

## 2004 EsF Assembly Suggestions

### A Selection taken from the Ideas and Suggestions put on the White Board on August 19 & 20

*At the end of the EsF Assembly, thoughts and ideas which had been germinating over the previous three weeks in a favourable environment, suddenly burst forth leading to an explosion into writing on the White Board. Dozens of brief statements appeared, related to possible actions and endeavours. Some went straight to the heart of the matter, others proposed initiatives which were "indirect preparations" for a better understanding of Montessori's ideas among parents, educators and society at large.*

Among the top priorities were:

- Become a more positive advocate for ALL children
- Parent education
- Explore other avenues of communication
- Work with like-minded organisations to support children
- Increase AMI membership
- Donate to MM75
- Support and funding for projects

Parents/Families:

- Reinforce and validate parents in their role
- Parent education
- Parent coaching/workshops
- Grandparent support for single mothers, working mothers
- Begin with staff, parents, friends and family for in-depth consults
- Take more videos of children to use for parent education
- Theory articles: Parent education for new families (pregnant)
- Create a series of booklets, pamphlets for pediatricians about breastfeeding, pacifiers, strollers
- Talk to the breastfeeding association
- Parent education for new families (new baby)
- Parent help line

Society:

- Awareness campaign
- Local support groups, sex education, young unwed mothers. Help them through communication with them
- Hold a short seminar through various churches for all age groups. There are coalitions of churches in your community.
- Research local organisations' youth groups
- Peace initiatives in Middle East with Israel, Cyprus, Palestine
- Follow up on "SCREAM"
- Make videos for Discovery Channel on child development
- Write articles for local newspapers
- Interact with other like-minded individuals, organisations
- AMI's participation in International Day of the Child/Stop Child Labour Day
- Foundation, justice for children
- Get on radio talkback shows
- Look into local Aspergers and autism support groups
- Look for group of lawyers, volunteers, recruit for foster care families that host children who are victims of abuse

- Community information/media

#### Education:

- Definitive statement: what is Montessori
- Send AMI teacher training applications forms and information to job fairs
- Send information about the AMI teacher training to high school counsellors
- Offer Montessori presentations to school education programmes in universities and colleges
- Help educate the “nanny” population
- Talk at play groups about child development
- Work with adolescents giving information about child development 0-3
- Talk to your college alumni work about our work
- Partner consult with HeadStart
- Work internationally together to get education ministries to recognise AMI diplomas and training centres as fully “credentialed”
- Go to local early childhood association meetings
- Deliver Montessori lectures at technical colleges and universities instead of leaving it to the untrained as an “alternate education unit”
- Investigate UNESCO Associated Schools project network
- Public school Montessori programme, Ireland, public school programmes elsewhere
- Recruit for public school teachers: database?
- Talk at early-childhood conferences
- Links with local public schools
- Get on existing Montessori chatrooms and other education chatrooms
- Recommend extended essential reading supporting Montessori (with short literary review and signature of nominating person)
- Begin Montessori adolescent programmes in Australia

#### AMI:

- Write more articles for *Communications*
- Video of children on AMI website
- Be proactive with AMI website; list EsF initiatives, listing of possible ideas for initiatives
- AMI training reforms

-Addition of philosophy trainers from experienced elders in the field

-Take into account “adaptation” different landscapes/evolve different intelligences

-MM lectures, read and discuss

-Social justice project visits

#### Final Thoughts:

- Look at projects where EsF could give support
- Identify sources of funding for projects
- Believe you can
- Follow up
- Keep faith