CHILDREN'S CENTERS VITAL TO VICTORY

Why?

How?

CHILDREN'S CENTERS ARE NEEDED HERE AND NOW

In London, they say, "Nurseries in Britain mean planes in Australia." If nurseries in England can release thousands of mothers, nurseries in the United States will release tens of thousands to make their contributions for the war effort. Let us, in the United States, take time by the fetlock, build child programs and centers now.

Why? Because as the armed forces enlist men from industry, as war production speeds up, an ever increasing number of women will be needed. Our job is to insure the full production necessary to win the war.

Why? Because not only do the women of America need and want to help, but at the same time they want to be sure their children are well cared for. Properly run children's groups assure sound health programs, continuous careful guidance. They provide children with a place to play, with companionship, with proper equipment to exercise both body and mind.

Why? Because overcrowded trailers, homes and communities, such as exist all over the country today, allow no adequate place to play, to develop, to be happy.

Why? Because the war has taught us once again that programs for young children are vitally important. Undiagnosed disabilities among drafted men have brought into sharp relief the need for early examination and constant care. Our children must grow up into healthy men and women.

Why? Because, unfortunately, war-geared industry often creates temporary dislocation and unemployment. Both parents and children suffer stress and strain. A well run children's program brings release from strain, good counsel to parents and children.

Why? Because the building of centers to serve children provides parents with something they want and need in peace or war.

Why? Because parents, teachers and health workers pulling together can build, secure independent, happy, healthy cooperative children—the kind who will grow up able to build the brave new world for which we are fighting; who will in time preserve and strengthen the democracy of the United States of America.

YOU CAN HELP SET UP A CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTER—NOW!

How? Initiate the Program. Any individual or group can start the ball rolling. The program, however, should result from cooperative effort. Solid success will depend on the joint effort of all who can contribute.

How? First call together a small group for discussion. It should, if possible, include parents, educators trained to understand young children's needs, health and welfare representatives, and, if available, a psychologist and psychiatrist.

How? Bring in Others. The first small group should enlist the help of other interested individuals and agencies. Other states and cities have done it. You too can interest such groups as:

Your local government groups, departments of education, health and welfare.

Your council of social agencies or individual social agencies interested in child and family welfare.

Your recreational agencies, public and private—those mean parks and playgrounds to your project.

Your nursery schools, day nurseries.

Your WPA family education centers.

Representatives from such other groups as follow may be brought in to help sponsor the project.

Church groups, women's clubs, labor organizations, employed mothers, industry, teacher and parent-teacher groups. Try to enlist their time, energy, and support.

From this entire group small continuing committees should be set up to do the necessary survey work preparatory to the actual starting of the program. It is vital that all volunteer work be directed by a trained professional person.

How? Work with Your Defense Council. Before any action is taken, clear with your local Defense Council in order to assure integration, cooperation, no overlapping. If possible, there should be a representative of children's work appointed to the local and state Defense Council.

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How? Do the Vital Preparatory Work.

1. **Investigate need for centers.**
   Ascertain number of children from two to six; tabulate areas in which they live, their specific ages.
   Ascertain number of employed mothers, their working hours.
   Discover amount of parent interest in children's service centers among both working and non-working mothers.

2. **Investigate present facilities.** What space, equipment and staff are available; what professional cooperation can be enlisted; what community resources (proper school, health center agencies) can be tapped or expanded.

3. **Standards** and supervision. To be sure children's programs are sound as well as useful, secure professionally trained workers and/or existent health, education and social agencies to join in planning and supervising programs. **Systematic plans for regular supervision** and at least bi-monthly staff meetings (to discuss intake, daily programs, children) should be made and followed.

4. Legal status. Find out **local or state laws** which govern the care of young children in groups at this age level. Be sure to get this information.

5. Financial assistance. What **local, state or federal funds** exist which may be tapped for your program? Seek federal, state and local funds and resources; meanwhile **use your ingenuity and group resources** to get going.

6. **Estimate future needs for centers.** Find out nature of new defense industries and those contemplated, expansion of existing industries, policies of plants with respect to hiring women. Get every bit of available information from existing social agencies before you start to get your own. In many communities there is ample evidence of need for immediate action with a minimum of survey work required.

Now—to Work

Pool all available resources, knowledge and health. If you are going to use volunteer assistance, start study courses at once. These should be started **only under the guidance of trained experts.** If you have none in your community, try to import them from the nearest center.

START NOW — TO ASSURE

For Your Child and All Children—The security, health, and happiness, which only a handful of children have had until now.

For the United States—That the mothers of young children can give whole-heartedly their efforts where and when they are needed—secure in the knowledge that their children are being cared for, protected and developed in the best possible way.

CHILDREN'S CENTERS TODAY ARE VITAL TO VICTORY

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THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

3314 Cathedral Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C.

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