

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely express with a deep sense of gratitude my heartfelt thanks to Prof (Dr) Prerana Mohite for her valuable guidance throughout the process of research and for always being there for inspiring me

I extend my very sincere thanks to Prof. (Dr.) Parul Dave, Head, Department of Human Development and Family Studies for facilitating and providing encouragement.

I thank Prof Heidi Keller, Professor, Nehru Chair and the Director (German Counterpart) Indo German Infancy Project for her critical comments and valuable feedback for the study.

Thanks are extended to all my colleagues of the department and Dr. Shagufa Kapadia for her active interest in the study and being generally supportive.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Jigisha Shastri for her critical comments, suggestions and for facilitating the process -with unilateral support.

Thanks are also extended to Ms. Shruti Bhargava for her critical remarks and for being very supportive

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Sucheta Jasrai, the supervisor of Younger Group for facilitating the process of data collection and for giving useful suggestions for the study. I also thank Ms. Soma Bandopadhyay, the class teacher of Younger Group.

The children and their parents deserve sincere thanks for their cooperation

The principal of Alembic Vidyalaya Shri Harshadbhai Patel and Ms Gira Aslot, the supervisor are extended thanks for facilitating the pilot study.

I thank the Chetan Balwadi staff for their cooperation. Thanks are extended to Ms. Smita Tapiawala for the back up support I wish to thank Ms. Swati Shah for assisting me.

Thanks to Shri Vijay Shrivishal for typing and manuscript with patience and sincere commitment, to Ms. Sushma Parekh for data analysis and Shri Pankaj Rana for Gujarati typing.

Finally I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my parents, and now my mother for stimulating interactions, serenity, inspiration, tremendous support and strength.

I extend warm and special thanks to my sister Dhruti for always encouraging and motivating me and being extremely supportive, I also wholeheartedly thank my brother Rajiv for unconditional and untiring support and encouragement