## **SPECIAL FORUM FOR ECK PARENTS: Bringing the ECK Teachings to Life for Our Youth**



Date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Facilitators:	

## **Program Description:**

Come and enjoy this engaging opportunity. Explore the many wonderful resources available to help us raise our children in ECK. Let the MAHANTA inspire you and share your parenting adventures with other ECK parents.

## Supplies needed:

- Crayons
- coloring and activity sheets for young children who attend with their parents

**For Resources Fair** (bring as many of the following items as possible and set out on table beforehand):

- The Wonder within You
- ECK Youth Discourses
- ECK Parable and Activity Kit
- Recent issues of *Letter of Light*
- Youth Ask a Modern Prophet about Life, Love, and God
- Illustrated ECK Parables and CDs
- Your Children and the ECK Discourses
- ECK youth music CDs
- ECK Rite of Passage Youth Study Guide

- Sounds of HU
- ECK coloring books
- Davie Learns a Lesson about Karma
- *Grandpa Went Away*
- When I was Big
- The Great Game
- Gratitude Grab Bag
- Activity sheets printed from ECKParents.org/FamilyActivities /ActivitySheets

	Facilitator	Time
Welcome & facilitator introduction (Slide 1) – (6 min)		
Warmly welcome parents to this brand-new, exciting event to support ECK parents in the adventures of raising our children in ECK in this new golden cycle we're in!		(3 min)
<ul> <li>Let them know: <ul> <li>These forums for ECK parents give parents an opportunity to come together, share, and learn from each other, and hear about any new resources that support us in our parenting journeys.</li> <li>Today we have some exciting resources to share with you, and we have a special panel with [name of parent] and his/her son/daughter, [name], sharing what they learned with the MAHANTA as a family, while [name] was growing</li> </ul></li></ul>		
<ul> <li>We'll also have several wonderful opportunities to connect and share with each other in table discussions.</li> </ul>		
Share Opening quote: (Slide 2)		(3 min)
"The role of the parents is to show the children how to come to the temple within themselves, even when they're young; to show them how to work with the sacred names of God and come to this Sound and Light of Divine Spirit. And it will take every bit of creativity that you have to learn how to work with children."		
—Sri Harold Klemp <i>, Journey of Soul,</i> MAHANTA Transcripts, Book 1, p. 180		
Lead HU Song		
Table discussion: (10 min)		
Invite attendees to introduce themselves at their tables and share:		(10 min)
How do you use your creativity to share the ECK teachings with your child? (Slide 3)		

## Outline

Facilitator shares brief story that illustrates the quote below and how Sri Harold indicates that parents are the primary ones who must teach our children about the ECK teachings and principles, rather than leaving it only to the Arahata who is with the children for just one hour a month, or seminar programs which the children attend once or twice a year.		(2 min)
Share quote: (Slide 4)		
"Frankly most of the children's education comes from what the parents teach them and from what they see Dad and Mom doing as they're growing up."		(1 min)
—Sri Harold Klemp		
Panel: Helping Our Children Recognize the Gift of the ECK in Their Lives (Slide 5) Presenters: [Invite a parent and their adult child]	Panel	
<i>Overview:</i> [Name of presenters] will now share personal stories and experiences that illustrate ways to help children recognize the gift of the ECK in their lives.		
Audio Excerpt and Large Group Sharing (11 min)		
Introduce Audio Excerpt of Sri Harold from 1982 ECK European Seminar, "Questions and Answers" on Saturday, July 31, 1982 (Slide 6-7) Q: Harold, (German Trans): How can we best teach our		(5 min)
<pre>small children the teachings of ECK? HK: There are a number of ways to do it. We're developing our culture But you can also chant HU or one of the names of God with your children and this, of course. You can read to them, if they're a little older, a page or two at night of a bookOr you can also go to a library and get something colorful such as the Tin Tin series of books.</pre>		
You may-I don't know how you translate it-Tin Tin is different in different languages. But explain the ECK principles that you find happening in the story-as you see them. You can say about the principle of cause and effect, karma, you can say, "Oh see, the bad guy did this, and now see what happened to him." Or if someone put out a positive thought in the story, and you can see or point out to the		

