

Someday when you are able to think with your reason and not your feelings you will know that

I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, with whom, and what time you would get home.

I loved you enough to keep silent and let you discover that your hand-picked friend was a creep.

I loved you enough to make you take back the Milky Bar (with a bite out of it) to confess "I stole this".

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your room — a job which would have taken me fifteen minutes.

I loved you enough to let you see the anger, disappointment, disgust and the tears in my eyes.

I loved you enough to ignore "what every other mother did".

I loved you enough to let you stumble, fall, hurt and fail.

I loved you enough to let you assume responsibility for your own actions.

I loved you enough to shove you off my lap, let go of your hand, so that you might learn to stand.

I loved you enough to accept you for what you are — not what I wanted you to be.

But most of all, I loved you enough to say No when you hated me for it... That was the hardest part of all.

The child care worker Die kinderversorger

AMPTELIKE TYDSKRIF VAN DIE NATIONALE VERENIGING VAN KINDERVERSORGERS

Round-table Conference on Black Child Care

A meeting of the first working group investigating current and future black child care needs took place in East London on November 1st and 2nd. Participants representing existing child welfare and child care organisations, state authorities of the RSA and self-governing states together with local authority officials, were faced with the probability that some 17 250 residential places were needed for black children in this country at the moment.



Facing camera: Helen Starke (Director of Cape Town Child Welfare Society), Elizabeth Sibole (Senzo City Council) and Florence Pretorius (Principal of the Place of Safety, New Brighton).

Proposed South African models, together with information from Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Israel, were studied, and ways in which the needs could be met were considered.

A fuller report will be issued when the working group has researched the matter further and informed all relevant authorities and bodies.

It was reported that both present and planned provision for black children in children's homes, places of safety and reform schools, both in the RSA and the independent and self-governing states, totalled 4 180 places, with a similar number of children in foster care. Current capital costs in providing children's homes were running at between R8 500 and R10 000 per bed.



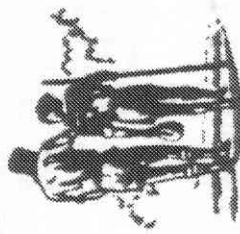
Mabel Buda of Johannesburg Child Welfare Society shares a tea break with Barry Lodge, principal of the Malcomess Children's Home, which hosted the Conference.

The Homestead

SHELTER FOR BOYS

The Homestead, situated in central Cape Town, need male child care workers. Please apply to Jane Keen on telephone 021-71-7130

Branch of the Child Welfare Society



Suitably trained child care workers required to work with boys at our Phillippi, Cape, Boys Town. Driver's licence essential. Multi-disciplinary team.

Telephone the Principal on 021-31-4154 for Application Form.

BOYS' TOWN Duin-en-Dal

Old Klipfontein Road, Phillippi

Uit die pen van die Nasionale Voorsitter

Die daarstelling van Aksie Sorg Trust het baie reaksie uitgelok. Diegene wat voel dat oordrewe persverklarings nadelig is vir inrigtingsorg, word ondersteun. Baie kinderhuise doen goeie werk en geen een kan die goeie ervaringe ontken wat hulle aan die kinders bied nie.

Aksie

Aan die ander kant is daar seker net so veel, indien nie meer nie, kinderhuise wat nie die regte sorg aan die kinders kan bied nie. Ongelukkig, wanneer die profesie in geheel in oenskou geneem word, blyk dit asof hierdie swak ervaringe die kinderver-sorgingsveld oorheers. Die Aksie Sorg Trust (AST) en die Nasionale Vereniging van Kinderversorgers (NVK) voel bekom-merd vanweë die feit dat dinge verkeerd loop veral omdat dit lank reeds die geval is. Die tyd van praat is verby. Die kinder-huise met 'n behoefte aan personeel-ontwikkeling en opleiding en beter dien-stoestande het hulp nodig en dit is waarna daar nou tot aksie oorgegaan moet word.

Ek het so pas 'n vinnige loer onderneem deur die vier streke van die NVK en het die geleentheid gehad om met mense te praaf oor hul werk. Dit is jammer om altyd die ou storie aan te luister — gebrek aan geld, onvoldoende personeel en ongemoti-veerde bestuursliggame. Ek besef dat ek nie ou koel moet uitgrawe nie, maar dit is moelik om jou werk met lyer aan te pak as die basiese bestaande altyd ontbreek.

