



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson,
Ph.D.

One of the most important preparations for learning is the development of large and small muscle activity. We call this development "motor development," which is divided into three categories. They are "gross motor development" which includes the development and awareness of large muscle activity; "body image," which involves the ability to locate parts of one's own body; and "laterality" which is left-to-right orientation.

In gross motor development we must strive to develop a consistent orientation to the world around us. How can we develop gross motor coordination and orientation within our pre-school children? This can be developed through rolling, sitting, crawling, walking, running, throwing, jumping, skipping, dancing, marching, etc., types of activities.

Walking involves the ability to walk a chalk-line, walking on tiptoes, and walking backwards and sideways without difficulty.

Running involves changing directions without stopping or significantly changing pace. Children may aisle run, maze run or run while carrying an object.

Throwing may entail tossing a ball to another person so that it may be caught or throwing a ball or beanbag so as to hit a target or box.

Jumping is an ability developed primarily by jumping over simple obstacles without falling, such as jumping from a board without falling or jumping over obstacles.

Skipping can be utilized in games for a group such as taking off shoes and using them as goals. Skip to the shoes and skip to home. More complicated forms of skipping may be used in conjunction with the other activities such as skipping while bouncing a ball and skipping to music.

Dancing involves the ability to move one's body in coordinated response to music and may be initiated by free movement to more formal steps.

"Body image" which involves the ability to locate parts of one's own body is also important in learning. Before a child can develop an adequate self-concept, he needs to be able to locate himself in space. Body image is necessary for the initiation of any movement. This is a learned concept resulting from observation of movements of parts of the body, and the relationship of the different parts of the body to each other and to external objects.

Some activities for the development of an adequate "Body image" are: teach the knowledge of basic body parts - eyes, nose, mouth, feet, hands, hair, legs, etc. This may be reinforced by having the child close his eyes and the parent or teacher touching various parts of the child. Ask him to name the parts touched. Draw attention to the ways in which the body parts are connected, i.e. what is below the hair, above the neck, etc.

One may also play the "Hokey Pokey" game or one may try tracing the child's body. Have him lay on a large sheet of brown wrapping paper. Draw an outline around him. Have him draw in parts of the face, body, etc. Remember that he will draw these parts at the pre-school level.

Work is also being done with large mirrors where the child points out his own body parts. This can be followed up with a game of "Simon Says," such as "put your hands on your knees," or "Put your hands under your chin."

There are several other activities which have been used with success by parents and teachers to give the child a start on the long road to learning. A kindergarten or first grade teacher can tell parents of the importance of gross motor development in learning.

Next week we will discuss laterality and its importance in the learning process.



Benjamin L. Hooks

FCC
Commissioner

Last week I wrote about the CBS dramatic documentary film, *With All Deliberate Speed*, which delineated the searing struggle of two men - one black, the other white - to end flagrant segregation in the Clarendon County, S.C. schools.

We know that the Clarendon County, S.C. school system was not unique. That it was a part of a seamless web of school systems throughout the south, in many parts of the mid-and far west and, indeed, in the north.

There was a saving grace. There were hundreds of dedicated black teachers in this nightmarish school system who believed the children could learn and insisted they do just that. So, despite the woefully shortened school "year" (in the south, especially in the rural areas, the school "year" for blacks began after all the crops were harvested in late, late fall, and ended in the very early spring at planting time) and the non-existing libraries or science laboratories, black children somehow learned.

Hundreds of thousands of young blacks of that generation of the 1940's are the parents of today's restless youngsters. These black folks came from the bowels of the southland, fleeing the onerous school shacks, the back-breaking labor from "ken to can't" (working from daybreak 'til dark) on the farms and plantations.

The school system, despite its serious flaws, turned out hundreds of thousands of self-sustaining, hardworking, god-fearing citizens. And, I am just not talking about the educated "talented 10th" - the doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, and countless other professionals and trained technicians who also popped like so many jacks-out-of-the-box from this execrable system.

