Acknowledgments

Three years is not a long period for a research venture, but is surely long enough to try the forbearance of peers who have guided the project at every stage. At the completion of this work I therefore, take the opportunity of expressing my gratitude and thanks to them.

I am indebted to my guide Dr. (Mrs) Tehal Kohli for her valuable advice and creative criticism. I also extend my thanks to Dr. Harish Sharma, The Chairperson, Department of Education, Panjab University for helping me conduct the investigation smoothly.

I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Julia Herwig, The Director, Portage Project for sending me “The Portage Classroom Curriculum” in time. I am also thankful to Ms. Fisher, Principal, Martin Luther King Jr. School, Pittsburgh, U.S.A. and Ms. Diane Bolha of St. Peter Child Development Centre, Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, U.S.A. for letting me observe their on-going programmes during my stay in U.S.A., which helped me in implementing the intervention programme successfully.

I am grateful to Ms. Adele Saupins, for providing me every facility during the data collection. A word of thanks is due to teachers, Anganwadi workers, the children, and the parents who participated in the programme enthusiastically.

I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to the previous researchers whose works enlightened me and gave a right direction to the present investigation.

I am indeed indebted to my sisters, parents and other family members who provided me all kind of help during this period.

I am thankful to Mr. Sanjay Sharma for printing this piece of work with a great patience and utmost perfection.

Above all, my sincerest thanks are due to my husband and children Ankur and Gautam for helping me in typing the manuscript and managing little Elisha. But for their love, constant help and inspiration I would not have been able to complete this investigation.

Dated : October 1, 1992.

(Geetika Thapar)