



CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

November 30 2004

Michael Ballard
The Centre for Resiliency
303-640 Sheppard Ave East
Toronto ON Canada M2K 1B8

Dear Michael:

Humour, activity, information and energizing music are just a few of the many attributes of Peter Alsops and Bill Harley's In the Hospital Program. As a professor of Early Childhood Education at Centennial College and a previous Child Life Specialist employed by two Community Hospitals, I have had the honour of using and reviewing In the Hospital.

Children need so much more than medicine to get well. Alsop and Harley address the many psychosocial aspects of care that is necessary to wellness. Their global approach to wellness has a place in many of the helping professions. I have used their program as a Child Life Specialist in preparing children emotionally for hospitalization and medical procedures. I have used the In the Hospital program in my Early Childhood Education classes as a tool to teach inclusion of children with special needs and an understanding of the psychosocial theory. I have also used strategies and ideas from the program to assist my own children with medical procedures and hospitalizations.

Alsop and Harley's program is child-centered and has a strong foundation in developmental theory. These attributes, combined with fun, imagination, creativity and music empower nurses, doctors, educators, and other helping professionals to meet the complex needs of the children they are providing service for in a dynamic way.

Families are the center of the child's life. In the Hospital provides siblings, parents and friends opportunities to assist children to communicate in a developmentally appropriate manner to lessen their stress and anxiety. When children have opportunities to communicate and reduce stress and anxiety, it is much easier to care for them in a medical setting.

Hats off to Alsop and Harley! They have captured the true spirit of helping children overcome difficult situations.

Regards,

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