychology, Yale University

Dr. Barry Zuckerman

Professor & Chairman of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

"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....We already know we should start teaching children before they start school."

-- President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, February 4, 1997

Recent scientific research has demonstrated that experiences during the earliest years of life -- before children reach school age -- are critical to their cognitive, emotional, and physical development. Nurturing and stimulating children in the first years of life actually help their brains develop and prepare them for the challenges of school and later life. President Clinton is committed to giving America's children the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential by investing in research, supporting parents and caregivers, and strengthening programs that provide early intervention to disadvantaged families.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Supported Over 90% of all Children's Research. In fiscal year 1995, the federal government spent an estimated \$2 billion on research and development directly related to children and youth -- over 90% of all funding of children's research. Spending on children's health research at The National Institutes of Health (NIH) increased 25% between 1993 and 1997, and this year NIH will spend \$904 million on research on young children alone. This research has contributed to the recent advances in understanding early learning and language development.

Increased participation in WIC program. WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition packages, nutrition education, and health referrals to low-income pregnant women, infants, and children. Over the past four years participation has expanded by 1.7 million from 5.7 to 7.4 million women, infants, and children. The increase in the President's budget proposal fulfills his commitment to achieving full participation in WIC by the end of 1998. Research shows that WIC prenatal services save Medicaid much more than they cost by reducing health care expenses in the first 60 days after birth.

Raised Childhood Immunization Rates to an All-Time High. The President's Childhood Immunization Initiative focuses on five areas: 1) improving the quality and quantity of vaccination delivery services; 2) reducing vaccine costs for parents; 3) increasing community participation, education and partnerships; 4) improving systems to monitor diseases and vaccinations; and 5) improving vaccines and vaccine use. This initiative has achieved notable

success. In 1995, 75% of two-year olds were fully immunized -- an historic high. Funding for childhood immunization has doubled since fiscal year 1993.

Protected the Medicaid Guarantee for 9 Million Children Under 6 Years Old. This Administration has protected and, preserved -- and now will improve on -- the guarantee of Medicaid coverage for 36 million Americans, including 9 million children under the age of 6. In 1995, the President vetoed the Republican Medicaid block grant proposal that would have ended the guarantee of coverage for up to 4 million children by 2002. At the same time, the President worked with states by granting 15 comprehensive Medicaid waivers and approving many more state plan amendments that improve and expand coverage for children.

Seeks to Extend Health Coverage to Up to 5 Million Children. Although this Administration has made great strides in protecting the health of America's neediest children, there is still much to be done. In 1995, more than 10 million American children, 80% of whom have working parents, had no health insurance. The President's budget takes three important steps to address the problem of children who lack health insurance coverage:

- 1) Provides annual grants to states to cover health insurance premiums for families of workers who are in-between jobs;
- 2) Utilizes state partnership grants to help working families who are not eligible for Medicaid to purchase private insurance for their children; and
- 3) Expands Medicaid coverage by allowing states to continue Medicaid coverage for up to one year even if family income changes, intensifying outreach to children who are currently eligible but not enrolled, and continuing current law expansions of coverage to reach poor children between the ages of 13 and 18.

Fighting Pediatric AIDS. In 1994, the National Institutes of Health released new research showing that the use of the drug AZT by HIV-infected pregnant women can reduce the risk of transmission from mother to child by two-thirds. In response, the Food and Drug Administration quickly approved changes in labeling indications for AZT to include HIV-infected pregnant women and, in 1995, the Centers for Disease Control began recommending routine HIV counseling and voluntary HIV testing for all pregnant women. In addition, the President has consistently supported investment through Title IV of the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides grants for coordinated HIV services and access to research for children, women and families. Since 1994, \$113 million has been appropriated under Title IV, with 59 organizations in 26 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia receiving support.

