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The Touchstone Center's December Newsletter

December 2013

Greetings . . .

One of the goals of The Touchstone Center is to disseminate different aspects of its history and archives—dating back to 1969. In the last five years, the Center has done extensive digitizing of its collection of photographs, slides, films, tape recordings, and written materials. At different points in time, we would like to share specific projects that illustrate the Center's various thematic explorations, often related to elemental qualities of the natural world and the imagination of childhood.

We thought, particularly because of the approaching winter solstice, we would bring to your attention our first Touchstone Center publication, [Before There Was Thunder](#), published in 1975. This unique publication consists of writings and drawings from children and was an outgrowth of the Center's *Origins Workshop* at the Children's Community Workshop School. In this project, children between the ages of five and ten explored their own imaginative and poetic sense of how the universe and earth came to be.

The creation of *Before There Was Thunder* became a challenge since we had very limited funds to produce something that could be distributed easily. With this in mind, our designer at the time, [Helen Buttfield](#), devised what we proudly called, a poster-booklet, which could be hung on a wall as a poster and, just as easily, transformed into a small hand-held foldout book.

So as our solstice gift to you, our readers, we invite you to [download](#) this first Touchstone publication of children's vivid exploration into the endless mysteries of the earth's beginnings. Please enjoy it as a poster or a booklet (instructions are included).



And we leave you, for those who have not yet joined our [facebook page](#), with a [video sampling](#) of Touchstone's inaugural facebook journey. Through images and words, we are reflecting upon the tantalizing expression and purpose of *play*—in childhood and beyond. And in the spirit of the season, please feel free to join our future facebook conversations and celebrate with us.

Our greetings to you all for the very best of the New Year . . .

Richard

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The logo for Vertical Response, featuring the word "vertical" in purple and "response" in black, with "DELIVERED BY" in small black text above "response". Below the main text is the slogan "Try It Free Today!" in orange.

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