



Why Preschool?

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Special points of interest:

- ☉ 100% of preschool children learn to read
- ☉ Have kindergartens been given up on.
- ☉ Should preschool and kindergarten be mandatory—no choice for parents?

Inside this issue:

The Preschool Frenzy	1
What is Accomplished in 9 Months?	2
Oh no, it's a sight word!	2
In a Good Preschool Program . . .	2

The Preschool Frenzy

It has been discovered by educational experts that children that attend preschool do better in kindergarten. Not really a surprise. A preschool frenzy is storming across the states and other countries. Many are focused on free preschool for children that would not otherwise be able to attend preschool. There are places looking at raising the age to enter kindergarten, and others at making preschool and kindergarten mandatory.

The idea seems to be preschool makes a difference, so if a child stays in

preschool longer it will make an even greater difference—interesting conclusion. On the issue of mandatory preschool, although I am a supporter of preschool, I would not like to see laws forcing all parents to send their children to preschool or Kindergarten.

Surely in 9 months of kindergarten a child can be taught the alphabet, basic phonics, basic math, and some writing. Yet, the schools are crying, the kids aren't ready for school. Yes, some of these are lack of social readiness rather

than alphabet.

Kids are renowned for being social problems when they have no game, no challenges, aren't learning new things and gaining new confidences.

Kids don't get ready for the structure of kindergarten by having little or no structure or classroom settings in preschool or home.



What is Accomplished in 9 Months?

So, the situation is that teachers have difficulty teaching students the basics in kindergarten and want the preschools to do it for them. The schools are saying, "we can't teach them if the students did

not learn the basics at home or preschool". There must be a goodly number of good teachers out there. So what's wrong? I know what Elan Esprit can accomplish in a school year with each student, so something

doesn't add up. If the correct "why" for the situation were found already, kindergartens would already be fixed. Here I sit with the problem of my almost 5-year-olds being too advanced for kindergarten.

What is Accomplished in 9 Months? continued

With the current scene in our country today: parents working, kids not able to visit freely and safely within neighborhoods, etc., preschool is something I would recommend for a majority of kids. They have a group, friends, action, excitement and learn so many things so quickly.

But making it sound like kindergarten can't do the job unless preschools do it first, certainly makes preschool

sound more valuable—maybe the governments should be paying preschools and the parents should pay for kindergarten. What an interesting reversal that would be.

Actually, I don't really want governments in charge of my school—we get consistent products with our students, unheard of to governments.



Oh No! It's a Sight Word

Have you tried to read and understand what the product of each level of preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are and still don't understand what you are getting. I'm an educator and even I have trouble sorting out the complex babble that describes each level. Much of the talk of reading turns out to be reading to the student or reading readiness through kindergarten. There appears to be a confusion of what reading is for children. Reading is reading, whether by adult or child. One of the misconceptions that I

have become aware of recently is this: If a student does not sound out each word, he is not reading. As an adult, I don't sound out each word, yet am very much reading and understanding what I read. Reading is not a rote activity. It is an understanding of the concepts that the words on a page communicate. Then there is comprehension strategy—who knows! Read simple sight words. Again if the student knows the word it's a sight word, as being different from a sounded out word. A word known and understood is simply a word known

and understood. Nothing more complex than that. Yes, phonics are a useful and needed tool.

The purpose of reading is to enjoy and learn from what is being read. Phonics are a tool to assist reading and should not be considered more important than reading.



In a Good Preschool Program

1. The majority of children are very ready for kindergarten by the age 5.
2. Most children actually can read.
3. Children understand what they are reading.
4. The children know the alphabet and basic phonetics.
5. Children learn to work and interact with a group.
6. Children gain a conceptual understanding of preschool and kindergarten.

7. Children learn many other skills: physical, art, music, science, biking, cooking, computers, manners, communication, problem solving, etc.
8. Children enjoy learning and are having fun doing so.
9. Children get help when needed so they will continue to do well.

As it stands now, children are to spend from age 2-5 learning their

alphabet, basic phonics, and being read to, so they can learn to read. Children are not this stupid.

Having taught 100% of students to read before kindergarten, I naturally doubt what I read about fixing education, although pleased the desire is there to fix it. No one's asked, "how do you teach these children to read?" It is really pretty easy.