

FUNDACION LUCIERNAGA

PROGRAM OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFANT (PIDI)

CRITICAL ISSUE: Knowing how crucially important it is to providing the infant the best physical and mental nourishment that they need for their best mental and psychological development, should motivate us all to rise to the occasion and be proactive in making sure that no infant in the world, for any given reason, lacks the most basic nutrition and mental nourishment. The infant is the most valuable patrimonial asset of humanity, as the future of our societies and the world as a whole depend on the preparedness of the infant both physically and intellectually, as the most important foundation for the optimum development of the human being.

SYSTEM: Fundacion Luciernaga (FL) has developed a highly reliable, productive, scientific and safe administrative system, to most responsibly and scientifically provide the needy infant in the American Continent and hopefully, cooperatively, with your assistance and the help of others, the whole world, their God given nutritional and mental rights.

NEED: The Program of Integrated Development for the Infant (PIDI) is premised in the understanding that the first six years of a child's nutritional and intellectual intake are critical for their optimum physiological development. Unfortunately, poverty in developing countries is the main cause of malnutrition and deficient education which compromises the normal development of the infant in the impoverished communities of the world, resulting in less than optimal mental and physical preparedness to tackle the ever increasing difficulties of life. Fundacion Luciernaga (FL) understands that the task of ensuring that the needy infant receives the projected assistance, it requires the best administrative and most capable goods and service providing infrastructures, complemented with the knowledge and expertise in all the associated areas of nutrition, training and education, as well as certain fundamentally needed financial and legal infrastructures.

OBJECTIVE: To meeting the objectives of PIDI, FL has been specially sanctioned, due to their international relationships, to deploy a unique approach in the management of raised funds for project financing, as well as the acquisition of the needed funding for project financing, through its networks in both the private and governmental sectors. FL works closely and interactively with highly qualified financial networks, to best and safely manage raised funds, assets and securities. Unlike most social and non-profit entities, the objective for the indicated integrated network of FL, is to derive financial sustainability and solvency to effectively mitigate all logistical issues associated to the provision of services to the needy infant (distribution and delivery of certain services to targeted recipients), in an effective and flawless manner. By working jointly with specific bonded bona fide entities, mismanagement, incompetence, wastage and corruption are eliminated in the provision of the required goods and services to the needy infant wherever he or she might be located.

SUSTAINABILITY: It is crucial to have financial sustainability as a further backbone to the undertaking of this initiative and the very reason why a combination of donations, gifting, grants, government support,

and asset management, as well as the incorporation of certain financial strategies on an international scale, have been integrated into the ongoing endeavor. Most programs and initiatives which are created to provide certain services, regardless of where they may take place, rely almost entirely on governmentally allocated funds and/or private donations to meet their intended objectives. Unfortunately, the fact that they are financially dependent makes them vulnerable to insolvency, if the funding source that they depend on to provide their intended services is undermined and/or interrupted. As previously indicated, to prevent partial and/or complete financial dependency and risk potential insolvency in the service providing sector, FL is sanctioned to deploy the indicated Financial Infrastructures, to achieve financial independence and reliably and optimally provide the required services to the intended recipients.

EXPERTISE: To best providing the assistance that the infant requires, FL has put together a formidable team of highly qualified professionals, scientists and experts in all the areas and fields associated to the infant development, as well as working closely with bona fide legal and financial experts; to best providing the infant the assistance envisioned by PIDI. One of our invaluable human assets that contributes with vast knowledge, expertise and solutions to the infant development issues, is the internationally renowned expert in the fields of child education and infant development, Dr. Gaby Fujimoto, who sits in the executive board of PIDI as the Vice President of PIDI. The president of FL and PIDI, Walter Kirby, is also a man of science in the fields of philosophy, psychology and neuroscience, who is also the leader and founder of FL and the creator and advocate of FL's many environmental and social initiatives. Additionally, other associated members of FL are doctors, educators, nutritionists, scientists, lawyers, accountants and financial experts comprise the advisory board of PIDI and are indispensable in providing knowledge, scientific, legal and the financial foundation of the many social initiatives of FL and the ones specific to PIDI.

SHARED VISION AND KNOWLEDGE: FL believes that the proper development of the infant should be a common mandate and shared vision of all. Also, FL fervently believes and advocates that all knowledge acquired for the purpose to aiding in the development of the infant, should be shared with all people and entities whose desire and mandate is toward assisting the infant and children anywhere in the world. For the purpose of providing all the entities that are formed or interested in assisting the infant, FL has created the share-info department, for the purpose of sharing and imparting knowledge and expertise through various knowledge and information mediums, such as workshops, online resources, video and written publications. To learn more on how to obtain the information that you may require, please visit our share info-link _____.

FACTS CONCERNING THE INFANT

A child's brain develops rapidly during the first five years of life, especially the first three years. It is a time of rapid cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional and motor development. For example, a child learns many words starting at around 15–18 months. Rapid language learning continues into the preschool years where the child is capable to recognizing and understanding complex words.

The child's brain grows as she or he sees, feels, tastes, smells and hears. Each time the child uses one of the senses, a neural connection is made in the child's brain. New experiences repeated many times help make new connections, which shape the way the child thinks, feels, behaves and learns now and in the future.

A close relationship between the child and the caregiver is the best way to nourish the child's growing brain. When a caregiver plays with and sings, speaks, reads or tells a story to the child and nurtures her or him with healthy food, love and affection, the child's brain grows. Being healthy, interacting with caregivers and living in a safe and clean environment can make a big difference in a child's growth, development and future potential.

