Summary

Creator: Child Development Group of Mississippi

Title: Child Development Group of Mississippi collection

Date: 1965-1971

Size: 2.6 linear feet (6.5 boxes)

Source: donation, McLeod, Lois Rogers, 07/--/1990

Abstract: Records of the Child Development Group of Mississippi collection consists primarily of lengthy and detailed reports documenting the history and goals of the Head Start program; training manuals; financial proposals; and printed material. Also present are instruction manuals and printed material for the CDGM support group, Friends of Children of Mississippi.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL's online catalog for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access

Preferred citation: [Item], Child Development Group of Mississippi collection, Sc MG 265, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM) was a community action group that developed a Head Start program for low income, primarily black, pre-school children. The CDGM Head Start program evolved from a meeting called by Dr. Tom Levin, a civil rights activist, with five other social scientists and professionals, which was held in New York City on March 11, 1965. Levin was the first director of the CDGM's Head Start program which, in its heyday, operated eighty-seven centers throughout Mississippi with an enrollment of 6,000 children and a staff of 3,000 adults.

The CDGM received one of the largest grants in the country from the Office of Economic Opportunity
(OEO) to begin operation. Within months it became the OEO's most controversial Head Start program. It faced opposition from the Klu Klux Klan, the local press and some members of the black community. In addition, charges of mismanagement were leveled at the organization. In September, less than six months from the time they were funded, CDGM's funds were withdrawn by the OEO.

With the aid of a newly formed support group, the Friends of Children of Mississippi (FCM), the CDGM operated without government funding during the winter of 1965-1966. After a congressional investigation, organizational and personnel changes, the OEO provided $5.5 million dollars for a full year's operation in fourteen out of the nineteen countries in the state. In October 1967 the OEO withdrew all funding to Head Start programs in Mississippi counties operating under the mantle of the CDGM.

Scope and Content Note

Records of the Child Development Group of Mississippi collection consists primarily of lengthy and detailed reports documenting the history and goals of the Head Start program; training manuals; financial proposals; and printed material. Also present are instruction manuals and printed material for the CDGM support group, Friends of Children of Mississippi.

Key Terms

Subjects
African American children -- Mississippi
African American students -- Mississippi
African Americans -- Civil rights -- Mississippi
African Americans -- Education (Preschool) -- Mississippi
Children -- United States
Children with social disabilities -- Education (Preschool) -- Mississippi
Education, Preschool -- Mississippi
Education, Preschool -- United States
Head Start Program -- Mississippi
Segregation in education -- Mississippi
Segregation in education -- United States

Geographic Names
Mississippi -- Social conditions

Names
Child Development Group of Mississippi
Delta Ministry of Mississippi
Friend of Children of Mississippi
National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America
Project Head Start (U.S.)
United States. Office of Economic Opportunity