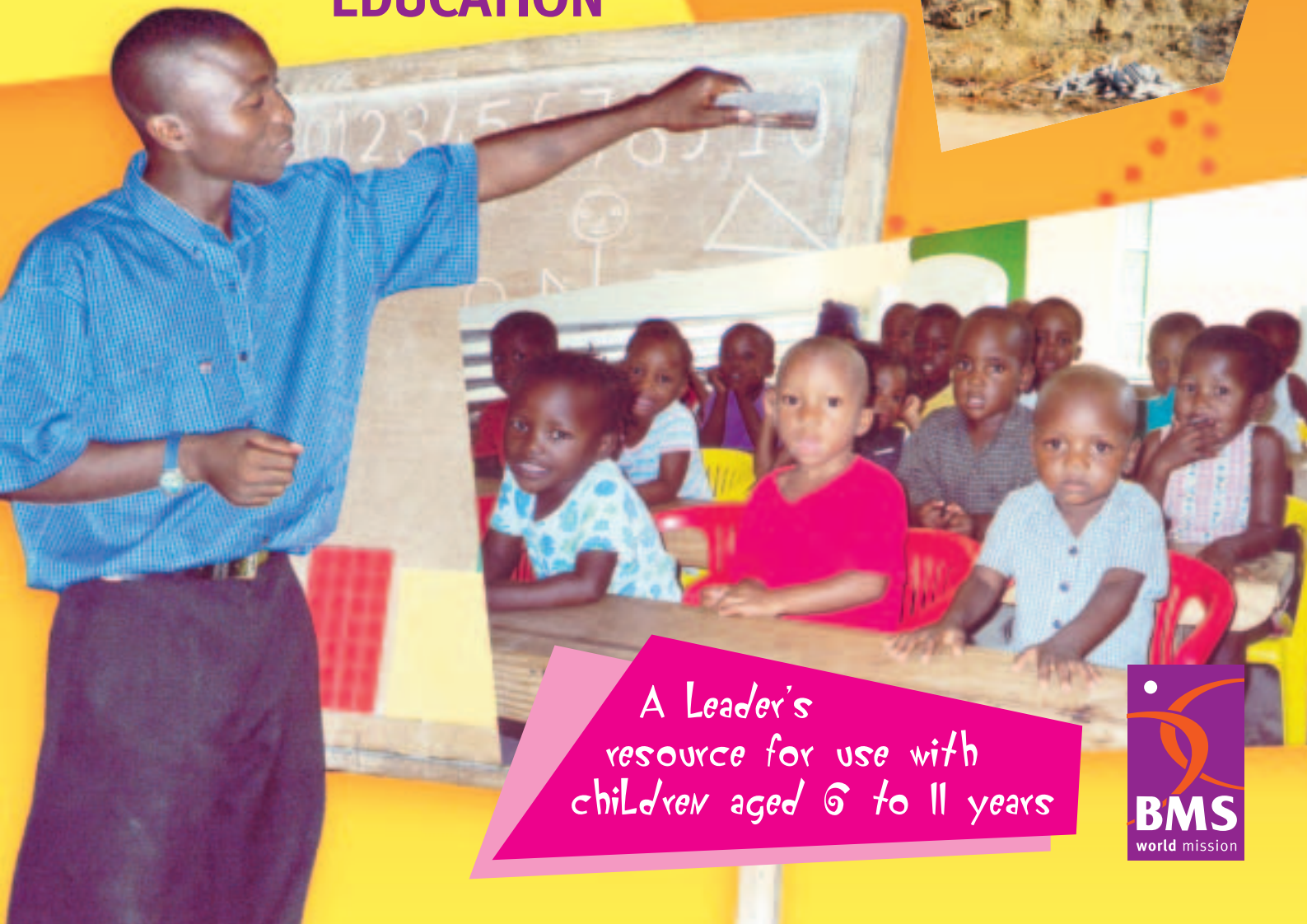


# WEAD start!

CHANGING LIVES  
FOREVER THROUGH  
EDUCATION



A Leader's  
resource for use with  
children aged 6 to 11 years



# How to use this book:



is a resource for children's leaders to use with their groups for up to six sessions.

