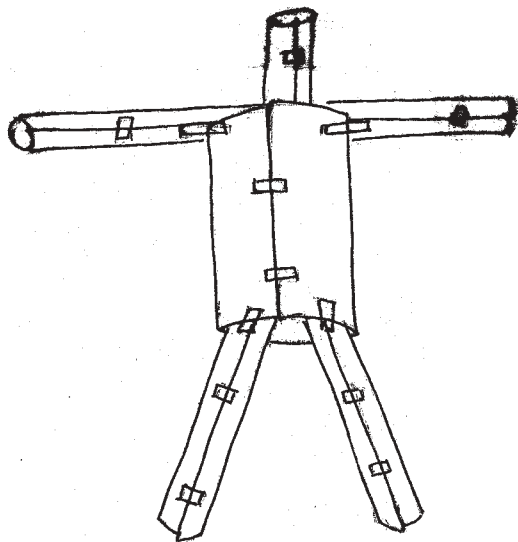
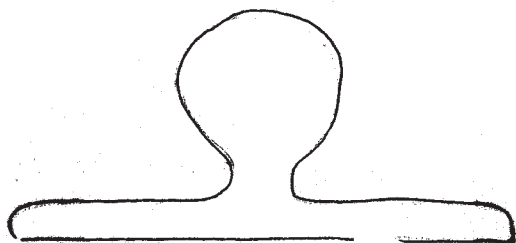


Making Your Own Doll Ambassador

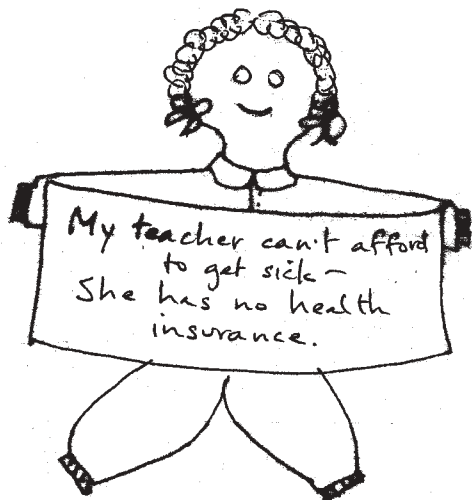
1. Make a body and neck skeleton of rolled newspapers and masking tape.



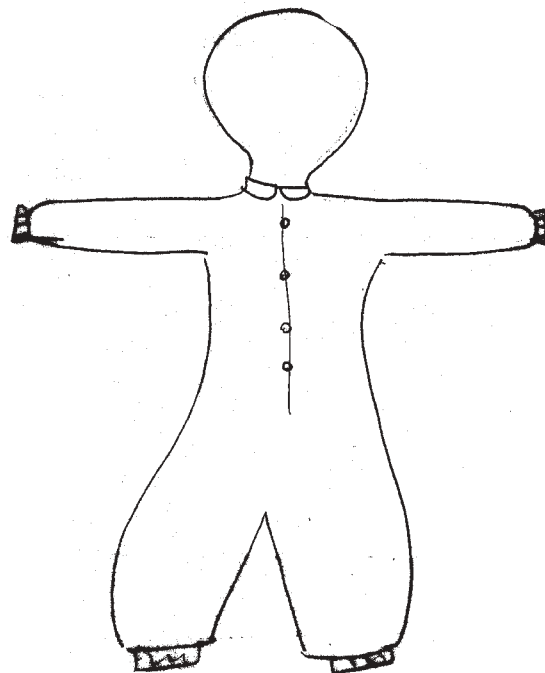
2. Make a cardboard head and shoulders. Slip on a stocking end and stuff it for a rounder head.



3. Tape the head and body together, making sure the rolled newspaper neck holds the head upright.



4. Dress the baby in toddler clothes, which are then sewn or stapled together (or even easier, use a one-piece sleeper or outfit)



5. Add stuffing (plastic bags or crumpled newspaper) to fill out the body. Staple legs and sleeves together, or add hands and feet.



6. Use yarn, buttons, markers, hats, ribbons, barrettes, etc., for face and hair.

THE POWER OF DOLLS TO COMMUNICATE

At their Early Childhood Conference, members of the Worthy Wage Campaign were amazed at the power of life-sized toddler dolls to communicate their messages about the need for improved wages and working conditions.

