

AWARD FOR ANGELA DEKKER

By Jet van Heijnsbergen

On Saturday April 14, **Drs. Angela Dekker** received the first **Stanley Lamp Award**. We know Angela as the Task Manager for FBE on St. Maarten and as the Director of **SIFMA**, where she has worked since 1989. SIFMA is the Center for Information and Formation of the Welfare of Children.

It is exactly a year ago that **Drs. Stanley Lamp** passed away unexpectedly. He was one of the initiators of **FBE** and promoted the reform as Minister of Education. He was also the founder and president of **SIFMA**.

Angela Dekker first met Stanley Lamp in 1972 in Curaçao, where she did her internship at the Pedagogic-didactic Bureau. Answering how she would describe him, she says: "He had vision and was completely dedicated to daycare and education."



A proud Angela Dekker

SIFMA has always focused on **Early Childhood Development** (ECD). Training, policy and parental involvement are the key issues in a healthy development throughout the pre-school years. The innovations project is very supportive of the quality of ECD and the smooth transition from daycare to primary education.

According to **Angela Dekker**: "Policy, quality daycare, salaries for the caregivers and parental involvement are priorities for the Netherlands Antilles."

A foundation of friends and family of the late **Stanley Lamp** decided to award persons who had been particularly valuable in the development of child services, and they selected Angela for this first award. Congratulations!

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING WEBSITES!!!

Some website ideas from **Angelika Hartleib, Tara Every and Tr. Sharron**:

www.kidshealth.org

This website offers practical information and news for parents, teens and kids.

Parents: general health, emotions & behavior, nutrition & fitness, positive parenting, pregnancy & newborns.

Teens: your body—your mind, sexual health, school & jobs, recipes, prom pressure, advice & straight talk.

Kids: dealing with feelings, recipes, my body, kids' health problems, growing up.

www.mypyramid.gov

Take steps to a **healthier you** with a personal eating plan. This site also offers games and classroom materials at different levels.

www.teachkind.org

Humane education to empower students to:

- Take responsibility for their actions;
- Apply concepts of respect and kindness;
- Become active participants in helping animals and others.

With many free reading materials.

www.starfall.com

Reading games and materials at different levels, for classroom and home use. Comes with manuals and background information. Many, many free downloads and interactive games.

CYBER RISKS THE OTHER SIDE OF SMS

With the increase in **mobile phone** users, the menace of sending negative or threatening messages via **SMS** is on the rise. Along with aiming to warn children away from the potential dangers in society such as drugs and crime, **abusive texting** is also a concern. Reports have come from the USA, England, Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, India, Japan, Ireland, etc. Nation-wide campaigns have been launched to help kids steer clear of mobile phone crime.

The emergence of cyber-bullies has coincided with what **Glenn Stutzky**, a school safety violence specialist, calls the rise of the '**always-connected generation**'. These are the teens who have grown up with computers, the Internet and cell phones. These new media cause their own, new problems of which parents and teachers should be aware. It is very much along the lines of scribbling a nasty letter and passing it around the classroom.

What to do?

- Listen to your child and take his/her feelings seriously.
- Help your child write down ideas and try them out.
- Contact the school and inform them of what happened, when, where and by whom.
- Work on improving your child's confidence by concentrating on the things he/she can do well.
- Children in Edinburgh schools are being encouraged to report bullies by text message to a database that teachers can access before deciding on any action.
- In Oklahoma text harassment has been made a criminal act by law; children can be suspended from school and told to do community service.

*Be careful that your child doesn't feel that being bullied is his/her fault.
It is the bully who needs to change.*