Protecting Mothers and Children. Due to the Clinton Administration's comprehensive strategy to increase access to prenatal care, the preliminary estimate for the U.S. infant mortality rate (the rate at which babies die before their first birthday) is at an historic low of less than 8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1995, and the proportion of mothers getting early prenatal care is at a record high of 81%. In addition, the President spearheaded legislation requiring insurance companies to cover at least 48 hour hospital stays following childbirth. In 1970, the average length of stay for an uncomplicated delivery was four days, but by 1992 it had declined to two days. This legislation ensures that mothers and babies do not leave the hospital before they and their doctors decide they are ready. The Administration is ensuring that the health needs of mothers and

children are met by providing over \$1 billion in FY 97 for Title V Maternal and Child Health Programs. The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, one of the Title V programs, serves approximately 17 million women, infants and children, in partnership with states. In addition, Title V programs provide comprehensive care for children with special health needs, meet nutritional and development needs of mothers and children and help reduce infant mortality.

Preventing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The Clinton Administration launched the Back to Sleep public education campaign to send the message to parents and health professionals that putting babies to sleep on their backs can reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Largely as a result of this campaign, SIDS deaths dropped by 30% between 1992 and 1995.

PROMOTING EARLY LEARNING

Increased participation in Head Start, created Early Head Start for 0-3 year olds, and improved program quality. For more than thirty years, Head Start has been one of our nation's best investments. President Clinton has made improving and expanding Head Start a priority because Head Start ensures that low-income children start school ready to learn. Over the past five years, funding for the program has increased by 80%, and in fiscal year 1997 Head Start will serve 800,000 low-income children five years old and younger. Initiated in 1994, there are now 143 *Early Head Start* programs across the country, expanding the proven benefits of Head Start to low-income families with children under three. Over the last three years, the Clinton Administration has also invested significantly in improving program quality and providing local programs with the resources they need to attract and retain high quality teachers. The President's 1998 budget proposal provides a \$324 million increase in Head Start's budget so that it will remain on course to serve 1 million children by 2002.

Improved Support for Infants and Toddlers with Special Needs. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Infants and Families Program supports the continuing efforts of states to implement high quality statewide early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Over the past four years, funding for the program has increased by 48% or \$102.5 million. During the same period, the number of children served increased by 21.5%. An estimated 191,000 children will be served in fiscal year 1998.

Enhanced Family Literacy Program. Even Start Family Literacy is a family-focused grant program to improve the educational opportunities for children and their parents in low-income areas by integrating family literacy activities, including early childhood education, adult education, and parenting education. Since 1993, funding for Even Start has increased by over 40% to support programs in every state and the District of Columbia.

Providing Funding for Parent Resource Centers in 42 States. In addition to involving parents in the development of state and local education plans, the President's Goals 2000 program provides funding to establish parent resource centers that help parents learn how to help their children meet high standards. The centers provide training, distribute resource materials, and support a variety of programs that strengthen family involvement in education. In fiscal year 1997, funding is available for support centers in 42 states, 14 more than in 1996.

Promoting Parents as First Teachers. The President's America Reads Challenge, a campaign to ensure that every child can read well by the end of the third grade, includes Parents as First Teachers Challenge Grants to fund proven local, regional and national programs that provide assistance to parents to help their children become successful readers. The grants can be used to expand successful programs such as the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) and the Parents as First Teachers (PAT) program. They will also fund national and regional networks to share information on how parents can help children to read.

IMPROVING CHILD CARE

Increased Child Care Funding. Since 1993 federal funding for child care has increased by \$1 billion, providing services for over 660,000 children -- 65% of whom are under 5 years of age. The newly established Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) has made available \$2.9 billion to states. The new fund, authorized and expanded by the new welfare law, will assist low-income families working their way off welfare to obtain child care so they can work or attend school.

Improved Child Care in Public Housing. The Early Childhood Development Program helps to provide quality child care for families living in public housing communities, as well as families who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. The program allows parents or guardians who live in public housing to get and keep jobs by ensuring that their children are cared for. In 1996, \$21 million was awarded to public housing sites across the country -- three times more than in 1994.

Providing High Quality Child Care for Military Families. Under the Clinton Administration, the Department of Defense has made important strides to improve the quality of child care for the children of the men and women who serve our country. Since 1992, the number of military child care facilities that are accredited by the independent National Association for the Education of Young Children has risen from 55 to 466. Currently, 72% of military child care programs are accredited, as compared to only 7% of other child care facilities nationwide.

