

Carson Principal Says:

MOTHER CAN HELP PRE-SCHOOL TOTS

(The following article is reprinted from the first issue of the new KIT CARSON EXPRESS, to be published quarterly through the school year for parents of the Kit Carson Elementary School with the cooperation of the Clark County School District's Informational Services Dept.)

By H. P. FITZGERALD

Principal, Kit Carson Elementary School

THERE ARE MANY THINGS a mother can teach pre-school youngsters, and there are many important things these tots can learn, but unless they are those rare children who teach themselves to read, we do better as parents to leave the "3 R's" to the school. That is the teacher's job. As a matter of fact, if your child has skills beyond other children in reading, writing or numbers, he may become bored and school will not be a pleasant or interesting place for him.

A child starting to school should be able to dress himself, wash his hands and face, and hang up his outdoor wraps. Not only should he be completely responsible for going to the toilet, but he should know that it is entirely acceptable to ask the teacher quietly for permission to go. If possible, he should have had some small experience in doing errands or carrying messages so that he can respond to simple instructions and bring back answers. It is not likely that he will be required to do this particular thing in school, but it is one way to build a child's self-confidence and poise.

Not every six year-old can speak distinctly, but if parents have discarded baby talk and have been careful in their speech habits, he should be able to be clearly understood. If there is a speech impediment, be sure the teacher understands about it.

Children should be familiar with the neighborhood in which they live so that when they are out alone they will not get lost. They should know that policemen are their friends. They should certainly know the full names of their parents, their home address and telephone number. If possible, they should know the name of the place where father or mother works. It is well if they know the full name and address of another family member; for example, a grandparent or an aunt.

Another thing a young child may well learn is how to listen when someone else is talking. The length of time he can pay attention is very short, but he can get the idea that one does listen.

While we want to avoid overstimulating young children, there is much they can learn about the world around them. Visits to parks, railroad stations, airports and farms offer rich experiences.

Questions answered simply and directly in words pre-school children can understand (although no one can hope to answer all of a four year-old's questions), give them a background of general information which they often translate into their play. Telling about things they have seen or done adds to children's vocabulary and their ability to use words. All of these things help a child take his place in a group and live with others--matters far more important to him than anything concerning ABC's.

Boys and girls who learn most readily in school tend to be the ones who feel at ease, who are happy, who have some experiences in getting along with others, and who are usually self-confident.

The most important business of childhood is play. As the pre-school child blocks, he learns how to figure things out, how to plan ahead, about balance and engineering on a small scale. As he plays and quarrels and settles arguments with other children he learns the "give and take" of human relationships. These achievements are so important that we can afford to let other types of learning wait until later.

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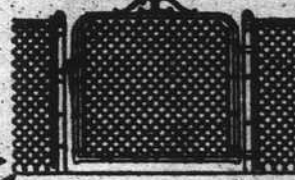
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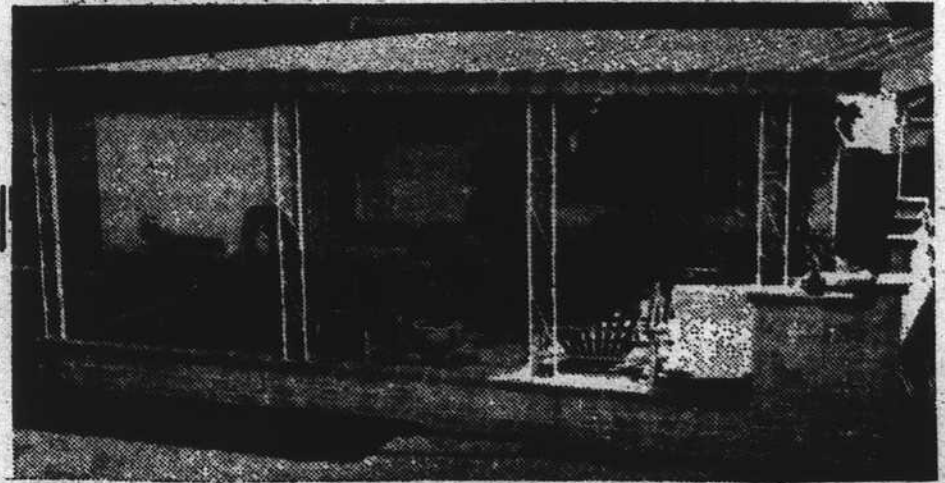


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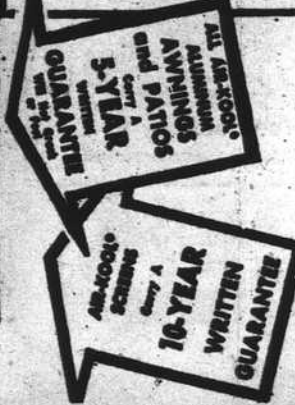
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