Moelike toestande

Ek was weereens getref deur die absolute totaliteit en toewyding van die mans en vroue in die veld. Uitstekende werk word gelewer ten opsigte van die kinders deur persone wat hulself vir die werk gee. Ek het 'n kinderhuis in Kaapstad besoek waar

3 kinderversorgers 60 kinders versorg en ten spyte van die swak toestande waar- onder hulle moes werk, het hulle alles ge-gee omdat hulle geglo het in dit wat hulle vir die kinders doen. Daar is baie ander persone dwarsoor die land wat ook soos hulle in sulke omstandighede hul beste gee.

Die Kaapstad konferensie was baie op-windend. Dit was opwindend om te sien hoe kinderversorgers die ras en politieke probleme hanteer in 'n openlike atmos-feer waarin hulle mekaar respekteer en vertrou. Dit was goed om saam aan hierdie probleme te werk sodat hulle groter ervar- kon kry in mekaar se probleme en insig-inge. Die deelname van die Afrikaan-re-kende kollegas van gebiede rondom Kaap-stad was 'n verdere hoogtepunt van die konferensie. Die materiaal wat aangebied is, was stimulerend en ek het die kombi-nasie van erns en pret geniet.

Meriete sertifikaat

Die Oos-Kaap streek sal beslis vir 'n mer-iete sertifikaat kwalifiseer. Ek was genoot om deel te neem aan 'n residensiële naweek met persone wat meer as drie uur per pad moes reis om die opleidingskursus by te woon. Dit was ook 'n ontluisterende ervaring omdat ek weereens die probleme van kinderversorging in die gesig moes staar — probleme wat gepaard gaan en vererger word deur isolasie, gebrek aan fondse en gebrek aan volgehoue interak-sie met ander werkers.

Weereens veg 'n handvol betroubare persone om die lewe in sy geheel voor te stel aan die kinders in hul sorg. Die er-ving het slegs die behoefte aan 'n vol-liese werker in daardie streek beklemtoon. Ho-pelik sal die AST genoegsame fondse insa-mel om in hierdie behoefte te voorsien.

Frustrasie

Tegniese probleme van die SAL het my besoek aan die Transvaalse konferensie tot slegs 'n inloer beperk. Ek was egter lank genoeg daar om 'n gevoel van enorme frustrasie onder die werkers waar te neem. Dit blyk asof hierdie frustrasie ver-band hou met werkstoestande, houdings



Ruby Neka (KwaZulu Department of Health and Welfare) and Mrs M.E. Maritz of the Department of Co-operation and Development at the recent East London Conference on black child care planning.

The child care worker Die kinderversorger

Die Kinderversorger is die amptelike tydskrif van die Nasionale Vereniging van Kinderversorgers en word maandeliks uitgegee. Subskripsiegelede vir nielede: R4.00 p.a. posvry. Advertisingsgelede: R2.50 per kolf/cm. Stuur alle navrae, advertensies, artikels, briewe en misbroskies aan Die Redakteur, Die Kinder-versorger, Posbus 199, Claremont, 7735.

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The November issue of *The Child Care Worker* will be the last for 1984. As from January 1985 the journal appears in a new, enlarged format.

a Zenzele-type building which will cost approximately R20 000 to build, and will house six to ten children in the 6 to 8 age bracket. When this building is eventually vacated it will be used for a creche. The plans for this building have already been approved by the Department of Co-operation and Development and the site is also available. The main advantage of this plan is that it is more acceptable as far as funding is concerned, and it is a tangible example of the kind of resource that is being planned.

Another important development is that Phalo was granted a donation of R5 200 by the Springbok Radio Fund. This donation was received by representatives of Phalo on Monday 24th September 1984. During the whole process of planning, negotiations with various state and semi-state departments and other bodies and organisations have been maintained, and it is important that these channels of communication be kept open.

Evaluation

Outsiders have all the reason in the world to believe that progress is slow — and they would be correct. However, it is not always easy to initiate, plan and establish a children's home as there are certain realities to be reckoned with. Children's homes must comply with certain standards set by governments and local authorities. Several state departments are involved and negotiations must be maintained with all of them. The community in which the home is going to be situated must also be considered. Are they going to accept it and support it and can one rely on their co-operation? Institutions are also expensive to maintain and funding will always be a problem. Many factors affecting the planning of a home are beyond the control of the planners and must be coped with in some way or other. In the case of Phalo Children's Home it is reasonable to expect that there will be a delay in the granting of the loan in the present economic climate.

However, much has been achieved, and at this moment a fair investment of patience will, in the end, pay good dividends.

Therefore the newcomer in the School is not expected to seek and find parental figures and to relate to them. Instead, he is offered casual acquaintance with various people who provide him with whatever he needs, including respect for his need for privacy and non-interference. If he succeeds in relating to them, well and good; if not, little damage has been done since they need not become important to him.