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Controlling Childhood Lead Poisoning. The Administration has launched a major new effort to control childhood lead poisoning. The program requires landlords and sellers of older homes to notify prospective tenants and buyers about lead-based paint hazards, provides grants to states to control lead-based paint hazards in low-income privately-owned homes, and offers technical assistance to ensure that lead hazard control work is done safely and efficiently. The 1997 interim report evaluating the HUD Lead-Based Point Hazard Control grant program shows that median dust levels on interior window sills were reduced by 85 %. In addition, the number of children suffering from lead poisoning dropped from 1.7 million in the late 1980s to about 930,000 in the mid-1990s.

Protecting Our Children's Environment. Because their bodies are still developing, children are among the most vulnerable to pollution in the air, water and soil. In 1995, the Clinton Administration began requiring that children receive first consideration when EPA assesses

environmental hazards and sets public health standards. In addition, the Clinton Administration has strengthened environmental protections for children by: proposing to strengthen air quality standards for soot and smog to protect children from air pollution, particularly those with asthma; speeding the clean-up of two-thirds of the nation's toxic waste sites to protect the 10 million children under age 12 who live within four miles of a toxic waste dump; strengthening drinking water protections to ensure that drinking water is free of microbial contaminants; expanding families' right to know about environmental health risks that infants and children face to help them make informed decisions about their children's exposure to these risks; issuing advisories about contaminated fish so parents can protect children from cancer-causing PCBs; and educating parents about the effects of second-hand smoke, which annually results in 7,500 to 15,000 hospitalizations of infants and children under 18 months of age.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Passed Family and Medical Leave. The President fought for the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) that allows workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave to care for a newborn or adopted child, to attend to their own serious health needs, or to care for a seriously ill parent, child or spouse. In June 1996, President Clinton proposed expanding FMLA to allow workers to take up to 24 unpaid hours off each year for school and early childhood education activities, routine family medical care, and additional activities related to caring for an elderly relative. Last week, the President asked Federal agencies to implement his expanded leave policy immediately for Federal workers.

Improved Children's Television. The President announced a breakthrough agreement with the media and entertainment industry to develop a television ratings system to enable parents to protect their children from violence and adult content. In addition, the Administration has given parents greater control over what their children watch on television by requiring the installation of anti-violence screening chips ("V-chips") in all new televisions.

Reducing Child Abuse and Domestic Violence. The Administration created the Safe Streets/Safe Kids initiative to make community responses to child abuse and neglect more comprehensive and coordinated in an effort to break the cycle of early childhood victimization and later delinquency. The Administration also put in place a nurse home visitation program for low-income first-time mothers. Studies have shown that home visitation programs are successful -- for example, reducing cigarette smoking during pregnancy by 25% and reducing mistreatment of children from birth to age 2 by 80 percent. The Clinton Administration has also taken significant steps to reduce domestic violence. For example, the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program helps law enforcement agencies, courts community organizations and businesses to work toward early identification, intervention and prevention of domestic violence and child victimization in rural areas. Finally, the President is committed to finding stable and permanent homes for children who cannot remain safely at home. As a result, the Administration announced Adoption 2002, a plan to double the number of children adopted or placed in permanent homes each year by the year 2002.

'97 APR 16 PM 9:36

KEY FINDINGS FROM A NATIONWIDE SURVEY AMONG PARENTS OF ZERO- TO THREE-YEAR-OLDS

CONDUCTED BY
PETER D. HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

FUNDED BY THE
HEINZ FAMILY FOUNDATION



National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families

APRIL 1997

PETER D. HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.
1724 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

ZERO TO THREE SURVEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

1 Parents know that they have an important influence on their infants' and toddlers' development, but they do not fully understand the connection between their own parenting practices and the social, emotional, and intellectual aspects of child development.

Majorities of parents grasp certain fundamental concepts about child development, but many are confused or hold misconceptions about others.

Though they are most likely to believe that their child's *emotional* growth and development is the domain over which they have the greatest influence as parents, this aspect of early child development - along with intellectual and social development - is the area in which parents feel *least knowledgeable*.

While half of parents (53%) say they are totally sure that they know what signs to watch for in their youngster when it comes to physical development, far fewer say this for emotional (38%), social (37%), or intellectual (44%) development.

