



Father and daughter learning together near Osorno, Chile.

ous process, a tool that can raise the people's consciousness and make them feel responsible for their own condition and the development of their community.

The writings and actions of Freire have a lot to do with the orientation of CIDE's programs. Several years ago CIDE began an experimental new program aimed at bridging the gap between parents and children by educating parents in the rearing of children, and involving them in the children's education. In doing so, the researchers hoped to focus the people's awareness on the broader implications for the well-being of the community, both for the present and the future. In Spanish, the parents-and-children program is called *Programa Padres e Hijos*, but it quickly became known simply as PPH.

In 1978, armed with experience gained in other parts of the country, CIDE's researchers brought PPH to the mist-shrouded hills around Osorno. First, CIDE trained 10 general coordinators who underwent a two-week training course near Osorno. They were full-time personnel, responsible for 44 learning centres in different parts of the region. Another 100 people worked as volunteer coordinators, helping to organize the program and enrolling parents and children. CIDE estimates that 6000 people were directly involved or affected by the program in the region.

PPH operates in units. For instance, the first of 12 units is on general child development. The parents are shown pictures of a well nourished and a poorly nourished child, and other images suggesting poor hygiene or lack of

affection. These are the conversation starters. The coordinators are taught to raise the question of how the family can help the child learn. Gradually the parents begin to speak of their own situations. Worksheets on the same issues are taken home to the children.

There are 35 sets of worksheets, developed by child psychologists, for children ages 4 to 6. Parents use them to help the children learn at home. The worksheets contain material on basics such as learning to write, counting, and speaking properly. They also bring out issues in nutrition, hygiene, sex education, and emotional and social problems such as alcoholism and lack of affection between parents and children. Manuals for the parents are provided with the worksheets. These give exact instructions, and an orientation. Each of the worksheets has clearly stated objectives. For example, one includes a cartoon drawing of a father asking a child to compare two saucepans, their likeness and differences. An explanation for parents reads: "With these games the child learns to concentrate and to pay attention."

Next, the parents return to the centres for workshops in which they discuss the problems again, and sometimes they make simple materials for the children. These materials lead to further interaction with the children and then the parents return for another session where they are asked to think of community actions that might help solve the problems. This is followed by more worksheets and then a fourth session which is a summation of what they