With the exception of love at first sight, an adult's immediate love for a child can only be due to emotional starvation and keeps the child from one of the most maturing experiences — that of a slowly developing, mutually satisfying personal relationship. Immediate loving or mothering of a child implies the obligation to return such love, a response which is beyond the disturbed child's emotional capacity at first and results only in feelings of worthlessness and guilt.

True, over a period of several months, some particular figure in the total setting of the School is usually accepted by the child in a parental role. But this occurs only after his own experiences have taught him to want such a relationship, after his adjustment has made him ready for it, and after he has slowly convinced himself that he can handle it successfully. But such progress is made only very slowly.

Offering satisfaction in the ways in which a good mother may indulge her small child will finally lead even an older child to form ties similar to those he might originally have formed to a good parent. Then, and only then, is the child ready to form a relationship to a mother or a mother figure. This is now possible precisely because the figure has been selected by the child, according to his own inclinations and out of a number of possible choices.

Nothing is more dangerous for the child's readjustment than meeting a person who arrogates to herself a mother role, who has studied the Rights of Infants and concluded that rights are something that must be forced on the individual. If unlimited response to his needs is immediately forced upon the child by a parent figure,

instead of being offered casually, often his starvation (either emotional or otherwise) does not permit him to reject it, although it can only be had at unacceptable terms. This forces him into infant-like dependency.

LETTERS

Sir,
I was perturbed to read in the September issue of the journal some child care workers' view of committee members.

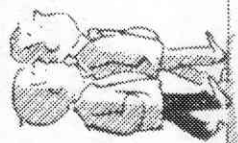
I don't know whether we are unique — I'm beginning to think we might be! — but in our four homes each caring for approximately twenty children, we have a system whereby each home is assigned to two committee members.

Each of the children in that home knows the committee members, and is free to talk, discuss or simply say Hi! The staff, too, are free to approach these committee members with problems relating to the home.

The Executive of the homes knows individually each of the children in their care — at the moment some 76 children altogether. Each of us is involved with the children, whose interests, after all, are paramount.

Mrs E.C. Howard

President, Durban Crèche & Children's Homes.



I hear that nobody sponsored this issue of The Child Care Worker!

COMPETITION



1985 has been declared International Youth Year by the United Nations and South Africa will observe it as such. The target group, upon which will be focussed in particular, is the group aged between 15 and 24, though younger children will no doubt be involved in programmes. Individual regions of the NACCW will no doubt take IYY'85 into account in their planning of activities, but this journal would like to mark the year in a special way.

Youth in children's institutions of any kind are invited to submit material to *The Child Care Worker* on the theme: Life in a children's institution. The feature may take the form of writing (article, story, poem, etc.) or art (black-and-white drawings or photographs). During the year, one article or feature will be published each month, and the twelve contributors of material published will each receive a cash prize.

In addition, the contributors of the two best features, as judged by the Editorial Board, will be able to spend National Youth Weekend (March 15 to 17) on a free weekend holiday in Cape Town, Durban or Johannesburg, whichever they choose.

COMPETITION RULES

The Rules of the competition are simple:
1. Young people who are 15 years or over as on 1st January 1985 and who live in children's institutions of any kind may enter.

2. The contribution is to be on the theme: Life in a children's institution.

3. The contribution must be entirely the work of the young person concerned.

4. Contributions may take the form of writing or art. Art entries should be able to be reproduced in black and white.

5. Contributions will be accepted immediately and the closing date is 15th February 1985.

6. The decision of the Editorial Board of The Child Care Worker as to the winning entries will be final.

7. Contributions should be sent to The Child Care Worker, P.O. Box 199, Claremont, 7735.

P.S. The kids will never know about this unless you, dear child care worker, tell them.

PHALO

*Progress Report of a
Children's Home in the making*

Progress means moving from one objective to the next in the pursuit of your ultimate goal and eliminating obstacles along the way. If this is true, Phalo is making progress, slow as it might be.

In order to make a full assessment of this progress, it is necessary to portray the ultimate goal of this venture, pointing out what has been achieved since the inception of the idea of a children's home for Grahamstown.

The Ultimate Aim

The ultimate aim of the undertaking described here is the establishment of a Black Children's Home for Grahamstown to house 100 children mainly from the Cape Province. The home will consist of five separate units each housing 20 children. It will be erected at a capital cost of R1 million with an annual running cost of R144 000.

