About *Dekodiphukan* (Decode-if-you-can)

In the summer of 1973, my wife Mary and I began writing descriptions of our classrooms. The math descriptions became *Mathematics Their Way* and *Mathematics... a Way of Thinking*. The description for reading became the Baratta-Lorton Reading Program, also known as *Dekodiphukan*.

Although we completed these different descriptions of our classrooms in the same span of time, we published the math programs first. Mathematics was the logical place to start because we already had many friends in mathematics education who shared our beliefs about child centered, activity centered learning.

We contented ourselves with references to *Dekodiphukan* in the "About the Author" section of our math books. We wrote that we would "...soon complete work on an activity centered reading and language arts program". The program was then being tested in the classrooms of many of our teaching friends. Six out of eight of the teachers whose classrooms were used for the pictures in *Mathematics Their Way* were teaching *Dekodiphukan* when the photos were taken.

Knowledge of either *Mathematics Their Way* or *Mathematics... a Way of Thinking* is required for the full understanding of the ideas offered in this book. No knowledge of *Dekodiphukan* is required. However, references are made to *Dekodiphukan* as "the Reading Program" in this book because the program was developed at the same time as *Math Their Way* and *Mathematics... a Way of Thinking*.

The royalties from both *Mathematics Their Way* and *Mathematics... a Way of Thinking* continue to go to the Center for Innovation in Education to support its activities in the education of both children and teachers. Proceeds from the sale of *Patterns and Connections in Mathematics* will go towards supporting the continued publication of *Dekodiphukan*. *Dekodiphukan* approaches learning from a child's point of view. It presents reading and writing in a way that children fully understand. It presents it "their way".

(signed) Bob Baratta-Lorton