

Teachers; All Members of Family Learn from School

By Clara Savage Little, Editor, Parents' Magazine

These are the days of anticipation. Now mothers are letting out some steam and sewing on name tapes; fathers spend Saturday afternoon supervising haircuts, and stop on their way from work to bring home gifts of new pencil boxes. Junior spacemen weigh whether they will be allowed to wear their helmets on the First Day Back, and the teen-age lady ponders "which dress . . . ?"

In the unnatural quiet of ailing classrooms, teachers are working out day-by-day curriculum and schedule. All over the country, "back to school," "back to school" is the theme. The adventure begins again.

As the mother snaps off a thread, she may remark to her husband, "I wonder what the new teacher is like." The space navigator calls to the pilot, "Blast off!"—and then, "You had Miss X last year . . . you like her?"

And on the First Day, as each bright face coming through the door turns to her, Miss X, too, wonders what the thirty or forty children, the sixty or eighty parents, will be like.

Probably these are age-old questions, but today they have a different tone.

If your children are well along in school, you have already found that the recurrent Adventure of School is even more exciting for you now than in your own school days. More than ever before, parents are interested and involved in the success of their children's education.

But it isn't just the getting to know things that brings on the end-of-August excitement each year. It is a new kind of awareness that a teacher is a person, parents are persons, and—especially—children are persons.

This is perhaps the most representative of the changes that have come about in education during the past few decades. It is an attitude of open-mindedness and mutual respect, and it plays a vital part in your children's learning.

For the First Time

If your youngster is going to school for the first time, then you, too, are embarking on an adventure of learning. If you stay in his classroom the first day or two, and visit later on, you may be surprised even though you are "up" on the new teaching methods—to see them applied.

This brings up one aspect of your own educational adventure. You encourage your child's curiosity. Encourage your own. You find you want to ask, "Miss X, what is the principle behind the new way of

teaching reading?" If Miss X is like most teachers, you will find her happy to talk over that question and anything else that may be on your mind.

You may wonder, in the beginning, just what Johnny is learning. In those first few days, the children are learning something very fundamental. They begin to understand each other and to trust the new adult—Teacher—who is to play such an important role in their lives.

Teacher's Importance

Sometimes a mother feels that Teacher is too important. She feels left out, and must remind herself to give her child the freedom to be fond of other adults and respect them. Soon she discovers that her own role is as important as ever—especially if she participates in the school experience, learning along with child and teacher.

Increasingly, modern parents consult with the school staff and with each other, promote group discussion, attend lectures.

More and more, mothers—and fathers who can manage it—are taking time to see for themselves just what enters into their children's education, and to make their own contribution.

Many parents, incidentally, find that simply observing their boys and girls in a different environment—as working members of a group—is immensely enlightening.

But keep in mind that this process of enlightenment works three ways. The teacher wants to learn from you, too.

No independently thinking individuals can ever agree completely on every detail of bringing up children—but they can ascertain and understand each other's views.

Keep Teacher Informed

Your contact with your child's teacher may at times be as simple as advising her that your first grader is hesitant about asking to leave the room.

It may be telling her that young Mary is trying to adjust to a new baby in the family.

At times you will tell Miss X what is going on at your home how you feel about certain approaches in her teaching and how you think your children feel. By keeping her informed you help her to understand certain aspects of your children's school behavior.

And there are other ways of teaching the teacher, or of helping her with her considerable load. A father may want to suggest a tour through his place of business when it seems to fit in with the studies.

A mother may have a bright thought for a parent-teacher library and need to talk it over with the staff.

Stillwater, Oklahoma, Sets Record As 'Safest City'

Children who live in Stillwater, Okla., walk to school along streets of a city that has been proclaimed the safest city in the country.

In achieving this distinction, Stillwater has done more than set a record. It has made traffic safety a matter of habit, and it is schooling its younger generation to grow up with a wholesome but not frightening awareness of the problem.

Stillwater's distinction was achieved by setting a record of more than ten years—3,782 consecutive days, to be exact—without a traffic fatality. For years the community has been winning National Safety Council awards with annual regularity.

The record becomes all the more impressive when motor car operation in the city is analyzed. Stillwater's 20,000 inhabitants own 7,000 automobiles, not counting commercial vehicles. Nine thousand students of Oklahoma A. & M. College located there, drive 6,000 more.

Farmers of the area shop in Stillwater. They come to town, especially on Saturdays, in some 5,000 motor vehicles. College alumni expand Saturday traffic volume tremendously during the football season by driving in in another 13,000 automobiles.

Enlightened Citizenry

All of this would normally be considered quite a problem for a police department to cope with. But in Stillwater, because of a program developed over the years, people have come to take it all in their stride and with obviously effective safety measures.

At the base of the successful plan is an enlightened citizenry. "Well conditioned response to traffic rules has become something of a religion in Stillwater," is the way The Lamp, a publication issued by the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, put it in a recent rounded study of the city's traffic control measures.

"The Safest City in the Country" became that way, not by accident but because of it. Two young policemen, growing con-



ON THEIR WAY ARE THESE THREE who found their school togs at Penney's complete back-to-school departments for boys and girls. (l to r) Penny Preston, 11 years old, who is in the 6th grade at Peterson School, models a pleated Oton and wool Scotch plaid skirt with the new high waistline that all girls adore. Slipover and matching cardigan sweaters are bright red. She wears the traditional white buck oxfords and white socks. Blonde Wendy Newport, who is so concerned over the contents of her small red purse, models a six-year size melon-striped cotton with aqua posies. Full skirt is puffed out with full pettiskirt. Young lads, too, like Dick Paddock, 13, in junior high, like those nifty white poplin jackets. This one is worn with bright plaid cotton sport shirt, pink predominating, gray cords, Scotch grain brogue and perforated blue cotton baseball cap.



CLARENCE "PUNKY" ADAMS with crew cut and the big grin, goes all-out for a combination of pink, white and black for school clothes . . . black cords with narrow white suede belt, pink lined shirt by Van Huesen with saddle-stitched collar and cuffs, White Stag jacket with collar worn high. Punky, a KUHS junior, is majoring in science. He modeled this school outfit for Herman's Menstore.

For Parents of the very young

Here's a word of wisdom for parents of very small children going back to school this fall.

If you live within walking distance of the school, accompany your child over the safest route both to and from the school several times during the first month.

Point out to him ways to walk in safety. Show him where the dangerous intersections are. Drill him in the meaning of the colors of the traffic lights.

Urge him to stay on the side-

Dress-Up Coat Needed

"Sunday Best" calls for a neat, dress-up coat. A deep pile coating offers warmth and good fashion in deep colors and rich textures.

Shirts, sweaters, blouses and skirts should be versatile, practical and adaptable to varieties of combinations. The boy-tailored shirts, so popular with school girls, take well to mixing-and-matching with skirts, jumpers and cardigan sweaters.

One solid color skirt or jumper can be the basis of excitingly different outfits when combined with the bold stripes, plaids and dots that rate so high in this year's classrooms.

Climate, age and the fashion customs of a particular school have bearing on a classroom wardrobe. In a "dunagare" kindergarten, daughter will need more playclothes than in a "dresy" sixth grade.

But in every variation of the

back-to-school theme this year, the emphasis should be on a neat, well-pul-together look.

Extra Care Needed

Because school safety patrols are generally limited to operating within the immediate vicinity of schools, motor vehicles are urged to be especially alert in residential neighborhoods where the very young will be on their own as they go to and from classes.

COVER

Mary Harlan and James Borden posed against a backdrop of Klamath Union High School, where the two are students, for the cover of this annual Back-To-School edition.



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