The following planning principles will be adhered to:

- It is seen as part of an overall child care programme.
- A modern urban black home environment should be initiated.
- The optimum ratio of adults to children is a vital point to be taken into account.
- The house unit system will be adapted to the requirements of the community concerned.

- The home will in addition provide for recreation, sports, gardening, general education, religious instruction and professional counselling.

- Cognizance will be taken of experience gained by similar institutions elsewhere.

Achievements

A few important milestones have been reached since 1981 when the Grahamstown Welfare Liaison Committee appointed a steering body to investigate the feasibility of a Black Children's Home for Grahamstown. This assignment was concluded in the first half of 1982 and on the 19th June a permanent Board of Management was elected by public vote. The Board appointed four sub-committees for planning, staff development, publicity and fund-raising to help it to execute its planning.

The project was approved by the Department of Co-operation & Development who promised to subsidise it once it has become operative. The East Cape Development Board resolved to sponsor the project by erecting the buildings with a loan from the Department of Community Development. An application for the loan has already been made by the Development Board.

The home is registered as a welfare organisation and a fund-raising body, giving it the authority to pursue certain approved aims and to raise funds from the public. The Board of Management is affiliated to The National Association of Child Care Workers which serves as a valuable source of expertise and experience. Four hectares of land have been allocated to Phalo at Makanaoskop by the East Cape Development Board. This provides the Home with the necessary premises and location as part of the local community.

Making a start

An important recent development was a decision to start with Phalo Children's Home on a smaller scale while we are waiting for the permanent building to be erected. Several possibilities were considered and it was eventually decided to start with

ten opsigte van opleiding by die Tegnikon en 'n algemene woonwag met die huidige toestand van inrigtingsorg. 'n Mens kan net hoop dat die werkers uit sal hou en 'n aktiewe soektog sal loods om hierdie probleem te oorbrug. Ek was egter aangemoedig deur die pogings wat die persone in hierdie streek aanwend.

Daar die Natal Streek voorbereidings vir die Nasionale Konferensie in volgende jaar tref, is daar teen die gedagte van 'n Mini Konferensie vir hierdie jaar besluit. Hulpe het besluit om spesiale vergaderings te reël vir die lede van bestuursrade. In die eerste vergadering sal fondsinsameling en openbare verhoudinge behandel word.

Dit is reeds 'n jaar sedert ons in Kaapstad vir ons laaste Nasionale Konferensie bymekaar gekom het en baie water het sedertdien in die see geloop. Die probleem en uitdagings is steeds daar, maar ons moet die werk wat sedertdien gedoen is nie onderskat nie en laat ons nooit vergeet nie dat dit die unieke hydrae van elke individu is, wat ons help om te glo in die waarde van die werk wat ons doen.

— Ernie Nightingale

Around the Regions

Western Cape

Western Cape Chairman, Vivien Lewis, flies off to the USA, UK, Holland and Israel on Friday 9th November. She will be away for two months studying child care models at the request of St Michael's Children's Home's management committee, as part of their investigations and planning for the future of the home. No doubt we will all share in the information she gains. While she is away, Ashley Theron, principal of the Annie Starck Village in Athlone, will be acting Chairman of the regional executive.

End-of-year party for the Western Cape Region will take place at the Annie Starck Village from 11h00 to 12h30 on 29th November. All child care enthusiasts welcome to celebrate having survived another year!

Love is not enough

An extract from *Love Is Not Enough* by Bruno Bettelheim, MacMillan, New York, 1959.

Most children's homes pride themselves on how successfully their houseparents take the place of true parents. Yet it is common knowledge that the difficulties of almost all emotionally disturbed children have originated in the relationship to a parent. It is therefore unrealistic to expect them to be able to form successful relationships to parent substitutes after so short a time. But since no other types of relationships are available, the child depends for satisfaction of his needs on conformity with the established pattern. He recognises what is useful to him and prefers a child-parent relationship. The result is a pseudo-relationship which rules out any later formation of a true one.

The attitude of such homes might best be described by saying that their philosophy states (though never explicitly): Because the relationship to a parent is the one which the child was utterly unable to manage, it is the best starting point for his readjustment (every adult's insight into the complexity of his own relations to his parents notwithstanding).

A school for emotionally disturbed children, on the contrary, should start the child's readjustment by offering him the simplest and not the most complex of all personal relationships. It might also be mentioned that in our emotionally starved society, the need for immediate affectionate responses from children on the part of many adults who choose to work as houseparents in homes for children is often much greater than vice versa. Children who enter such institutions are much more apt to see adults as the source of conveniences rather than to seek their love which, biogenetically, is the result of having received ample satisfactions.