

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

One of the basic goals of American society is equality of opportunity. This means that all persons are entitled to 12 years of education so that at graduation from high school they may have an equal chance in the labor market. School administrators and teachers have tried, but often failed, to educate their charges. This may be because one critical factor has been overlooked—children do not come to school equally prepared for the learning tasks of first grade. Because of this, they fail to grasp the essential concepts needed for further learning. Pre-school education, much of which should be done at home, should help to prepare children for the learning task that they will encounter, thus enabling each child to start

out on an equal basis, and, in the long run, bring about equality of opportunity.

Today's column will deal with some of the important aspects of learning how to learn. The following is a discussion of some areas that parents and teachers of pre-school children must be aware of in order to successfully prepare the pre-school child for school.

A successful, creative, functioning child or adult usually has a good feeling about himself/herself, a good self-concept. A positive self-concept is gained by achieving successes in different types of endeavors. The pre-school child may either have a positive idea of his/her self-worth, a limited idea of himself/herself as an individual, or he/she

may think that he/she is bad and have no idea of his/her worth as an individual. The role of the teacher or parent will then be to make the child feel that he/she is a worthwhile individual, because the child with a positive self-concept can more easily assume the independence necessary for existence in school.

Learning how to learn is another factor to be considered in preparing the pre-school child for school. This does not mean teaching the child to read or how to solve arithmetic problems. It means motivating the child to find pleasure in learning. It means giving him/her learning experiences in which he/she can be successful. Learning to concentrate and listen carefully while others speak, and to ask questions tend to promote learning. Teaching the child to follow simple directions helps him/her to comprehend the nature of a direction and to understand that he/she must perform a specific task. First grade teachers feel that the ability to listen to and follow directions

is extremely important in the learning process.

A child cannot become involved in the learning process if he/she has physical defects that prohibit his/her participation. Many times a child is in the second or third grade before the teacher discovers that he/she has a hearing loss. Pre-school children should have a complete physical examination in order to detect hearing and/or visual problems early. Also a complete physical examination will enable the examiner to detect debilitating diseases which mitigate against comprehensive learning.

Learning how to learn requires familiarity with the objects found in most homes and in all classrooms. Contact with books will enable the child to become familiar with the printed words. He/she will experience the joys contained within the covers of the books during storytime. Books will have meaning to this child. He/she will understand that the words therein can unfold a tale of magic.

HENNY PENNY PLAYWRITING CONTEST ANNOUNCED

If you (or someone you know) are between ages 5 and 17, then you are eligible for the seventh annual Henny Penny Playwriting Contest. Scripts must be completely original and may be on any subject. Winning plays will be produced by Children's Radio Theatre Company in Spring, 1985,

and broadcast from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., to public radio stations nationwide.

All entries must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 1984. For more information contact Children's Radio Theatre, 1314 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL SCHEDULED

The Christmas Arts & Crafts Festival will be held on Dec. 1 and 2 at the Credit Union Building, 3100 W. Sahara from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors to this annual festival, co-sponsored by the Cultural and Community Affairs Divi-

sion of the City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizen Activities and the Las Vegas Artists' Co-operative, will have the opportunity to see and purchase original and unique arts and crafts.

Other objects that the child should be familiar with are scissors, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, paste, and paper. Working with these materials requires coordination. Motor coordination must be learned, and this learning process may vary well begin at home.

Exhibitors in the festival meet specific requirements and include original paintings, leather work, toile painting, silk flowers, jewelry, fiber arts, pottery, ceramics and many more.

For further information call 386-6383.

Anita's

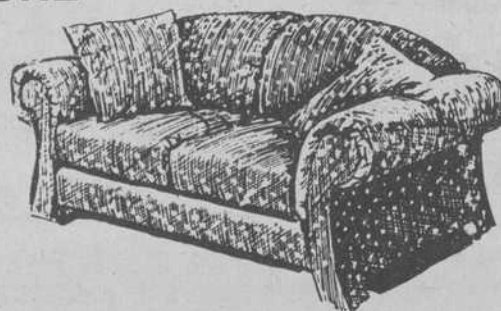
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