child how his thought was important before, to lead him through the obstacles 'til he finally reached his goal.	
Does that help? Okay. With the children there's a lot we can do as Initiates to talk to the children, tell them the stories of the ECK Masters in very simple way. A small child of four might sit still for three sentences. That's enough. When they get six, maybe condense the storiesto two minutes, and like this. They'll find it helpful. Okay.	
The duty of a parent is to show the child how to follow the path of ECK and also make his own way in this life. Because we're on the path of ECK, we do not allow our children to run undisciplined; so that when you sit in a restaurant, and you're sitting in a chair, and the child from another family behind you has got his soup in a spoon and he's busy putting it all over you, and the parents are very proud and they say of their child, "Isn't he free?" We have to teach freedom with responsibility.	
*** Large Group Call-out: Invite parents to quickly share something that lit up for them from Sri Harold's talk.	(5 min)
Share that this talk was given in 1982 and that, since then, ECKANKAR has released many wonderful books and stories for children, which we'll be exploring a little later on.	(1 min)
Next, we'd like to share some other exciting new resources with you! (Slide 8)	
<b>Sharing Parent Blog and Resources for ECK Parents</b> (Slide 8-12)	
<ul> <li>Share highlights of the Parent Blog. This can include an online tour of the site, if possible.</li> </ul>	(4 min)
• Remind them of the URL — ECKParents.org (Slide 9)	
<ul> <li>New: Activity Sheets (Slides 10 &amp; 11)         <ul> <li>Explain how to find the activity sheets and highlight the new ones (find under Family Activities/Activity Sheets)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
• <u>Invite parents to submit</u> their stories and parenting questions for the blog and <i>Mystic World</i> "Spotlight on ECK Families" page. (Slide 12)	

	log site will continue to be updated with onderful features to provide them with esources.	(3 min)
• Youth Website (Slide	e 13)	
Give youth website U	JRL — ECKyouth.org	
	y of the ECK Youth website, highlighting <b>age</b> and <b>Questions for the Master pages.</b>	
2	can help their children submit questions <i>Letter of Light,</i> right there online from the aster" page.	
ECK Books & Resource	es Fair (Slide 14) – (21 min)	
their favorite resource and h	arents to join us and share a bit about now they use it in their family.	
Invited Parent	Resource	
	The Wonder Within You	(8 min)
	ECK Youth Discourses	
	Youth Ask a Modern Prophet	
	<i>about Life, Love, and God</i> Illustrated ECK Parables and	
	the ECK Parable and Activity Kit for Youth	
	Your Children and the ECK	
	Discourses	
	Letter of Light	
	Gratitude Grab Bag	
	The ECK Rite of Passage Youth	(7 min)
	Study Guide	
	(Other)	
Let attendees know that son families have been set out o	ne of the ECK Resources for youth and n tables in the room.	(4 min)
*	ick five-minute stretch break to walk ous resources that are available for ECK	

<b>Large Group Call-out:</b> Which resources lit up as ones you'd like to use in your family right now? Why?	
(If time permits) <b>Do you have any questions about resources or ideas for new resources that would help you as ECK parents?</b>	
Facilitators briefly touch on their own joyful experiences of studying the ECK Youth Discourses with their children, doing the spiritual exercises of ECK with them, and helping them make a personal connection with the MAHANTA.	
Table Discussions: (Slide 15)	(10 min)
• What spiritual exercises do you love to do with your children?	
• How do you or could you help your child personally connect with the MAHANTA?	(6 min)
Large Group Sharing of highlights from small groups	
Remind parents that they can find spiritual exercises to do with their children, on the Parent Blog site at ECKParents.org or in <i>The Wonder within You</i> .	
Conclusion - (5 min)	
As First of the Golden Years continues, and ECKANKAR itself continues to grow and share the blessing of the ECK teachings with the world, an even brighter light is being shone on supporting ECK families in the adventure of raising our children in ECK.	(2 min)
Share closing quote, which touches on the very exciting spiritual times we are in.	
Quote: (Slide 16)	
"Today we are setting the example for how the teachings of ECK will be taught in the future, how our children will teach their children."	
— Sri Harold Klemp, <i>How the Inner Master Works,</i> Манапта Transcripts, Book 12, p. 22	

We are all a part of this unfolding spiritual history.	
<b>Closing HU:</b> Invite parents to join in the special opportunity to sing our love song to God with other ECK parents.	( 3min)
<b>Thank you for coming! (Slide 17)</b> We appreciate you taking the time to fill out your comment forms and would love to hear your ideas about what you would like to see at future forums.	