

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sandra Taenzer

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-046

Sandra Taenzer, who discusses early childhood educational programs following the 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Nov 25, 2014 Location: Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:28 / 1.47 hrs

Transcript
being processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 26, 2015.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Sandy Taenzer, *Education is Key*, E85-A-L-2014-046

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Sandra Taenzer was born in Joliet, Illinois in 1939. She grew up on military bases during World War II. She graduated from Lockport High School, Illinois in 1957. She earned a Bachelors Degree in speech and language from the University of Illinois in 1960, and a Masters Degree from Northern Illinois University in 1970. Her career in education started in the Des Plaines school district, #62 in 1965-1968 as a speech and language pathologist. From 1968 to 2003 she worked at Schaumburg District #54. During that time, Sandy taught as an adjunct instructor for National-Louis University, working with students on early childhood assessments. She also was instrumental in developing a center for learning and resources which served a six school district area. Her responsibilities as director include overseeing a six district cooperative, providing preschool programs, staff training, networking with other early childhood partners, parental programs and training, operating federal early childhood programs, coordinating with the local school districts, screening of early childhood eligibles, and participating on state early childhood committees.

This interview covers the development and growth of the early childhood programs which were started as part of the 1985 Education Act. The interview reviews the expansion of services through the Prekindergarten at Risk program, the Parental Training Program and the Prevention Initiative. Also covered are the changes made to the state program via the Early Childhood Block grant in 1988. She addresses the early days of the Prekindergarten at Risk programs through competitive grants, the employment of teachers, the model of implementation (site/home visits), the networking with other agencies, the coordination with the seven local school districts, and a variety of other related issues.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois 1985 Educational Reform Act; early childhood education in Illinois, circa 1971; Prekindergarten At Risk Program created circa 1985; Model Parenting Training Programs; prevention initiatives for Birth to Three, circa 1988; early childhood program from 1985-2003; at risk children and coordination with state and federal agencies; Universal Pre-K educational efforts in Illinois.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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