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Growing a School: *A Battle for Excellence*

by **Margot Kohorn,**
Research Affiliate Child Study Center Yale University

Margot Kohorn's 25 year historical account of *Growing a School, A Battle for Excellence*, documents all the details of the development of a teacher, parent and child empowered environment starting in 1968 in New Haven Ct. at the time when lower income schools, families and their communities were struggling for survival. This project's leadership included the wisdom of Dr. Albert Solnit, chairman of the Yale Child Study Center, the miraculous chemistry of the wise, dynamic and visionary leadership of the Principal, Audrey Tiani, the charismatic and forceful parent, Maceo Patton and the sensitivity and brilliance of Margot Kohorn, the newly appointed psychologist who was the weaver and supporter of ideas in the Follow Through Program. Credit and support of this innovative project also goes to the methodology and philosophy of the Bank Street model and the Head Start Program developed by Drs Edward Zigler and Julius Richmond.

This is a most exciting book and the project predates the success of charter schools, for example, the Harlem Children's Zone in NY and the Amistad Academy in New Haven.

----**Dr. Phyllis M. Cohen**
*Yale University
Child Study Center*



Photo by Douglas Nygren

As a parent for over 10 years at what eventually became West Hills Follow Through, it is encouraging to know that its history will not be forgotten. Margot Kohorn's *Growing A School* charts the work of a group of dedicated educators that formed a community where learning and joy happened on a daily basis. This story of how a progressive philosophy, a traditionally trained leader, and a wide range of student needs combined to become something entirely new and effective for New Haven students is important reading for anyone who continues to press for school improvement.

----**Jonathan Gillette Ph.D.**
*Director of Teacher Preparation and
Education Studies Program
Yale University
Lecturer, Yale Child Study Center*

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Growing a School: *A Battle for Excellence*

By Margot Kohorn
Research Affiliate Child Study Center Yale University

Growing a School is a 25-year historical account of the development of the Follow Through Program, a school reform project started in 1968 in New Haven CT. It is the story of how a progressive philosophy, a traditionally trained leader, and a wide range of student needs combined to become something entirely new and effective for New Haven school students



Photo by Douglas Nygren

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