

The script of the program presented by Mr. Pramote Suwanno is below.

Living Values: An Educational Program

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University organized Sharing Our Values for a Better World as an international project to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UN. The theme of living values was adopted from a tenet in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter.

“To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person.”

Its birth: *Living Values: A Guidebook*

Supported by

-Education cluster of UNICEF (New York)

-20 educators representing the five continents met in New York at UNICEF headquarters in August 1996

-Convention on the rights of the child

Three core assumptions:

- Universal values teach respect and dignity for each and every person. Learning to enjoy these values promotes well-being for individuals and the larger society.
- Each student care about values and has the capacity to positively create and learn when provided with opportunities.
- Students thrive in a values-based atmosphere in a positive, safe environment of mutual respect and care, where students are regarded as capable of learning to make socially conscious choices.

Children are naturally curious, eager to learn, and have many beautiful qualities. They are creative, caring and can think for themselves. In a values-based atmosphere they bloom and thrive.

A child needs...in relation to feelings

To feel loved

To feel understood

To feel respected

To feel valued

To feel safe

For the child to feel loved, parents, teachers and adults should

- Show warmth, caring and kindness
- Affirm the positive qualities in each child

- Create a healthy environment in which children can grow and develop holistically, without favoring some students over other

Living Values Education is a values education program. It offers a variety of experiential activities and practical methodologies for teachers and facilitators to help children and young adults explore and develop twelve key personal and social values: Peace, Respect, Love, Responsibility, Happiness, Cooperation, Honesty, Tolerance, Simplicity and unity. LVE also contains special segments for use with parents and caregivers, as well as for refugees and children affected by war. As of March 2000, LVEP was already in use at over 1800 sites in 64 countries. Reports from educators indicate that students are responsive to the values activities and become interested in discussing and applying values. Teachers note that students appear more confident, are more respectful to others and exhibit an increase in positive and cooperative personal and social skills.

Activity: The Star Story: From *Living Values Activities for Children Ages 3-7*, Diane Tillman and Diana Hsu, appendix page 197,

Act I

Once upon a time, there was a lovely, bright, shining family of Peace Stars. The head star of the family was the smiling Sun Star. He was a very special star. He had so much love for all the other stars, and he would send loving beams of light to them.

The Sun Star was happy that they were happy, and he smiled day and night. He loved to look at his Peace Star children.

The children of Earth were pleased that all the stars were happy- they liked to look up at the stars and see them sparkle.

Song: I'm a peaceful star

I am a peaceful star, I am.

I am a peaceful star, I am.

When we care together,

When we share together,

We are peaceful stars, we are! (repeat)

Act II

But one day the friendly stars in the sky saw two Earth children fighting with each other.

“Oh,” one of the Peace stars said to another, “Let’s go quickly and help these two children before they hit each other”

As fast as lightening, they flew to the two children and send them peace beams and friendly beams.

In the meantime, the Fearless Star had noticed what was happening on Earth, he and the Courageous Star flew down to the children . They introduced themselves, and the Courageous Star said: *“ I am called the most courageous star in the Star family because I never quarrel or fight with anyone. Not to quarrel or fight is the most courageous thing to do.”*

The big Helper Star and the Patient Star had also arrived *“Children, said the Helper Star, isn’t it lovely how all these stars have come down to Earth to help you? Shall I tell you a secret?”*

Yes, yes!” exclaimed the children.

“The greatest secret,” said the Helper Star, “is patience. Look at the Patient Star! Nothing can upset him. He is always patient with others. Everyone loves him.”

“That’s right,” said the Cautious Star, “If you are careful about how you treat others and you treat them with respect- why, then it’s easy not to hurt or be hurt by others. Then, you don’t need to fight.”

By now almost all the Star children had arrived on Earth, and they were joined by many, many Earth children. *“We want to be like the stars”, said the Earth children. Suddenly they saw something very bright shining in the sky. It was the Brightest Star, together with the Happy Star and the laughing star.*

“Let’s have a good time” sang the Happy Star. And they started to play and sing. All were happy. They danced, played, ate, and laughed! “This is the best party ever!” everyone agreed.

Song: Happy stars

Act III

Then it happened! Nobody had noticed the arrival of the Quiet Star, but she spoke: *“The great Sun Star has sent me to you, ‘ she said softly and sweetly. “ Every party has to come to an end, and you are to go home now.”*

The Children on earth had also been thinking about going home, for it had become quite dark. They hugged the stars good-bye.

One of the Peace Stars said softly to the children, *“Know that we are always here for you – even in the daytime when you can’t see us. Just picture us in your mind, and you will feel our beams of love and peace.”*

(All stars wave hands to children and walk to the Sun Star.)

And the Star children beamed brightly at the children and then flew back to the great Sun Star. It was a lovely sight. As the Peace Star flew higher and higher, they sent bright beams and loving thoughts to the children below.

Commentary (Music) (All Stars stand facing the audiences.)

All the Peace stars sent peace, and each peace star sent his or her own special quality as well. The Patience Star sent patience.... The Laughing Star sent a happy laugh...The Quiet Star sent soft, quiet beams.... The Loving Star sent lots and lots of loving thoughts....

The children on Earth watched happily and waved to the stars. “Come back soon,” they cried, and then returned home.

The End