WHAT PARENTS KNOW ABOUT EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Most parents understand that babies are learning from the moment they are born; that babies are communicating before they can do so in words; that parents' *emotional* closeness with their baby can strongly affect his or her *intellectual* development; that the brain of a baby who lacks appropriate stimulation - such as being read to, played with, or touched and held - will not develop as well as that of a baby who does receive such stimulation; and that what a child experiences from birth to age three can influence his or her ability to do well in school.

Fewer parents recognize that a baby's intelligence can be increased or decreased by how parents interact with that child; that babies less than six months old can get depressed; that having more rather than fewer caregivers before age three is *not* good for a child's healthy development; and that the *more* stimulation (as opposed to *appropriate stimulation*) a baby receives does not mean he or she is better off.

2 Parents of babies and toddlers expect a great deal of themselves, and many feel that they want to improve as parents. Though many are confident in their ability to respond to the various parenting challenges they face each day, they also identify a number of barriers standing in the way of better parenting.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOURSELF AS A PARENT SO FAR?

Just 8% of parents rate themselves as "outstanding" and say they don't feel a need to improve; all others indicate that they'd like to improve their parenting skills.

Forty-seven percent say they are excellent parents but would like to improve just a little; 43% say they are good but definitely want to improve in several areas; and 2% say they are somewhat below average and are working hard at improving.

For families with children age zero to three, two fundamental barriers stand in the way of better parenting. First, from parents' own point of view, time is an acute concern, with over a third saying that one of the top reasons they may need to improve as parents is that they don't spend as much quality time with their child as they'd like to (37%).

A second critical type of barrier to better parenting is the "information deficit": one in five parents, for example, say that they feel they need to improve as a parent because they find it hard to understand their child's feelings and needs (19%) or don't know how to handle difficult situations with their child (19%). One in 10 parents say that they lack confidence in their parenting skills overall.

3 Few parents of young children say that they felt totally prepared for parenthood when they had their first child. Those who are the youngest and have the lowest income, or those who are going it alone as single parents feel particularly unprepared for the daunting new role they've taken on.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU FIRST BECAME A PARENT?

The vast majority of parents say that when they had their first child, they felt "in love" with their baby and happier than ever before. Many also say that they felt stressed and worn out, afraid of doing something wrong, afraid of not being a good parent, and unsure about what to do a lot of the time.

Young parenthood is both a time of deep joy and wonderment and a time of worry, uncertainty, and questioning, and parents seem thirsty for information and advice to help them understand and respond to their child. Not all resources that young families typically turn to, however, provide the quantity or quality of information that parents need at present.

When parents seek information or advice about parenting, they turn to both informal networks - such as their own mother, mother-in-law, another family member, or a friend - and to professionals: namely, their child's pediatrician. They also pay significant attention to the news media's reports about infants and toddlers and their development.

A quarter of all parents of young children say that as brand new parents they felt only slightly or not really prepared, while almost two in five felt totally or quite well-prepared. Among those who are *least* likely to have felt prepared are younger, lower-income, and single parents. Low-income and single parents also are more likely than others to have felt that they lacked emotional support.

4 To be the parent of a baby or toddler as the end of the 20th century approaches is to face myriad challenges and pressures, chief among them the time crunch in trying to "be there" for that young child.

A PORTRAIT OF YOUNG FAMILIES

Sixty percent of children age zero to three currently are cared for on a regular basis by someone other than their parents. Only one in five have been cared for exclusively by their mother or father since birth.

Non-parental care providers for this age group are about equally likely to be a grandparent or other family as they are to be a professional or non-family caregiver.

Though most babies and toddlers today live in two-parent households, 14% are being raised by single parents.

The majority of mothers of very young children work at a paid job: 40% full time and 19% part time; another 8% who aren't working now plan to return to the work force within the next six months.

The facts of daily life and work for America's young families mean that about half of all parents say that they end most days feeling that they spent less time than they wanted to with their young child.

Translated into hard numbers, this finding suggests that, every day, five million infants and toddlers across the country have parents who personally feel that they don't spend enough time with them.

THE BRIEFING MATERIALS AND REMARKS
FOR THE OPTIONAL RECEPTION
WILL BE FORWARDED