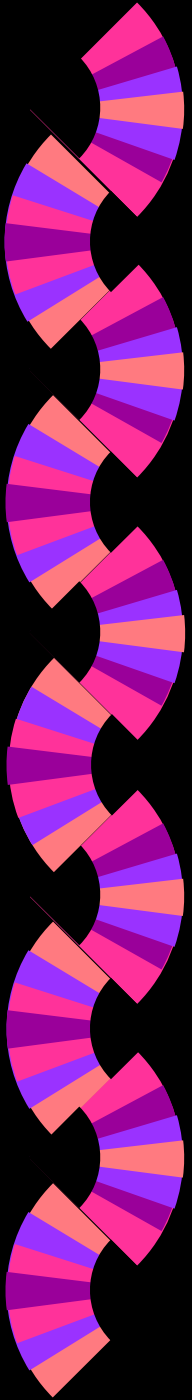


Portage Project

Committed to creating and enhancing
quality programs which promote the
development and education of all children
and families.



**In every child who is born,
Under no matter what
circumstances and no matter what
parents,
The potentiality of the human race
is born again and in him/her too,
once more, and of each of us,
Our terrific responsibility towards
human life.**

James Agee



The Early Years

- 1969 first funding from the Handicap Children Early Education Program (HCEEP)
- Development of a home based system of early intervention that recognized parents as their child's first teacher...a new concept at the time



Some Goofy staff



Early Years continued...

- ▶ Recognizing a gap in available materials to support the parent involvement in the development of young children with disabilities, the project staff created the Portage Guide to Early Education in 1972

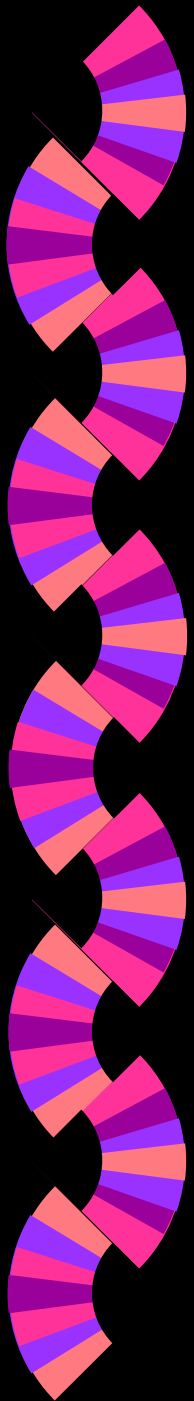


Early Years continued...

- ▶ The PGEE has been revised in 1976 and 1996, it has been translated into over 30 languages and is utilized in many early intervention programs throughout the world
- ▶ The Portage Project began developing training and replication sites in 1972, with the exception of a one year period, the project was consistently funded to provide training since 1972



Our last day in the old building, 1980





International Activity

- Friends from the UK invited the Portage Project to provide a series of trainings in that country beginning in 1976. Since that time the Portage programme has been widely disseminated throughout the UK and is even mentioned in their legislation related to services for children with disabilities.



International Activity continued...

- The project also received a grant from the Agency for International Development in 1977 to develop an early intervention program in Peru. Several staff members worked in Peru during those three years.



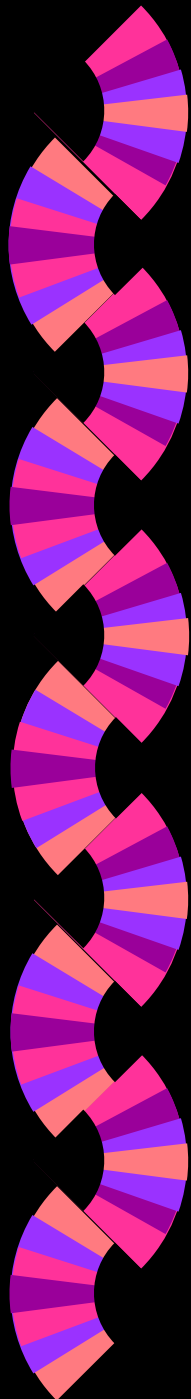
International Activity continued

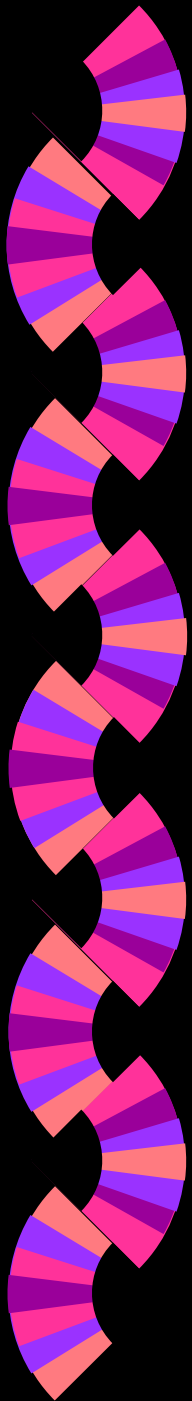
- ◆ Since that time, our international activities have included work in the following countries (give or take a few)... Japan, China, Taiwan, India, Jamaica, Samoa, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Philippines, Peru, Greece, Gaza, Kuwait, Romania, Ecuador, Canada, Mexico



International Activity continued..

- The International Portage Conferences began in 1986 in England. Since then, conferences have been held every two years. The conferences are planned by the International Portage Association. Conferences have been held in England, Japan, US, India, and Jamaica.





