

Attendance in Nursery School Aid in Development of Child

By DAVID NYDICK
UPI Education Specialist

Many parents are faced with decisions concerning nursery schools. Is attendance important? If so, which school is best suited for their child?

There are many good reasons for the existence of nursery schools. A child is placed in an organized group where he will have many opportunities to play individually and with others. He is under the direction of a teacher who is trained to meet his needs at this stage of development.

You may find several hours of freedom quite valuable. For a working parent, the time is essential. Knowing that your child is properly cared for, in a good situation, is comforting. When he returns home, you will be in a better frame of mind to cope with his demands. He will have many stories to tell and many new ways to occupy himself.

The recommended ages for attendance in nursery school are between three and five. This varies somewhat with

different schools. Although age limits are set by the school, your child's readiness depends upon his individual rate of growth.

Is your child ready to be separated from you? He should not be forced. Will he benefit from a group situation? He should be able to partially care for himself, since he will not get complete individual attention. The final decision should rest on a discussion with the specific school. Possibly, a short trial in the classroom will supply the answer.

When a favorable decision has been made, carefully survey the available schools. In making your choice, the major areas of concern are safety, facilities and staff.

The building should be fireproof. Adequate protective devices along with alternate exits should be available. In a two-story building, there should be fire escapes and fireproof staircases. Ask to see certificates of safety and health inspections.

School Staff Important

The most important part of a good nursery school is the staff. One teacher and assistant are needed for each twenty students. They should be college graduates with specialization in early childhood

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by Features Corp.)

Mrs. N. E.—They're moving again. Can't they ever stay put?

Eileen T.—Our parents are stick-in-the-muds. Not us.

Mrs. N. E.—My daughter and her husband are moving again for the sixth time in ten years. And it isn't because of business or health or anything like that. All the moves are in this city, but either to different neighborhoods or to a new house on the same block that may have a few extra gewgaws to attract them. But this latest move beats all. It's from the third floor to the fifth in the same apartment house.

education. Some state education departments issue licenses.

The total picture of a good nursery school has many aspects and degrees. Where states set standards, you can check through the certifying department. These standards are only a minimum. Remember that this area of education is highly specialized. The school and staff should be geared to this age child. Their attitude must be one of understanding. Children of this age need and learn through play.

What makes them so restless? My husband and I have lived in the same apartment for 38 years. By now it fits us like a glove. It's true it's an old house, but we're contented. Our old friends are all nearby and we really feel settled. But at this rate Eileen won't ever know this contentment. Each move means a whole new start with nothing to show for what went before.

Eileen T.—While I love my parents, I don't see anything so admirable about just staying put in the same place after it's outgrown its usefulness. All I hear from my mother is, "A rolling stone gathers no moss." Well, who wants moss? And they've let plenty of moss grow around them—including the broken-down back yards and garages they call their "view."

They say it's contentment which kept them in that dreary old flat all these years. We think it's fear. They're afraid of change. They act as though remaining in one spot from the beginning to the end of your life is something to brag about, as though it's some kind of virtue. It took me a long time to realize it was just inertia and defeatism. Bill and I don't move out of restlessness. We just follow the wheels of progress, instead of looking the other way.

The Council: Behind any debate on the relative merits of being static or peripatetic must loom the question of motive. As human beings we all develop defenses for our actions. When pressed, we can come up with reasons for changing our address or for staying put—when the choice is within our control. Both Mrs. E. and Eileen cite reasons to support their positions. What the Council is asked to do is to scratch beneath the surface a bit to see whether the defenses are just "excuses" and whether there are real but inadmissible reasons for apathy on the parents' part and discontent on the children's.

It's hard to conceive of any neighborhood in or near an American city which hasn't changed drastically in 38 years. What with new highways, urban renewal programs and industrial branching-out, one may assume that the E's apartment isn't the "same." Also, old friends have departed, old landmarks have been torn down, and new touches swirl around Mrs. E. even if they don't budge her.

