

THE ROLE OF THE FATHER CHILD'S MONTH FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITY

By Franklin Wilson



Veteran educator and former Inspector of Education **Mr. Stanley Hodge**, was the guest speaker at a parents' meeting sponsored by the Laura Linzey Daycare Center and USONA, the theme of which centered around the role of the father.

Mr. Hodge reminded the audience that fathers of the past were remote and concerned themselves primarily with providing the basic necessities for their families. There is no job description for fatherhood, and today's father cannot build his image of that of his forebears.

In today's society, a father needs to be a psychological father as well as the biological father. The father not only plays a vital role with procreation, but also with the education and upbringing.

This means largely bonding with the child by being a constant factor in the child's life, playing with the infant, attending its school and sports activities, and so forth. **Mr. Hodge** also addressed the issue of spanking, and proposed that occasionally this is the only way to get the necessary attention to promote a behavioral change or to assure the child's safety, but physical abuse was never acceptable. He stated that it was a given that youth will go through a rebellious period, and parents should be prepared for this and learn how to cope with it.

Hodge referred to a model father like **Bill Cosby** and urged his audience to read up the role of a father in some books by this author*. **Mr. Hodge** ended his talk by stating that he would be more than willing to return to the island in the near future to discuss the same topic with a larger audience.

(* 'Fatherhood' by Bill Cosby is available at Innovations.)



TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN THE
LAURA LINZEY DAYCARE CENTER &
SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOUNDATION BASED EDUCATION

OOO



Child's Month activity at the museum grounds

INNOVATIONS BUREAU SABA
416-3809

fbe_saba@yahoo.com

www.fbe-saba.com

INFORMATION BROCHURE 53

JUNE 2007

DAYCARE TRAINING IN ST. KITTS

By Jet van Heijnsbergen



Since 1981 the Government of St. Kitts has installed a **Early Childhood Unit**, responsible for training and quality of the 100 daycare centers in the federation. UNESCO funded the initial training based on the **High/Scope** curriculum.

Maybe you remember that in brochure 40 we had discussed the benefits of good quality daycare. The Netherlands Antilles are now in the position of using the same **High/Scope** program as they have been following in St. Kitts for over 25 years. In order to see the results for ourselves, a delegation of five went to visit the Early Childhood Unit in Basseterre.

Together with the Unit Head, **Mrs. Vanta Walters**, we visited 3 daycare centers so we could see the program in action. Some centers cater to pre-schoolers only, some also have an infant department and serve up to 160 children.



Compared to our center, the rooms and outdoor play areas in St. Kitts are very large. The materials, however, are all self-made by the teachers. Each center has a **Fathers' Club** to take care of maintenance and construction.

Each center organizes 10 parent evenings per year that are mandatory for the parents to attend. During these meetings general information is given, as well as training. Training topics vary from cake decorating to child care and healthy meals.



Four Resource Teachers provide the continuous training and monitoring of all caregivers and centers.



The delegation consisted of (*from left to right*): Vanta Walters (*SKB*), Jet van Heijnsbergen (*SAB*), Angela Dekker (*SXM*), Rita Hassell (*EUX*), Atelca Leito (*CUR*), Patricia Lourens (*SXM*) and Ms. Valerie (*SKB*).

Wednesday June 27 Angela Dekker from SIFMA gives a presentation of High/Scope at the Sunny Valley Youth Center at 7:30 pm. You are all invited!!!!

CHILD'S MONTH

Together with the **Innovations Bureau**, the **Laura Linzey Daycare Center** organized activities for **Child's Month**. The activities were sponsored by **USONA** and **Print 2000**. There were many different events for parents as well as children.

Themes were chosen and displayed on colorful banners, in the different villages.



Two general informative lectures were given:

- Mr. Stanley Hodge: *The Role of the Father*;
- Drs. Angela Dekker: *High/Scope Curriculum for Early Childhood Education*.

One workshop was given for the caregivers:

- Dr. Alan Cheney: *Stress & Attitude Management*.

CHILD'S MONTH

Continued

Two visits were made to the **Hon. Henry Every Old Age Home**. Our senior citizens enjoy contact with the little ones.

Franklin Wilson did **story telling** in the center; it's nice for the children to have somebody else come in to read to them.

There was a **get-together** in the park with parents and children. There was a **picnic** on the museum grounds for which parents were also invited. Many parents came out to both activities.

A **fashion, modeling, sing-along event** was held at the youth center as a fundraiser.

Games day and a **big parade** took place in the Bottom.

Child's Month already became a positive, new event on Saba. Hopefully it'll become a tradition!

PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

A presentation by Dr. Juliaan van Acker

- ▶ Gangs on the rise in St. Maarten.
- ▶ Students expelled from school.
- ▶ Youngsters hanging on the street corners.
- ▶ Aggressive behavior in the homes.
- ▶ Lack of discipline in the schools.

Are we losing control over our own children? How should we deal with these problems? Who can help us?

On August 14th there will be a presentation for all parents on **Problem Behavior**. The lecturer is Prof. Dr. Juliaan van Acker, a behavior specialist from Belgium, who has lectured at the University of the Netherlands Antilles.

The presentation will be held at the Eugenius Johnson Center in the early evening. The workshops are organized by the **Child Focus Foundation**.