

## International news and information

The 'Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives' (FICE) is an international organization gathering institutions and professionals active in child care in more than 25 countries all over Europe and the world.

In a further issue of this publication, you will get more information about the history and the structure of FICE, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Paris in 1998.

Currently, FICE is active in some areas of child care work.

### **Networking**

FICE tries to establish links between people and institutions involved in child care in order to develop models of good practice. FICE is collaborating with various international organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the Council of Europe, ECOSOC, the European Commission through programmes like Helios II, Erasmus, Leonardo etc. FICE wishes to collaborate with any organization committed to the improvement of the living conditions of children placed outside their families and the work with the families themselves. FICE collaborates with international NGOs like AEIJI, EFCW and IFCW, etc.

### **Communication**

In publishing a glossary of terms used in child care, FICE wants to facilitate communication among professionals and other people involved. The biannual congresses of FICE are intended to stimulate the exchange of ideas on challenging themes. FICE tries to stimulate bilateral and multilateral contacts between its member sections all over Europe and the world.

### **International Exchange**

By setting up its international professional exchange programme (PEP), FICE wants to invite the 'grassroots workers' to make experiences in child care work known abroad and to report on their work at home. This programme could be part of an international programme for further education. A thematic network is currently being set up by a group of NGOs representing training centres all over Europe and some organizations of professionals involved in child care work.

### **Important Issues**

The theme of the next Expert Seminar, to be held in Vienna in October, will be 'Adventure pedagogics'. In Germany, there is currently a public debate about the pros and cons of such programmes for children with challenging behavior due to « accidents » that happened abroad.

The next FICE congress took place in Copenhagen, May 22 - 24, 1996. The theme was 'Fostering Cultural Diversity in a Turbulent World: A Challenge for Extrafamilial Care'.

Roots are important to people. They give us our identity and our sense of belonging. They affect our behavior and our beliefs. We pass on what we have gained from our roots through our cultures, religions, traditions, arts and subcultures.

How can child care workers best help children and young people to maintain links with their roots, and to keep their sense of identity?

How can one help children with different ethnic backgrounds, or different religious beliefs?

What should child care workers do to help children and young people to be able to play a role as adults, integrated in the community?

How far should assimilation be encouraged?

**Information**

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