

Your Child And The School

By Miss Lucille Hunt

At this special time the eyes of most of us are focused on the school and its opening session. Many of our families have children who are just missing the age limit of school opening. Many are wondering what to do with such a youngster. Let's look at some of the simple things we know about five year old children.

The five-year-old youngster has entered a period of slow growth, very different from the rapid growth of the first eighteen months. The girls are usually about a year ahead of boys in physical development. They have good general control, though small muscles are not so fully developed

as the large ones. The sensory-motor equipment is not ready for reading. The child is apt to be far-sighted still because of the undeveloped muscles of the eyes. To force reading on him at this age may injure his eyes for life. His speech should be entirely free of "baby talk" and he should be learning to do many things by himself for himself. By this time he has already established handedness. He should be allowed to use either the right hand or the left hand as he has developed.

The five year old has certain characteristic reactions such as stability—good balance between self-sufficiency and sociability. He is still home-centered and much of his play and work should be planned in the home or yard. He is beginning to be capable of self-criticism and to be eager to carry some responsibility. He is noisy and vigorous, but his activity has definite direction. His play shows purposiveness and constructiveness—he knows what he is going to draw before he draws it. He is beginning to use language well and he loves to tell stories and to listen to stories told by others. At this age he loves dramatic play but he still plays by himself most of the time. The five year old should be able to wash, dress, feed, and toilet himself, but he may still need occasional help. His individuality and lasting traits begin to be apparent. He likes to play with other children, but he is still very much of an individual and does not really cooperate with others. He stays in the group as long as he enjoys it but he is still self-centered. If he tires of the group activity, he will become restless or will seek something else which suits him more even if it means leaving the group without his part in the play-acting.

Thus it is wise to keep the five year old in small groups or with one or two playmates. He adjusts much better to a few people and should not be forced into groups. If he is given time to grow and develop normally he escapes many of the speech defects, nervous reactions, and eye-strain so often developed in the child whose parents force him into situations because they are embarrassed that their child is not the smartest in the group. If we could forget ourselves as grown-ups and give the children a chance to develop normally we would save ourselves many headaches and heartaches.

Allowing the child to assume some responsibility at home will develop that feeling of doing something worthwhile that the five year old needs. When he is loved, wanted, and allowed to help and to do his share of work, however small those duties may be, he is growing toward the development needed in his school work for future years.

We do not force our plants in the garden to grow beyond a normal growth or feel embarrassed when they do not develop. Why should we feel otherwise about our boys and girls. Give them time to grow and do not force them into school too soon. They are through with school and gone from home too soon as it is now. Why force them out sooner?

The child needs good physical care, for we know that a fatigued child, a poorly nourished child, or a physically ill child cannot develop as fully as he might otherwise. Good food, fresh air, protection from disease, the correction of physical defects, plenty of outdoor play, balanced by relaxation and rest—all these are essential for the best development of a child's personality.

The child also needs opportunities to reach ahead, to take the next step, the right amount and kind of stimulation at the right time. He cannot learn either reading or independence until he has reached that stage of his growth at which he is ready to

LEGION MEMBERSHIP

(Continued from Page 1)

by Ralph R. Fisher of Brevard, Department Membership Chairman.

All Legionnaires are invited to attend the meetings, which will be held in the Legion buildings at Lexington at 7:30 p.m. September 6 and Brevard at 7:00 p.m. September 7.

Sweet potatoes will be plentiful on markets in North Carolina and other Southern states during September.

Learn these things. If he is pushed ahead too soon, if too much is expected of him before he is ready, the discouragement may react against growth instead of helping it. On the other hand, if we do not recognize the child's readiness for the next steps we may retard his growth that way. Love him and let him grow normally.

STATE COLLEGE FARMER'S AID

QUESTION — How can I keep termites out of wood that is in contact with soil?

ANSWER — H. M. Ellis, agricultural engineer for the State College Extension Service, says wood in contact with soil can be protected from termites for at least five years with a single treatment of DDT. The treatment is quite simple and easy to apply. Just use 5 per cent DDT in No. 2 fuel oil, placing the material in soil surrounding wooden structures that need protection. The rate of application should be one quart per cubic foot of soil.

Termite control is both easier and cheaper, entomologists say, when control efforts are directed toward preventing them from getting into buildings, rather than killing them after they get in.

DDT insecticides fit very well into this type of control method.

Testing of DDT for termite control started in 1943, shortly after the chemical was developed for wartime use. The formula given still remains effective against termites in the continuing experiments, and may remain so for a still-undetermined number of years.

QUESTION — What is Dixie crimson clover?

ANSWER — It is a new type of crimson clover that reseeds itself. Some farmers refer to it as "winter lespedeza." North Carolina Experiment Station scientists say the Dixie clover, like lespedeza, furnishes grazing, hay, or a seed crop, depending on how the farmer wants to use it. It volunteers very readily after being allowed to set seed the first year.

Dixie crimson clover comes up in the fall, grows rapidly during the winter months, and may be grazed through March. A combination of Dixie crimson and

Station Announces New Bulletin On Pastures

Farmers and other interested persons were urged this week to get their copy of a new pasture publication just released by the North Carolina Experiment Station. The publication is a special pasture edition of "Research and Farming", quarterly magazine put out by the Station.

The 48-page bulletin is devoted exclusively to a discussion of North Carolina's pasture needs, production, pests, and grazing problems. It is designed as a part of the statewide "Green Pastures" campaign.

Coastal Bermuda grass has worked very well on State College farms near Raleigh. Nursing cows and calves were grazed on the Bermuda from late June until mid-September. Dry cows then grazed the volunteer crimson from mid-December to April. The animals were in better condition on April 1 than similar cows barn-fed.

A beautiful pasture scene in full color adorns the cover of the edition. The photo was taken on the farm of J. R. Nipper near Raleigh.

The lead-off article by Station Director J. H. Hilton is entitled "North Carolina's Pageant of Pastures" and reviews efforts over the past 70 years to develop pastures in the Old North State. Dean Hilton salutes Dr. L. O. Schank, veteran director of the Extension Service, for his leading role in pasture development.

Easy-to-read charts simplify the research findings as to seeding rates, fertilizing rates and methods of managing pastures. A two-page "spread" in the center of the booklet summarizes the recommendations of the Station on the type of pastures to grow and how to grow them.

The publication was edited by Lane Palmer of the Station's editorial staff. Illustrations are by Norman Youngstead and photos by Ralph Mills and Landis Bennett, all of the college staff.

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