3rd International
Portage
Conference

Madison, WI

1990





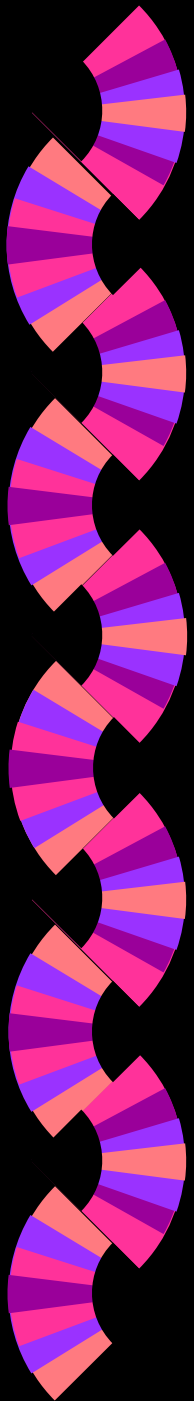
Involvement with Head Start

- ▶ Training grant from the Office of Child Development and the Bureau for the Education of the Handicapped to provide training for Head Start
- ▶ Work with SDC Head Start in Milwaukee to develop an inclusive classroom in 1976
- ▶ Home Start Training Center project to train Head Start programs in developing and implementing home based programs



Head Start activity continued...

- ▶ Resource Access Project/QIC-D (1976 to present) to support Head Start programs in including children with disabilities
- ▶ Various projects to develop materials for Head Start programs
- ▶ Head Start Transition project funded to support the maintenance of Head Start practices into the elementary classroom (1991-1997)



- Family Service Credential grew out of the HS Transition project and is designed to support Head Start staff in developing partnerships with families
- Contracts with Early Head Start programs to provide staff development and support reflective practices



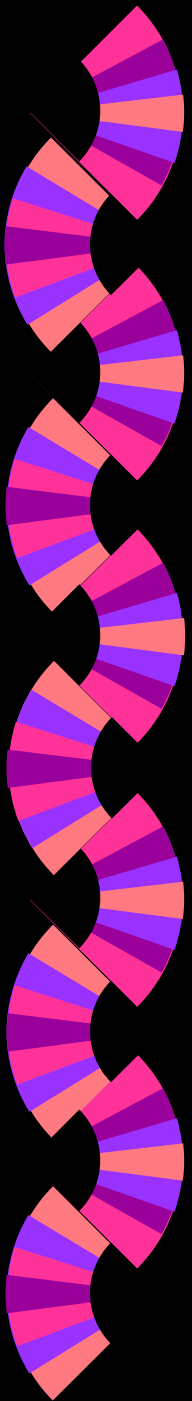
Head Start activity continued...

- QNet funding (1997 to 2003) to provide training and technical assistance to Head Start programs in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin



On-Going Development of Models of Direct Services

- Continuously provided direct services to birth to three children and their families in the CESA 5 area. Currently working in four counties (Juneau, Waushara, and Columbia Counties). The project utilizes a modified transdisciplinary team approach.





Growing...

- Direct service experience and the study involved in developing the Growing materials led to a more reflective approach that focused on parent child interaction as the heart of intervention



Organizational Change...

- Development and implementation of the Demo project led to defining the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that support family focused intervention and to the awareness that to create change in practice there must be organizational change



Expansion to other areas

- ▶ Even Start Family Literacy provides direct services to young children and their families related to literacy, child development, and parent child interaction



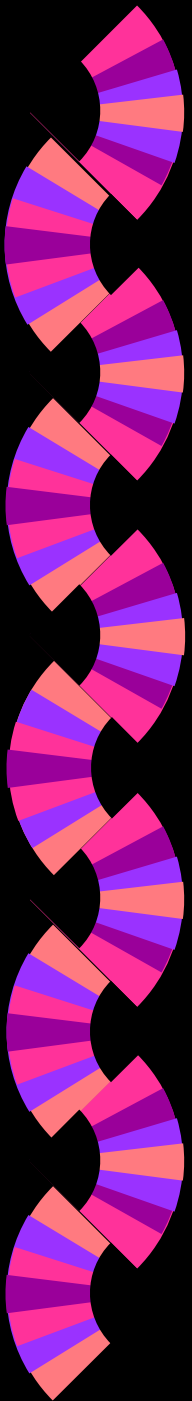
Materials

- ▶ New Portage Guide will be published in Fall 2003. It is designed to bring forward the best of the past and incorporate new knowledge about early learning and development.

Threads

by James A. Autry

Sometimes you just connect,
like that, no big thing maybe
but something beyond the usual business stuff.





It comes and goes quickly so you have to pay attention,

a change in the eyes when you ask about the family,
a pain flickering behind the statistics about a boy
and a girl in school,

or about seeing them every other Sunday.

An older guy talks about his bride, a little affectation
after twenty-five years.

A hot-eyed achiever laughs before you want him to.

Someone tells about his wife's job or why she quit
working to stay home.

An old joker needs another laugh on the way to
retirement.

A woman says she spends a lot of her salary on an au pair and a good one is hard to find but worth it because there's nothing more important than the baby.

Listen.



In every office you hear the threads of love and joy and fear and guilt, the cries for celebration and reassurance, and somehow you know that connecting those threads is what you are supposed to do and business takes care of itself.

