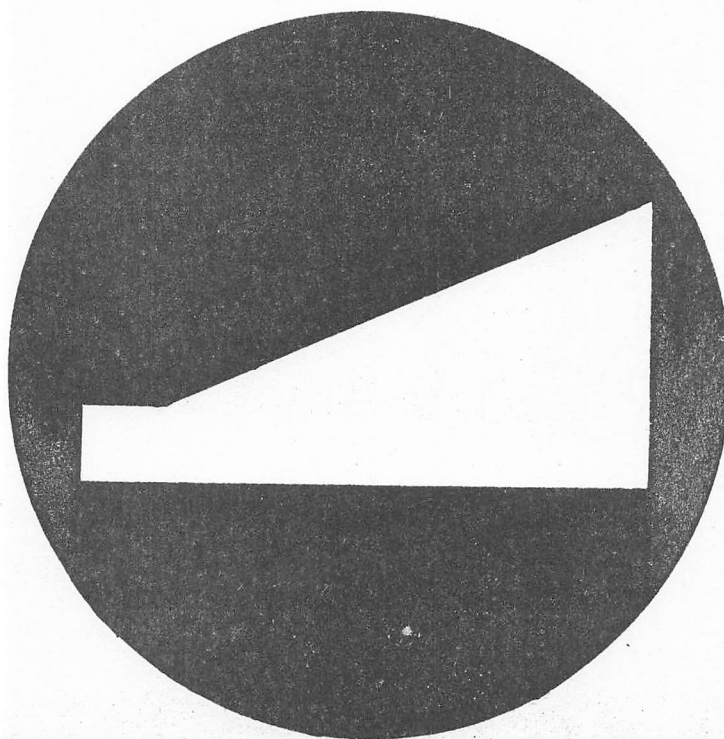


THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE: FIFTH CITY PRESCHOOL

Child Care Demonstration Project
OEO: Fourth Quarterly Update Narrative
October - December, 1972



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1. OVERALL PROGRAM

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

The Fall Quarter for the 5th City Preschool was a time of exploring new arenas in staff training and parent involvement. The following is a calendar of some of the signal events of the quarter.

CALENDAR OF SIGNAL EVENTS		FALL QTR. 1973
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
JANITOR LEAVES FOR EIGHT WEEK TRAINING	HIGH/SCOPE TESTING BEGINS	STAFF TASK FORCES ARE FORMED
URBAN WORLD ACADEMY BEGINS FOR STAFF	DIRECTOR ATTENDS OEO CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON	PARENTS TRAINED TO USE TEACHING MACHINES
TWO NEW TEACHERS HIRED FROM COMMUNITY	JANITOR RETURNS FROM TRAINING PROGRAM	PARENTS DEVELOP CANDY, TOYS, TREES FOR P.S.
COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION WITH 500 PRESENT	COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION AND MEAL WITH 400 PRESENT	PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION HOSTED BY PARENTS

Many events involved the entire community in celebration and fellowship. The new facilities remained a sign to the community of the reality of inner city renewal, and parents responded to the challenge to participate in the task of the Preschool.

New methods of staff training were developed and all the staff members participated in community events outside the Preschool.

These signs of affirmation and newness have given concretion to the vision of the possibility of a renewed inner city.

2. PROGRAM FUNCTIONS

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES

1. TEACHER TRAINING

Staff training and development was the program emphasis for the Fall Quarter. Aside from the ongoing training of curriculum building, daily staff meetings and teaching, this quarter brought a new program of on-the-job training. Two new staff members were hired and trained, both through observing and enabling in the classroom as well as outside training. One of these new teachers was introduced to the Preschool as a parent volunteer and, over a period of four months, was a fully trained teacher. The following chart outlines the program of training which she participated in:

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
PARENT VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PLANNING AND PROBLEM SOLVING UNITS AS WELL AS CLASS--ENABLEMENT	OBSERVATION AND PRACTICE TEACHING WITH STAFF ASSIGNED TO TRAIN		TEAM TEACHING EXPERIENCE
	PARTICIPATED IN PARENT CO-ORDINATION MEETINGS	TOOK THE BASIC TRAINING COURSE FOR STAFF, OFFERED ON A WEEKEND.	
	URBAN WORLD ACADEMY: A COMMUNITY TRAINING PROGRAM IN SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL METHODS AND CONCEPTS HELD THREE MORNINGS A WEEK IN THE COMMUNITY.		
DAILY STAFF MEETINGS, IN-SERVICE TRAINING, CURRICULUM BUILDING EXPERIENCE AND TEACHING PARENTS IN THE USE OF TEACHING MACHINES			

Lela Mosley, Co-ordinator of the 5th City Board of Managers, said at the end of the training program that the teacher had "a dignity that she never had before."