They arranged the dolls outside the convention center, each holding a sign ("What two things are itsy bitsy in child care? A spider and a paycheck" "I miss my teacher! Over 30% of all child care teachers leave their centers each year." "My teacher can't afford to get sick. She has no health insurance." -- and many more). They kept track of the dolls through the window and noticed that every *single person* who passed by either slowed down to look, or stopped and read the signs, or stood there and discussed them with a companion. They had never seen such attention to their message.

As a result of the dolls' demonstrated power to communicate with the public, the campaign began using them in many other ways, getting great TV coverage by taking them in strollers for a lunch hour walk in a downtown park and having a friend tip off the TV news hotline, and having the dolls:

- decorate the lobby of Community College of Philadelphia for a month,
- attend many child care events,
- start lots of discussion in lobbies of child care centers,
- serve as props at conferences and trainings,
- visit neighborhood festivals,
- travel on the train as conversation pieces.

We invite you to join us! If you would like to participate in getting the word out about **the link between quality and compensation**, in a way that is fun and has proven effective, consider doll ambassadors.



A project of QUEST

100 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-963-0094 or
215-563-5848

Fax: 215-963-0094

E-mail: mail@paQUEST.org
www.paQUEST.org

Prepared for QUEST
by the Worthy Wage Campaign of DVAEYC

SIGN POSSIBILITIES (Philadelphia and PA data)
12" by 24" is a good size

Who earns more than child care workers?
Parking lot attendants & dog walkers

Have B.A., will work with small children: \$7.38/hour

Have B.A., will work in public school kindergarten: \$19/hour

A full year's work as a local family child care provider = \$9337 on average.

I miss my teacher!
Over 30% of all child care teachers leave their centers each year.

You can make more at McDonalds than teaching young children.
Which is more important?

Only 18% of child care teaching staff receive fully-paid health insurance.

Most child care teachers work full time for below poverty level wages.

Child care teachers earn less than half as much as other women with similar education.

Child care teachers earn less than a third as much as other men with similar education.

What two things are itsy-bitsy in child care?
A spider and a pay check.

Why did the child care teacher cross the road?
To get to her second job.

Who will take care of me?
My child care provider can no longer live on \$6 an hour.

I miss my teacher!
She was one of 51% of aides who left their child care jobs this year.

9 out of 10 police chiefs agree:
"We could reduce crime if children had a better start."

Child care worker wages, adjusted for inflation, have dropped 25% in ten years.

My teacher can't afford to get sick.
She has no health insurance.

Walk a mile in the shoes of a child care worker...

QUEST Action Week, October 22-26, 2001

This is the time to tell your story. What is it really like for you to be in early childhood education? What do you love about it? What makes it hard? What more do you need to do your job well? Create your own personalized shoes for your center. Collect the paper shoes from your center and mail them to QUEST to be taken to Harrisburg on October 23.