This book is divided into five areas of activity: **Letters page, Bible digging, Make and do, Prayer works and Fundraising ideas.**

Choose one activity from each section for every session; lengths of activities and levels of preparation are varied, so have a look through and see what appeals to you. All sections can be mixed and matched, allowing you to tailor your plans to fit your specific requirements. However, the **Bible digging** section follows the book of 2 Timothy, and this will have more impact if used in the order listed.

If you're using the material on a single occasion, work out a schedule for your day in advance, with times allotted for each section. Divide a large group of children into smaller groups and rotate them from session to session throughout the day, with different leaders for each session. To avoid the day becoming a blur, take breaks and use them to recap on what the children have been doing. Maybe try some of our recipes in between sessions.

The six worksheets on pages 21 – 26 are for individual use by your group. Copies are available from BMS resources free of charge (in packs of ten sets), phone 01235 517617. Alternatively, simply photocopy the number you need or download them from our website. We suggest you use one worksheet per session. We've aimed to make these great fun for the children, something they look forward to reading and doing, rather than school-ish in approach!

## Available from our website

This whole resource book is available to download from our website as a PDF. You can download each section or the whole document. Use the PDFs as an alternative to photocopying, especially if you have access to a colour printer.

[www.bmsworldmission.org/headstart](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/headstart)

'Since childhood,  
you have known the holy Scriptures  
that are able to make you wise enough to have faith  
in Christ Jesus and be saved.'

*2 Timothy 3: 15*

## Contents

### Page

Welcome to  
Head start!

3

Letters page

5

Bible digging

11

Make and do

14

Prayer works

17

Fundraising ideas

18

Recipes

20

Worksheets

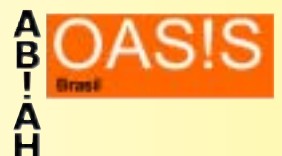
21

Other BMS World  
Mission resources

27



BMS World Mission is a major partner of ABIAH-Oasis Brazil in the development of PEPE projects in and beyond Brazil. ABIAH-Oasis Brazil is part of the international Oasis family.



# Welcome to

# HEAD start!

⊗ In Mozambique, many children from the shanty towns arrive at school aged seven not knowing how to hold a pencil or understanding the language in which they'll be taught.

⊗ In Brazil, 36 per cent of poor children from the favelas stay in school for less than a year. A further 27 per cent stay for less than four years.

⊗ In Angola, 40 years of civil war have meant many children miss out on an education. The new peace declaration is a chance to turn this around.

Imagine how your life might have been if you'd dropped out of school aged seven.

In developing countries hundreds of thousands of children miss out on the chance of an education and get trapped in poverty as a result. That's why BMS World Mission is asking for your help to provide pre-school education for poor children in Brazil, Angola and Mozambique.

## How it all began...

Year: 1992. Place: São Paulo, Brazil. BMS workers Stuart and Georgie Christine see desperate need in the favelas (slum areas). Three of every ten inhabitants are pre-school aged children, with nothing to do, and no way out of poverty.

Through the local church they begin a pilot scheme for 25 children from one favela, providing pre-school education enabling the children to start school with confidence, ready to learn more. They call the Pre-School Education Project 'PEPE' for short; little did they know what a sweeping success the scheme would become.

## And now...

There are now over 2,500 children learning basic educational skills each day at over 65 pre-school units each day across Brazil and a further 1,000 more children in 30 more units outside Brazil.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for the church to serve the community effectively. The programme is now supported by BMS in Mozambique and Angola too, where Portuguese is also spoken. There are also programmes in Paraguay, Peru and Chile. It's making an incredible difference.

## How PEPEs work

PEPEs are administrated centrally in each country by a national organisation, which provides guidance and training for running a pre-school unit. The local church then runs the scheme, with church members helping and supporting one full-time teacher.

PEPEs have one great advantage; they are highly practical. Churches can do them, and keep them going. And they open up opportunities for communication between the church and its community.

"All I know about God, I have learnt from my five-year-old daughter since she began at the pre-school six months ago." – A Brazilian mother living in a favela.

## Help us give children a head start

Education has been shown to be a child's surest way out of the poverty trap. It gives them a firm footing at the beginning of their school life. This is vital in enabling them to give their best and achieve their God-given potential.

In Mozambique, Angola and Brazil, children don't usually go to school until they are seven years old. Without any educational preparation before that time, it is often too late for many; behind in every area, they struggle to keep up. Added to this, they are often under pressure to find work by their parents who need them to bring money into the home to survive.