Another new staff member was hired after similar training, with the addition of a global trip in the summer, the eight week Academy and a year of volunteer service in the Preschool and the community Health Outpost.

A 5th City resident, hired last year as janitor, was sent to an eight week training program in cultural methods and community planning, as well as in-depth study of the 20th Century Urban World. Much emphasis was placed on

the style of committed engagement. He returned from the program deeply excited, saying, "I'm 56 years old and the greatest experiences of my life have been since I've become involved with 5th City a year ago. When I was at Academy, I felt like I was representing all of 5th City... Everyone's got to go, and I'll see to it." Since his return, he has involved himself in all 5th City events and planning and is potentially a key leader in the community.

The entire staff participated in the Urban World Academy, a community training program offered during the week.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM

The new edge for the Preschool in research and planning was the formation of task groups, including the entire staff, which worked on specific arenas...

1. Parent Involvement: Created a model for the parent volunteer program, and means of recruiting parents to participate in the Preschool.
2. Reduplication Tools: Did work on a consult model to be put into effect in the near future.
3. Curriculum Evaluation: Worked on a depth evaluation of the present curriculum rationale
4. Christmas Planning: Wrote special Christmas curriculum and organized a family Christmas celebration in the Preschool.

These task groups broadened the teachers' participation in arenas outside the classroom and became a critical tool for training.

3. CURRICULUM

A new figure appeared in the curriculum this quarter in the form of the "I CAN'T MAN". Dramas were created for the children, emphasizing the defeat of the "I can't" relationship to life. In the dramas, the "Iron Man" appeared as the "man who can". The dramas were so successful (not only with the children but also with adults who saw them at community events) that the Preschool staff created a coloring book for the children at Christmas with the theme "Iron Man Wins Again". The use of these imaginal ways of re-emphasizing the basic understanding used in the Preschool, worked very well with the children. The stories carried over into the classroom where the comment was often made, "Are you an "I Can't Man ?" The usual response is a firm "No, I'm an Iron Man", and this decision freed them to participate in the activity of the classroom.

Another feature was the special Christmas curriculum, with the theme "Christmas Around the World". Events were planned which related to the special Christmas happenings of every area of the globe, as well as a trip

3. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Information dissemination has been largely based on response to requests for information or visitation. An information packet with 5th City materials and an introduction was prepared. Fifty copies were mailed in response to letters requesting materials. Additional copies, along with one quarter's curriculum, copies of the ABT report and OEO narratives were given out by the director upon request at a conference of 300 educators, churchmen and businessmen meeting to discuss social issues.

A task group of Preschool teachers prepared an initial draft of a brochure to be completed and printed in January. Their work was based upon a workshop done by the total staff, stating what other preschools, parents and concerned people needed to know about the Preschool. This data is also being used to build a Preschool consult model with sections on different aspects of the program. These sections can be used in various ways, depending on the needs and desires of a particular request. This model will be completed and used during the next quarter.

Through parent meetings, mailings and send home sheets, parents have been informed about school and community activities, school policies and the High/Scope evaluation.

Visitors to the Preschool included university and high school students, businessmen, teachers and school directors. Four professors from the University of Illinois have recommended that their students visit the 5th City Preschool. In preparation for these and other visits, a schedule for visits is being recommended as follows:

	8:30	9:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	4:00
M O R N I N G	C O N T E X T	TOUR AND OBSERVA- TION IN THE CLASSROOMS	QUESTION AND ANSWER	STAFF MTG.	X	
A F T E R N O O N	X		C O N T E X T	STAFF MTG.	TOUR AND OBSERVATION IN CLASSROOMS	QUEST- ION AND ANSWER