

# Education



## Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D.

Pressure to have our children be the best athletically, the smartest academically, and the best behaved children around seems to begin in many families before the infant even walks. The comparisons and competitions begin when little Mary down the street walked at seven months and said her first word at nine months. Then there is Johnny who is still content to crawl around on the floor at fourteen months. The parents begin to wonder why he does not perform like Mary. What they have not realized is that he is a unique individual and that every child is different. How one child develops physically, intel-

lectually and meotionally is totally different from another. This individuality is even within sisters and brothers and those of the same sex. This is the main idea and consideration when looking at and dealing with the issue of reading and the young child. Some children are ready at an early age to begin the reading process, others would not be ready until two to three years later. What we need to look at is the pros and cons of developing reading in young children generally. Then we need to seek out and find ideas to develop interest in reading, no matter what the level or interest of the child is.

For the early years in a child's life, parents will be the main source of information. Parents play an important role in teaching their young children to read. For a long time the parents have been ignored in this whole process. Success for young children in reading greatly depends on parental involvement. One author says that the home is one of the greatest environmental factors in a child's life. The majority of his/her hours are spent there. What he/she is or becomes depends largely on this one factor. Parents need to know what providing a good stable home with rich broad experiences and good language communication does more to help than anything.

Encouragement and praise for their attempts help children to want to read at home when they are ready. Negativism and too high expectations will cause anxiety and the child will eventually give up or become disinterested in reading.

Obviously the parents must be understanding of their child's individuality. If we overlook this important aspect of the child's development, together with his/her abilities and total personality, we can do the child more harm than good in helping him/her learn to read.

Developing interest in reading must be done if any long term success is to be achieved.

As one author put it, "Whether or not a child is ready to read depends largely upon his/her particular abilities, and also upon the reading instruction that will be offered. There is no room for thinking that there is one best time or age for starting reading; no room for thinking there is one best methodology, or one best set of materials. Nor certainly, is there a place for thinking that all children must accomplish the same learning at the same time."

So much of what has been mentioned above is just common sense thinking. Being a parent is most important, especially to the child.

## NEVADA WOULD RECEIVE \$7.6 MILLION IN SCHOOL AID UNDER ADEA PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The American Defense Education Act (ADEA) offers the best hope to find solutions to many of the reforms called for in the recent major education reports, the president of the Nevada State Education Association told Rep. Harry Reid (D-NV) here last week. Reid is a sponsor of the ADEA.

Sue Strand, a classroom teacher from Las Vegas, said ADEA provides incentives to improve the quality of public schools for this century and beyond. It calls for the improvement of programs in mathematics, science, guidance and counseling, communications, foreign languages and computer science.

ADEA, which has 230 cosponsors in the House of Representatives, would provide upwards of \$7.6 million for public schools in Nevada during the first year. Funding could double in the second and third year of the program.

Strand was among some 190 teachers nationwide who visited the nation's capital to call on members of the House for support of ADEA and increased funding of other crucial federal education programs for the disadvantages, handicapped and minority children.

Federal funding of public education programs has been reduced by some \$5.6 billion nationwide due to inflation and budget cuts since the Reagan Administration took office in 1981, said Strand. In Nevada, the loss has been \$8 million.

ADEA would provide upwards of \$2 billion across the country in federal funds the first year—1985—and \$4 billion in 1986 and 1987 for programs designed by local school districts. NEA recommends that 95 percent of federal funds go directly to local school districts. Schools would receive \$50 per pupil under the ADEA plan.

## CPB FUNDS RADIO READING SERVICES

Three radio reading services have received a total of \$82,713 to expand coverage nationwide for the approximately eight million print-handicapped people—the blind, disabled and elderly. Currently 95 radio reading services provide daily national and local reading to more than 100,000 people.

—The Association of Radio Reading Services (ARRS) was given fund-

## NEW ANGLE AT THE LIBRARY ... BORROW A CAMERA

There are plenty of good reasons for going to the library — great novels, rare journals, valuable reference books and Polaroid instant camera that can be borrowed free of charge.

What are these cameras doing in the public library? "As of today, they're part of our circulating collection," said Beverly Carlino, community relations coordinator. "Like our books, magazines and records, they're here for the public to use and enjoy."

The Clark County Library District is participating in "Check This Out," a program providing free instant cameras to public libraries throughout the United States. The cameras, which are from the Sun series, feature built-in

electronic flash and one-button operation. Sponsored by the Customer Service Division of Polaroid Corporation, the program is being offered in cooperation with the American Library Association.

Available at all branches of the Clark County Library District, Charleston Heights Library, 800 Brush Street, Flamingo Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas Library, 1726 E. Charleston Blvd., Sunrise Library, 1000 North Nellis, and West Las Vegas Library, 1402 "D" Street, persons 18 years or older with a valid library card may borrow a camera for up to eight days. Patrons must supply their own film.

ing for two projects. The national office, based in Dallas, Tex., received \$39,600 to expand and promote the development of new radio reading services across the country and produce a comprehensive "how-to" manual to aid in starting new services and in the instruction of day-to-day studio functions.

—The Tape Exchange Program, based in Lawrence, Kan., received \$26,771 toward distribution of over 14,000 hours of material. The service avoids duplication of

effort, thousands of extra volunteer hours and expensive tape.

—In Touch Networks Inc. of New York City received \$16,342 to provide technical support for six months to uplink a 24-hour daily "radio newsstand" beginning April 19.

This is the first year CPB is directly funding radio reading services. In FY 1984 CPB is additionally funding more than \$375,000 for print-handicapped programs through National Public Radio.



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