

Specialization—Something That Begins When The School Youngster Gets Into The Intermediate Grades



PUZZLE IN FRACTIONS—Take one-fourth out and how much is left? That's the problem being studied out by La-Ree Walker with the help of her teacher, Mrs. Stanley Woodruff.



STEPHANIE'S PROGRESS—Stephanie Walker checks up on the "number facts" chart where her arithmetic progress is marked by shiny-headed tacks—another phase of early arithmetic training.



ARITHMETIC GETS MORE COMPLEX—Mary Adkins has decided that it's in the intermediate grades when arithmetic starts getting complicated, but she's up to what fractions can offer.

PASSING OF 'BABY DAYS' BRINGS NEW EDUCATION EXPERIENCE FOR KIDDIES

Specialization first enters the education picture along about the fourth grade when youngsters are well accustomed to school and its workings.

By this time, every little school boy and girl knows with swami-like insight that when the first leaf begins to turn, school is just a short jog away.

Each school has its own particular curriculum and may vary from the general rule, but in most, there are changes which make a distinct line of separation between the intermediate grades and the "baby" days of school.

In most of the larger, modern schools, instrumental music training begins for the first time on a limited basis in about the fourth or fifth grades. At the same time, more attention is given to physical education from a standpoint of organized sports with separate classes for boys and girls instead of the mixed games which are typical of the play-time for younger students.

Arithmetic outgrows the two-plus-two stage and becomes decimals, fractions and more complicated forms for young Einsteins to puzzle over.

Generally, a first-grader has just one teacher for all his studies throughout the year, and this practice continues through about the third grade.

Frequently, it is in the fourth grade that the children get a different teacher perhaps for physical education, another for music, and a "regular" one who handles the academic side of things.

Later, as the child progresses through the higher grades, this teacher specialization becomes more common, and he may have several teachers.

The aim in the intermediate grades, however, is to keep the same teacher with a class at least half the time, because that teacher has an opportunity to be around the child more and can better understand any problems he might have in studies or behavior.

This limited specialization continues in the larger schools until junior high, when it is emphasized more and when the child is older and more capable of being "on his own" instead of being dependent on a particular teacher.

The end of the grades marks a big jump for any school child—with junior high coming up he begins to feel a new sense of self-reliance and independence and becomes suddenly conscious of the importance of growing up.

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