I am talking about those at the bottom of the educational ladder - the laborers, janitors, auto

National Commission on Gaming Policy

WASHINGTON - Nevada has emerged in fine shape from the most stringent scrutiny of its gaming industry by a federal study commission Nevada Sen. Howard Cannon said this week.

Cannon said the efficiency and policing of Nevada's gaming industry have attracted the acclaim of the National Commission on Gaming Policy. Cannon is a member of the Commission.

The senator said the Commission was created in 1970 to examine the entire body of law and custom that governs gambling. It is the first national commission to conduct an in-depth study of the complex legal, economic, political and social aspects of gambling.

Major commission results show that the influence of organized crime in some Nevada casinos has declined significantly over the years.

Stringent accounting regulations and sound internal control mechanisms effectively prevent virtually all skimming of casino profits by owners. Small-scale theft by casino employees and customers does occur.

Nevada ranks only fifth among the states in terms of state income from gaming revenues, although gaming taxes and fees constitute a significant percentage of Nevada's state income.

Nevada's crime rate is not significantly affected by legalized gaming.

"It has taken Nevada many years to develop and refine its system of casino regulation," the commission concluded and added, on the whole, state regulations are sufficiently stringent and enforcement is effective.

Cannon said the Commission's findings "will help dispel much of the misinformation about gaming that too often has passed for fact."

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workers, members of huge families--who were unable to scrape together more than a few years of formal learning in the south's school system.

Their "hands" were desperately needed in the field; the family needed their meager earning power too badly for them to "waste" time in school. These are the ones who went into the foundries, the mill, married, bought homes, raised families and sent their children off to college in the late '60's and early '70's so that they would be able to enjoy a better, richer life.

That generation is the salt of the earth. They are a people that sprang from a long line of hard-working, non-educated folks stretching back to the dim early days of chattel slavery. They refused to be defeated. The dehumanizing experiences they suffered would have diminished a lesser people, but they became giants.

What of their off-spring - the black kids who are graduating from high schools - who concern PUSH's Rev. Jesse Jackson so much today? What of these youngsters, many of whom are already gracing the college classrooms; many of whom are restless, uncertain, rebellious and resentful, disdaining parental and ancestral sacrifices, the long historic black struggle for equality, human dignity, and a better life?

Will these, the privileged products of enormously better schools, the possessors of the accoutrements of the good life, measure up in character, in spiritual beauty and strength of their forebears who in the distant past were forbidden an education, or those who are products of the one-room school shacks of the painfully recent past?

For not only did they triumph over adversity, raise families and accumulate property, but the last generation was the backbone of the revolutionary civil rights movements of the late '50's and the '60's that is transforming this country, putting the finishing touches to the "dream deferred."

The most precious resource of a people is its children. There is a wise Far Eastern saying that goes, "An apple never falls from the tree that gave it life." So maybe there is hope. Certainly the verdict is not yet in. But the jury is out and time is short.

Santini on Handgun Control

WASHINGTON - There were a few surprises in the results of a statewide citizen poll conducted by Congressman Jim Santini.

More than 25,000 Nevadans from all sections of the state completed the 11-question survey which was mailed a few months ago to every Nevadan with a mailbox. The results were tabulated by computer.

Santini said the responses on handgun control "raised my eyebrows a bit." Fifty-two percent of those responding said they oppose registration and licensing of handguns, and 47 percent favored such legislative action.

"I'm impressed and encouraged that so many Nevadans committed the time and effort - not to mention a 13-cent postage stamp - to let me know where they stood on issues before Congress," said Santini.

He said he also found it interesting that the Nevadans ranked unemployment as one of the top priorities facing Congress. Others listed (among 14 mentioned) included, in order of preference: inflation, tax reform, energy and government reform.

Those Nevadans who responded were also in favor of more federal activity in combatting unemployment and in regulating electric utility rates.

The questionnaire results showed that the majority felt the economy would remain the same (36 percent) or improve (35 percent) over the next six months, while 29 percent thought it would worsen.

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