If she and her husband are contented, it may be partly because they are able to live in the past. There are still enough old friends nearby with whom to dwell on how things used to be. The rest of their contentment may come from inner resources which have nothing to do with their surroundings. Eileen suspects, however, that it is the contentment of those who fear to look around lest they see how much better a life is within their grasp if they but hoist themselves up out of their rut.

Eileen may be going to the opposite extreme as an unconscious mechanism for "showing up" her parents. All of us must move, at times, for reasons beyond our control—transfer of a job, demolition of a building, prohibitive raise in rent or costs. But to move so many times in so short a period for no other reason than it's "outgrown its usefulness" makes packing and unpacking sound like a hobby. Is it a diversionary tactic to keep Eileen and her husband from arguing, to give them a big unifying and continuing project?

In sum we'd say moss must be good for something and Eileen should try some.

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)



Do You Know The Halcyon Bird?

Because of their almost worldwide distribution, you probably have seen within walking or easy driving distance of your home, many resident halcyons.

Chances are you don't know this creature by that name. You may be unfamiliar with the peculiar reason for the name, or why we say "halcyon days" are periods of peace and calm, for the halcyon is a common bird—the kingfisher.

For some far-from-obvious reason, ancient philosophers reasoned the kingfisher laid her eggs during the days of calm weather that preceded and followed the winter and summer solstices . . . that period when the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator in June and December.

Calm Seas

At that time the seas would be calm and the weather pleasant. The bird, being sensitive to weather changes, would lay and hatch her eggs. The old boys maintained that the bird built her nest on the sea, and during the days of calm, the nest floated. Some even claimed the kingfisher could calm the waves and temper the winds. So halcyon days were days of calm and tranquility.

The ancients never found out, apparently, that the kingfisher digs a hole in an embankment where she deposits and incubates her eggs. This tunnel is usually of considerable length, often 12 to 15 feet, with an enlarged chamber at its extreme end where the nest is made. The eggs may be laid right on the sand, or perhaps on a hodgepodge layer of old fish bones.

Feed on Fish

The parent birds feed the naked children on fish. Both parents perch themselves near a lake or stream and wait for a fish to appear below. They may even hover on rapidly beating wings, waiting for the fish to get into just the right position.

Disabled Jetliner In Safe Landing

Lake Charles, La. (AP)—A jetliner carrying 81 persons, including actress Eve Arden, detoured over 100 miles to land safely on an extralong runway of Lake Charles Thursday because it was leaking hydraulic fluid.

The National Airlines DC8C, bound nonstop from Houston, Tex., to Los Angeles, went east instead of west and made a precautionary landing at Chennault Air Force Base.

Pilot William McGinley said he noticed fluid leaking from the hydraulic wing flap mechanism on taking off from Houston. He decided to bring the huge airliner to Chennault AFB here because the runway was long enough to let him stop even with faulty flap operation.

There's no virtue in rolling or holing-in per se. There's virtue, however, in being honest as to one's reasons.

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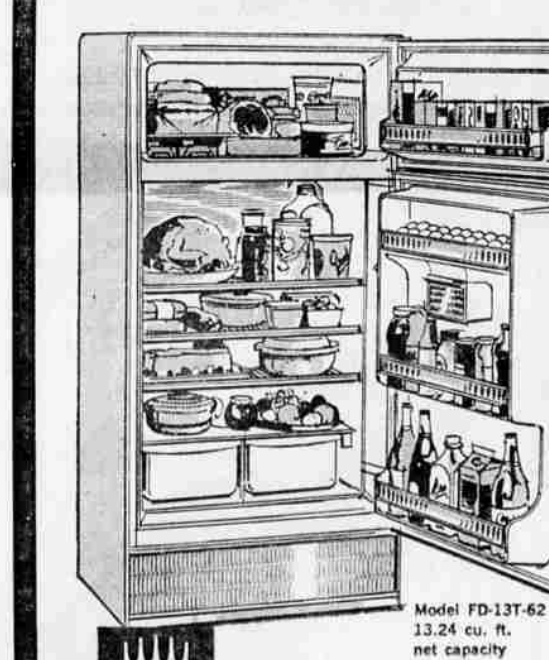
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