

Decision-Making Helps Child To Accept Authority

Washington (Science Service).—Father was probably no more rebellious than his 10-year-old son. Educators agree today's children ages nine through 12 are not drastically different from yesterday's children of these same ages.

A four-year study of school programs across the country, conducted by the U. S. Office of Education here, found reassurances among the 1,300 educators who work with some of the nearly 8,000,000 children in grades four through six.

Differences in Society
There are differences in society now, however. Some children, "door-key" children—are being deprived of adult companionship at important times such as immediately after school is over to supper time. Children who are accustomed to being with adults and talking things over with their parents and teachers are likely to continue doing this. They are able to live within the regulations that have been agreed upon.

Most children from nine to 12, educators generally agree, want to be useful, to try out their own powers in making and doing things. They want to think of themselves, but they also want to develop codes of behavior which will meet the approval of adults around them.

Those children who have had no hand in decision-making, but simply have been required to live by pre-set adult rules, are likely to rebel against authority.

Not Knowing Upsets Them
Children do need and want to know what is expected of them, the study showed. It is not knowing that upsets them. This is especially true when parents or teachers are indifferent to them, or when demands made upon them by adults are not consistent.

Methods teachers and curriculum-makers use to educate children in grades four through six make up a major part of the report. Both slow and gifted children can be challenged to learn and to improve their skills along many lines, the educators said.

The committee which prepared the study included Dr. Helen K. Mackintosh, chief of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's elementary schools section, Gertrude M. Lewis, Paul Blackwood, Jane Franseth and Elsa Schneider.

Freezing Flowers Said Perfected

Inverness, Scotland (UPI).—What won't they think of next department: A Scottish frozen food expert says his firm has perfected a method freezing flowers.

Firm manager Alan Thornton said Americans started it all by asking for some frozen heather.

"There were difficulties," Thornton said. "The heather became brittle when frozen and broke when handled. But now we have found a way of freezing it which is completely successful."

"Unfortunately we discovered how to do it too late for this year's St. Andrew's Night—the heather crop was over. By next year we hope to be in this business in a big way."

Meanwhile, Thornton said, his company has tried the same process with roses.

"And it works wonderfully," Thornton said. "I wore a rose bud in my buttonhole for five days last week after it had been frozen for three weeks."

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