

Recapturing Childhood. Positive Parenting.

A plea from Mildred Masheder ... contribute to the next book.

This is a plea for contributions of ideas and experiences that promote a **secure and unhurried childhood**. The intense interest recently displayed in the media on the subject of the growing threat to childhood needs to be followed up as a matter of urgency.

I am engaged in writing a book for parents and teachers of young children and am enlisting the cooperation of parents and others who are trying to cope with the many threats to present day childhood. The book aims to give practical examples of positive measures that can counter the ill effects of pressures from the consumer society.

We all have a vision for our children: we want them to be happy and secure and to enjoy to the full their birthright of childhood. It should be one of discovering the world through creative play; of exploring the wonders of nature; of exercising their bodies to the limit and of learning how to manage the enjoyment of companionship.

This simple vision should not be an ideal: it is the heritage of every child, but today's parents and teachers are facing great challenges to its fulfilment. We all know the influences that compete for their allegiance. Television has many advantages if properly managed: it widens children's horizons and can be good entertainment value, but there is a big downside to both television and computer games in the amount of violence shown and the fact that they promote the possibility of being 'couch potatoes'. There is also the problem of junk food and above all a culture that encourages endless possessions, competitive ambitions to stardom and cultivates an aspiration to grow up too soon: all this in a state of almost frenzy, of being hurried through life.

So there is much to be done to challenge these powerful forces and there is a growing determination to overcome them.

Contribute your ideas and experiences to Mildred now either by writing to her direct: Mildred Masheder, 75 Belsize Lane, London, NW3 5AU. Or email her at enquiries@positivechildhood.net.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the website <http://www.positivechildhood.net> for the latest news of books, offers and ideas.

See over for the book outline:

Book outline: Recapturing Childhood

Introduction: the birthright of a natural childhood

Chapter 1: A holistic approach to every child's needs: physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual.

Chapter 2: The need for unhurried development at the child's own pace.

Chapter 3: Emotional literacy as a key element in children's development.

Chapter 4: The threat to childhood by the materialistic society based on consumerism.

Chapter 5: The challenge by parents to give their children a natural childhood.

Chapter 6: How to avoid the bad effects of our present society on young children's physical development.

Chapter 7: The invasion of the electronic industry into young children's lives and how to cope with it.

Chapter 8: What values are our children imbibing? How parents are trying to redress the balance.

Chapter 9: How can schooling be less stressful and become enjoyable?

Chapter 10: The challenge to bring up a whole, integrated child in the face of the pitfalls of modern industrial society?

Chapter 11: Action for change in society's attitude to the needs of young children.

This is an invitation to parents of young children to share their ideas and experiences in coping with these difficulties. I would also like to enlist the help of everyone concerned with the well-being of children: parents-to-be, parents of teenagers who have still to face more challenges, grandparents and other relatives, nursery and mainstream teachers: in fact, everyone.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mildred Masheder
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