

Dear friends,

We have running out of time. Despite major breakthroughs in medical science and technology, despite a rise in the standard of living for many, the problems facing young people in most parts of the world are escalating: more and more children with disabilities because of ecological catastrophe, poverty, unemployment. More and more children are being born, or are living, in circumstances that fail to meet their most basic developmental needs – to feel safe and cared for, to grow up confident and capable. Yet alongside this growing urgency, there is hope.

At the beginning of new millennium, in addition to addressing political, economic and other problems, the world community is paying great attention to social issues, particularly in the sphere of education. There are people and thousands of effective programs, organizations throughout the world that are effectively meeting young children's needs, involve parents, among them International Step by Step Association, which promotes democratic society values in education, equal access to quality education for all children regardless race, nationality, religion etc..

ISSA's philosophy encourages children to express their ideas creatively, to help one another, to develop critical thinking skills and to practice responsible living to make choices. ISSA recognizes that each child is unique and parents are the first educators of their child.

It is wonderful time for us to be entering the field of child, because many of the challenges are ours .

Everybody of us, I am sure, is doing extraordinary things on behalf of young children and their families. We are in the middle of fundamental changes in leadership, civic relationships, economic trends and organizational systems., we work hard to engage people in solving problems of early childhood care and education, especially the connections across policy, practice, research and community building. And in accordance with this

- what is the brilliant idea to conduct World Forum on Early Care and Education at the time, when we need to combine our strengths in creating powerful partnerships, need resource reform, including financial, human and programmatic to ensure equity and access to high-quality education for all children and families, regardless of race, language, culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability or religion!!! Thank you, Bonnie and Roger, for the great opportunity to be together with the people dedicated their life to children !

Last years my friends on my birthday say me: you became on year older, but it is invisibly, and I would like to say that our World Forum became one year older, but it is Visibly, because of wonderful people came here, because our growing World family!

- People of six continents came to the World Forum to share experience, ideas, problems, more than 500 participants will teach and learn in order to become the world better, it is unbelievable!
- We need to continue our friendship, born here at the World Forum, to reflect the diversity of the early childhood profession, share our love, and dreams, be able to give our forces, hearts and love to children and realize that it is a noble value to live by and to impart to children, each day to do something with or for them, that will make the world a little more beautiful and kind, children deserve our love.

*2 thousands years ago mankind recognized that salvation is in love and it doesn't matter how deep is evil, how hopeless is the future - love overcomes all barriers.*

Thank