Babies need lots of care and affection in the early years. Holding, cuddling and talking to the child stimulate brain growth and promote emotional development. Being kept close to the mother and breastfed on demand provide the infant with a sense of emotional security. The baby suckles for both nutrition and comfort.

For young children, crying is a way of communicating. Responding to the child's cry by holding and/or talking soothingly to her or him will help establish a sense of trust and security.

This kind of early bonding and attachment to the mother, father or other close caregiver helps a child develop a broad range of abilities to use and build upon throughout life. These include the ability to:

- learn
- be self-confident and have high self-esteem
- have positive social skills
- have successful relationships at later ages
- develop a sense of empathy.

As children's brains develop, so do their emotions, which are real and powerful. Children may become frustrated if they are unable to do something or have something they want. They are often frightened of strangers, new situations or the dark. Children whose reactions are laughed at, punished or ignored may grow up shy and unable to express emotions normally. If caregivers are patient and sympathetic when a child expresses strong emotions, the child is more likely to grow up happy, secure and well balanced.

Boys and girls have the same physical, mental, emotional and social needs. Both have the same capacity for learning. Both have the same need for affection, attention and approval.

Young children can experience excessive stress if they are physically or emotionally punished, are exposed to violence, are neglected or abused, or live in families with mental illness, such as depression or substance abuse. These stresses interfere with the developing brain and can lead to cognitive, social and emotional delays and behaviour problems in childhood and later in life.

Children who are physically or mentally punished in anger are more likely to become violent themselves. More positive and effective ways to address children's behaviour can include:

- providing a child with clear explanations about what to do and what not to do
- responding consistently to certain behaviours
- praising good behaviour.

These responses by parents and other caregivers encourage children so they become well-adjusted and productive members of the family and community.

Both parents, as well as other family members, need to be involved in caring and nurturing the growth, learning and development of children. They should make both girls and boys feel equally valued as they encourage them to learn and explore – this is important preparation for school.

Mothers around the world generally take on the primary role of addressing their children's rights and needs. They love, feed, console, teach, play with and care for their children.

A father's role is as vital as the mother's in nurturing and caring for their children and protecting their rights. A father should make daughters and sons feel they are equally important. Just like the mother, the father can help meet their child's needs for love, affection, approval, encouragement and stimulation. Together, the mother and father can ensure that the child receives a quality education and good nutrition and health care.

Supporting Information

Babies learn rapidly from the moment of birth. They grow and learn best when responsive and caring parents and other caregivers give them affection, attention and stimulation in addition to good nutrition, proper health care and protection.

Touch, hearing, smell, sight and taste are learning tools the child uses to explore and understand her or his world.

Affection, attention and stimulation

Children's minds develop rapidly when they are talked to, touched and cuddled; when they see and hear familiar faces and voices; and when they handle different objects.

Children learn quickly when they feel loved and secure from birth and when they play and interact with family members and other people close to them. The more often mothers, fathers and other caregivers play with, talk to and respond to the child, the faster she or he learns.

Parents and other caregivers should consistently talk, read and sing to infants and young children. Even if the child is not yet able to understand the words, these early 'conversations' help to develop social and language skills and learning capacities.

Parents and other caregivers can help children learn and grow by giving them new, interesting and safe things to look at, listen to, smell, hold and play with.

Children who feel secure and loved usually do better in school, are more self-confident, have good self-esteem and are able to cope more easily with life's challenges.

Good nutrition

Exclusive breastfeeding on demand for the first six months, timely introduction of safe and nutritious foods at the age of 6 months and continued breastfeeding for two years or beyond provide the child with optimal nutrition and health benefits. Feeding time is also an opportunity for the child to receive affection and have contact with the mother, father or other caregiver.

Good nutrition is vital for a child's growth and development. The diet of a pregnant woman and that of a young child should be varied and nutritious. It should include essential nutrients such as proteins and essential fats to help a child's body grow and have energy, vitamin A to help a child resist illness, iodine to help ensure the healthy development of a child's brain, and iron to protect a child's mental and physical abilities.

While the mother has the primary role of breastfeeding the child, the father can support her by making sure she has nutritious food, helping with household and childcare responsibilities, and being emotionally supportive of her, the baby, the older children and other family members.

Proper health care

The health worker should inform parents and other caregivers about:

Necessary immunizations and the schedule to follow

How to avoid anaemia and parasitic diseases in children over 6 months of age

Why de-worming is important

How to ensure that the child gets enough nutrients, such as iron and vitamin A, for her or his healthy mental and physical development.

Children who are anaemic, malnourished or frequently sick may become fearful and upset more easily than healthy children. They will also lack the drive to play, explore and interact with others. These children need special attention, care and encouragement to eat, play and interact with others in order to become healthy.

Infants who have completed their immunizations on time and are receiving proper nutrition, health care, love and affection have an increased chance of survival. They are able to concentrate on exploring, learning and developing cognitive, language, social, emotional and motor skills.

Protection and care from responsive and caring parents and/or other caregivers

Babies and small children should not be left alone for long periods of time. This delays their physical and mental development. It also puts them at risk of accidents.

Girls need the same amount of food, attention, affection and care that boys need. All babies and young children need to be encouraged and praised when they learn to do something new and say new words.

All girls and boys should have their birth registered in order to help ensure their right to access basic services, such as health care, education and legal and social services.

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