Uneducated young



people suffer frustration and resentment. They commonly slip into the violent lifestyle that accompanies petty crime, drugs and prostitution.

The work of the pre-schools is vital. It's crucial in enabling children to do well in school and giving them a head start in life. And it puts the local church at the heart of the community. It supports parents and demonstrates Jesus' love in the most practical of ways.

As one parent in Brazil said: "Before you came the favela was without hope. Now we have hope!"

Please join us in helping these PEPEs to grow, equipping local churches to serve their communities and break the cycle of poverty, shining God's light into lives around the world.

Please send donations from your group to:



BMS World Mission  
PO Box 49  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire  
OX11 8XA

Cheques should be crossed and made payable to BMS World Mission.

Thanks again for taking part in this life-changing project. We hope you have fun.

If the funds raised exceed the target, the surplus may be used to support other similar projects.

# Giving children a with BMS World Mission



The projects featured in **Head start!** demonstrate the approach BMS uses to achieve effective transformation.

## Small amounts of money achieve large amounts of transformation

Through **Head start!** you'll see how small amounts of money can achieve life-changing transformation for the young children who benefit from this project and others that BMS World Mission supports. However, there are some other important messages in this project besides a need for financial support.

## Local solutions work best

Once the pre-schools are started all the ongoing costs are funded locally by the church and parents. BMS and ABIAH-Oasis Brazil works hard with local partners to ensure projects achieve long-term success. Supporting our local partners, the Baptist conventions of Mozambique and Angola, the Evangelical Baptist Church of Angola, and ABIAH-Oasis Brazil has meant projects are appropriate to local situations. Some aspects of these projects are also supported by Operation Agri.

## World mission is for everyone

In this project you'll see how effective mission is being supported in Africa by the Church in South America, and not just through people and resources sent from Europe or the USA. Not that this means we in the UK can sit back as if there's nothing for us to do. The vision of the Brazilian Church inspires us to consider our response to the many needs across the world. Our lifestyle choices, our passion to achieve positive change and our commitment to follow Jesus are all ways we can make a contribution to world mission.

You can do it!

Your enthusiasm can fire-up young minds!  
Be encouraged at the difference you are making in the lives of your group members!



### ☉ Make it personal

Pray for the members of your group by name.

### ☉ Go easy

Most activities in this book require a minimum of fuss and preparation – but do allow enough time to familiarise yourself with the material. This will ensure you get the most out of the session and make it much easier for you!

### ☉ Prayer

Pray about the session before you do it, that your young people will be enthused and encouraged and that they will understand that this is about the gospel in action.

### ☉ Don't stress!

Sometimes things won't go exactly as you planned! Reflect on what happened; was the reality actually more useful than your original intention?

### ☉ Have fun!

This pack isn't about ramming facts into young minds; use the sessions to build relationships between the children and with yourself, as well as encouraging them in their relationship with Christ.

### ☉ And finally...

Our key verse is 2 Timothy 3: 15  
**'Since childhood, you have known the holy Scriptures that are able to make you wise enough to have faith in Christ Jesus and be saved.'**

Timothy learnt his scriptures from his grandmother, Eunice, and his mother, Lois. In 2 Timothy, Paul is writing to encourage him. He shows us that the Bible teaches us the truth, and how to live out the message.

Pray that these truths will grow in the hearts and lives of your group, as well as in the lives of children attending the church-run PEPE classes in different parts of the developing world.

### ☉ Share the fun!

If your group is part of a larger church family, it would be great to have a designated area in the church where you can display artwork and other items generated by this pack. Encourage church members to ask the children about what they're doing, and to check the display area out for further insight and conversation starters.

Keeping the church informed will pay dividends when it comes to fundraising!

You may also like to use some of the prayer, Bible or activity ideas as part of a church service, if you feel it appropriate in your own setting.



# WEAD start!



*Editors:* David Hart and Sarah Woolmer  
*Written by:* Liz Jennings  
*Designed by:* Jubilee Creative



BMS World Mission  
PO Box 49  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire  
OX11 8XA

Tel: 01235 517700  
Fax: 01235 517601

E-mail: [mail@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:mail@bmsworldmission.org)  
Website: [www.bmsworldmission.org](http://www.bmsworldmission.org)

Registered charity number 233782