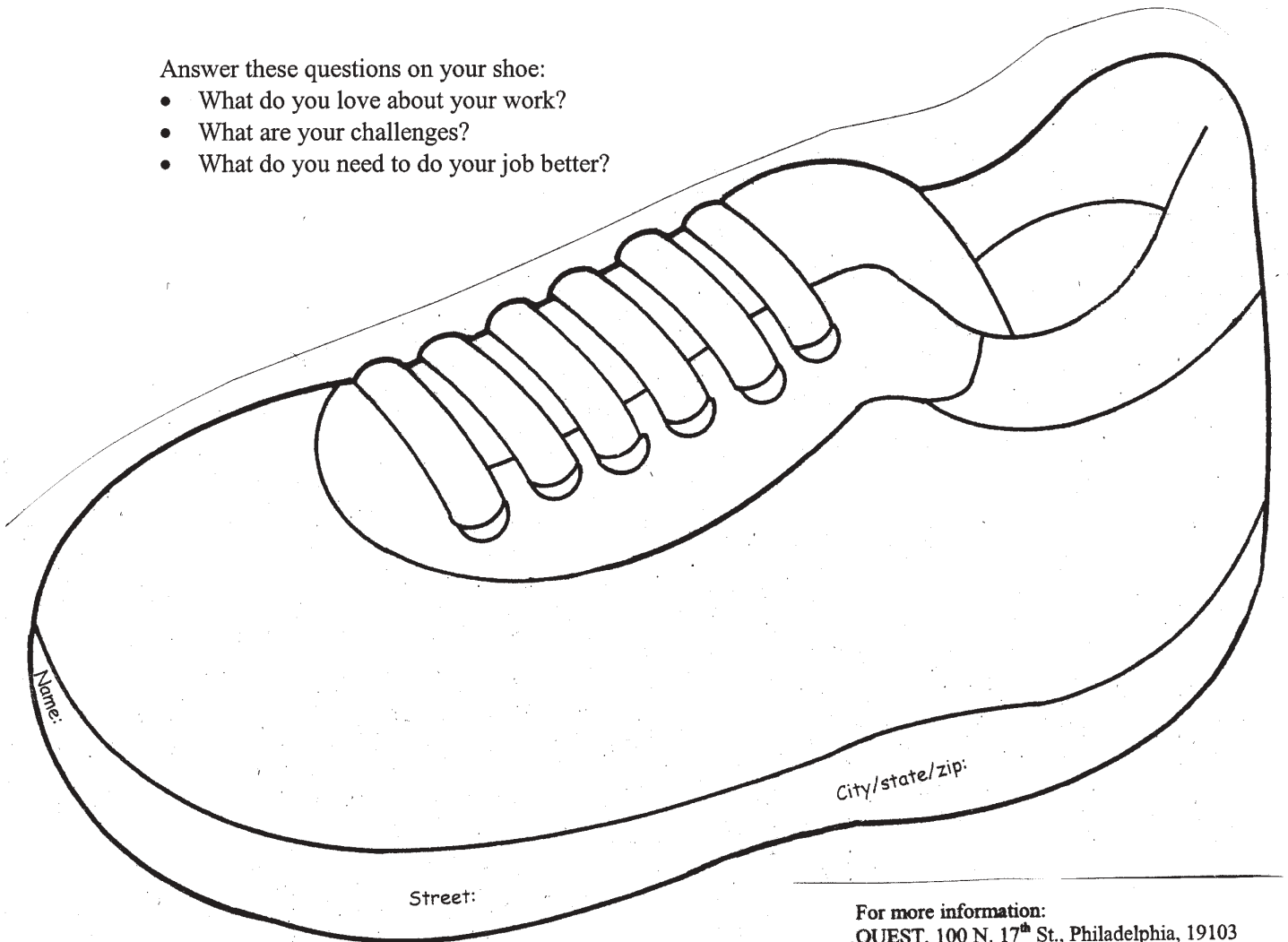
This is the time to take action. Make signs, gather your children to walk around the block, to the library or to a politician's office, spread the word about the importance of quality child care and child care workers, and provide informative material for parents in your programs.

This is the time to take a trip to Harrisburg. Plan to visit legislators with your shoe and story along with many others from across the state. Speak to your director or supervisor about using this day of advocacy as a paid professional development day.

Don't miss this opportunity for action!

Answer these questions on your shoe:

- What do you love about your work?
- What are your challenges?
- What do you need to do your job better?



For more information:

QUEST, 100 N. 17th St., Philadelphia, 19103

215-963-0094 or 215-563-5848

mail@paQUEST.org www.paQUEST.org

Create your own personalized shoe to:

- Display at your program to increase awareness.
- Take along on a visit to your local legislator.
- Send to Harrisburg.



Begin with reflections:

- What do you love about your work?
- What do you consider your challenges?
- What do you need to do your job better?

After you reflect, it's your turn to create a shoe!

You may want to jot down your thoughts and words first. Find a shoe, gather your supplies, objects and words then start creating! You may use hot glue, white glue, mini clothespins, clips, or any creative way to attach objects that reflect your thoughts. Stuffing your shoe with newspaper or plastic bags will give it more form. Words reflecting how you feel, written or typed, can be attached to your shoe. You may use magazine clippings, photos, and small objects – anything reflecting your thoughts. Don't forget to sign your work with your name and position/or title (i.e. Infant Teacher, Family Provider, etc.). Think about your work, reflect, and express yourself letting your creativity and imagination run free! Communicate your true thoughts and feelings! And, of course, have fun!

A reflection to ponder:

If you walk a mile in my shoes, you will find children and books because I love to read with children. You will find "Thank You" notes from parents and teachers who have valued my work. You will find my Play-Doh recipe because I love to encourage children to use their senses and imagination. The **Child Care Matters to Me** sticker is on my shoe because it really does matter to me! Also, you will find a Worthy Wage Pin because I believe that joining together in the Worthy Wage Campaign makes a difference in the lives of child care workers. The word *love* means I truly love my work. *Angry* is how I feel when I see that our country does not value children enough to invest in their early care and education. The word *hope* means I do believe that things will change and the day will come when children and child care workers are valued!

Gerri - Infant/Toddler Program Coordinator