

EDUCATION AND CARE FOR CHILDREN
IN THEIR PRESCHOOL YEARS

A Leadership Seminar Sponsored by the
Albert Shanker Institute

February 21, 2001; 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Washington Court Hotel
Montpelier Room
525 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Introduction: Sandra Feldman, President**
American Federation of Teachers

Background Rationale for this Meeting

Choosing the Discussion Themes:

- *Starting with Educational Content and Skills*
- *Staffing for Education Quality*
- *Early Education's Impact on Poor and/or Immigrant Children*

Logistics: Eugenia Kemble, Executive Director
Albert Shanker Institute

How Shanker Institute Discussions Work

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Session I: Education Content and Skills**

Framing the Discussion Issue: Sandra Feldman

Relevant Materials: Eugenia Kemble

Discussion Questions:

Why this is a central yet controversial topic.

How real are the alleged tensions between teacher-directed and child-initiated learning?

How prescriptive should we be about content and skills?

What models do we have that are worth trying to duplicate?

Discussion Initiators (7-10 minutes each)

Barbara Bowman, President, Erikson Institute for Advanced Study in Child Development

Diane Ravitch, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Joseph Sparling, key author of Abecedarian curriculum

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:30

Session II: A Staff to Deliver Quality Content and Skills

Framing the Issue: Sandra Feldman

Relevant Materials: Eugenia Kemble

Discussion Questions:

What do we know about the current workforce?

What defense do we have for current credentialing practices? For accreditation practices built on them?

How do the requirements of other preschool systems compare with ours? The French, for example?

How can we develop a more qualified workforce?

Do we know of good programs that use staff with differentiated credentials?

Discussion Initiators (7 to 10 minutes each)

Sue Bredekamp, Director of Research, Council for Professional Recognition

Dollie Wolverton, Education Director, Head Start Bureau

Ruby Takanishi, President, Foundation for Child Development

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Session III: The Equity Effects of Good Pre-School: What Do We Know?

Framing the Issue: Sandra Feldman

Relevant Materials: Burnie Bond, Director of Programs, Albert Shanker Institute

Discussion Questions:

What does American research tell us?

What does French or other international research tell us?

What can we speculate about the contribution consistency makes to the success of French programs?

Discussion Initiators: (7 to 10 minutes each)

Evelyn Moore, President, National Black Child Development Institute

Sheila Kamerman, Compton Foundation Centennial Professor of Social Work, Columbia University

Steven Barnett, Professor of Education, Rutgers University

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

**3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Wrap-up and Concluding Observations
(7 minutes each)**

Discussion Initiators:

Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute

Mark Ginsberg, Executive Director, National Association for the Education of Young Children

Sandra Feldman