



CHILDREN FIRST™  
A MERAGE FOUNDATION



*Expanding lifetime opportunities for Orange County's  
at-risk children*

# Professional Services Guide

Winter, 2007



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**Children First** believes in the power of quality early childhood education to help expand lifetime opportunities for Orange County's at risk youth. To that end, we have organized a team of retired professionals who are eager to provide short term services to help support Orange County's growing number of early childhood development centers. This guide offers an introduction to our team members along with some suggestions for how we might help.

**Eleanor Warthen, Database Specialist**

*Eleanor is looking for opportunities to use her knowledge of systems analysis, Excel spreadsheet, and Access database to assist organizations to plan, manage, track and report various aspects of their work. She is currently working with the Blind Children's Learning Center staff to help them better utilize the existing functions in a commercial childcare management software program and to create customized reports in an Access database based on data in that program, but would be happy to start a new project at your site.*

**Dr. Stephen Koffler, Pediatrician**

*Dr. Koffler has given workshops for parents and staff at early childhood development centers on the topics of behavior, learning and development. He would be delighted to present a workshop at your site for your parents and/or staff.*

**Denise Hunt, Motor Development Specialist**

*Denise has developed a fun and enlightening workshop for center staff on movement and the development of the brain. Denise's intriguing workshops explore how movement strengthens the sensory system, how music helps the internal speech, and how to show young children to work with gravity in order to support the vestibular system. She would be delighted to present her workshop for your parents and staff.*

### **Fran Gale, Special Education Trainer**

*Fran began her teaching career at the elementary school level where she found her true niche in the field of special education. Her training workshops show teachers how to recognize when a child is having difficulty , how to modify teaching methods for different styles of learning, and how to communicate with parents.*

### **Karen Jaffe, Hands-On Science and Math**

*Karen holds an MBA as well as bachelor degrees in both computer science and engineering. She'd like to share her passion for science and math with young children through hands-on demonstration projects in the pre-K classroom. Karen's activities aim toward the California Content Standards for kindergarten and include exercises such as creating and interpreting a human sundial, inflating a balloon with gasses from a mix of solutions in a test tube, and measuring evaporation differences in variable sized jars. Karen would be happy to visit your site to provide a series of engaging science and math activities for your students.*

### **Lise Strom, Child Psychologist**

*Lise has developed a curriculum for parents to help them understand and deal with their child's behavior. Lise is also interested in helping staff handle suspected child abuse and consequent parent advisement.*

**Jerrie Steinhauer, Management Specialist**

*With over 20 years in upper level corporate management in addition to owning and operating her own business, Jerrie would like to offer her valuable expertise in management to help children in Orange County. She would be delighted to spend some time with your staff to help analyze and improve your operation 's functionality and efficiency.*

**Mark Schmidt, Photographer**

**Bea Grossman, Financial Management/ESL Instructor**

*Bea Grossman joined the Peach Corps at the age of 83. Her assignment placed her in Romania, teaching ESL to university students. In mid-life she earned degrees in finance and business administration. This year, Bea ran for city council in her hometown of Diamond Bar. Now that the election is over, she' s looking for a new challenge. I f you have a project that requires development , coordination and/or oversight, Bea would be happy to help. .*

## **Teachers/Teachers Aides/Readers**

*In addition to our professional services team, Children First recruits and places retired teachers, teachers aides and readers from various professional backgrounds to fill consistent, year long roles in Orange County preschools and early childhood development centers. Please let us know if you are interested in working with Children First to place one or more of our outstanding Merage Fellow volunteers at your center.*

*Looking forward to working with you!*

***Sue Cronmiller, Program Officer***

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