

Creativity of Youngsters Affected by Sex Awareness

If your creative five-year-old seems to lose his creativity the moment he enters kindergarten, don't blame the teacher or the school. The cause is probably sex—his sudden awareness of sex differences and the crisis he is facing because of it.

This advice from the National Education Association is based on a recent research study conducted at the University of Minnesota and reported by Dr. E. Paul Torrance, director of the university's Bureau of Educational Research.

WHEN CHILDREN begin to notice sex differences—when they begin to see that activities are taboo for girls and others are not appropriate for boys—that's when their ability to think creatively takes a sharp drop.

Usually that's around age five, the researchers found. The kind of behavior adults expect of a child that age represents a crisis that affects his creative abilities, the report found. Children in other countries experience similar crises when their behavior patterns are changed, the study indicated, but the patterns are different in different cultures.

For American youngsters similar crises are reported to occur at ages 9, 13 and 17.

"IT IS INTERESTING" to note that each of the generalized drops occur at ages at which the transition from one developmental stage to another begins," says Dr. Torrance. "The drop at about five occurs with the end of the childhood stage and the beginning of the juvenile stage with its demands for social accommodation and compromise and acceptance of authorities outside him.

"The second drop occurs with the onset of the pre-adolescent stage with its increased need for approval, identification with peers of the same sex, and conformity to peer norms," according to Dr. Torrance. The third occurs at the onset of adolescence with its increased anxieties and striving for approval of the opposite sex.

"WE HAVE OBSERVED," Dr. Torrance points out, "that concerns about sex appropriateness and emphasis on sex differences become tremendously inhibiting at about age five and continue into the beginning of the first grade." When youngsters were asked to think of improvements that could be made in certain toys, "we found that boys at this age would frequently refuse to offer any suggestions for improving a nurse kit and some girls similarly refused to think of ideas for improving a toy fire truck. Some of the more creative boys, however, first changed the nurse kit to a doctor's kit, after which it was quite legitimate and respectable to think of ideas. Thus we see that whole areas of experience became taboo, and thinking thereby inhibited."

Another inhibiting factor in young children, Dr. Torrance said, was found to be the forced stifling of fantasy. "Many children at this age (five) are inhibited in their thinking because they have been warned harshly by parents and teachers that they must eliminate fantasy. Although we are interested in developing a sound type of creativity, we need to keep fantasy alive until the child's mental development is such that he can engage in this sound type of realistic creative thinking."

Promoted

Richard R. Wonders of Southfield, Mich., has been promoted to airman second class in the United States Air Force. Airman Wonders is assigned to the 2nd Organizational Maintenance Squadron here as an aircraft maintenance specialist. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Wonders, 21184 8 1/2 Mile Road, Southfield.

Kiwanis Honors Lathrup Resident

LATHRUP—Clarence E. Wornuth has been elected president of the Detroit No. 1 Kiwanis Club—the first Kiwanis Club in the world. Wornuth has been a Kiwanian for 35 years.

Out East

Navy Lieutenant junior grade William H. Devine, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Devine, of 30715 Vernon, Birmingham, is serving aboard the experimental patrol escort USS Somersworth, operating from New London, Conn.



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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ORDINANCE NO. 581

AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 527

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3.3 OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 527 BY ADDITION OF A SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS SECTION 3.3-28, AND THE ZONING MAP, BY ADDITION OF A SECTION TO BE KNOWN AS SECTION 3.3-28.

THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 3.3 of Article 3 of Ordinance Number 527 be amended by addition of a section to be known as Section 3.3-28, said section to read as follows:

Section 3.3-28. Property on the east side of Lakeside, described as Lot 70 and the northerly half of Lot 71, Quanton Lake Estates Replat shall be changed from its present classification of Public Property to R-1 Single-Family Residential Zone District.

Section 2. The Zoning Map attached to Ordinance No. 527 shall be deemed modified to incorporate this change.

Obtained by the Commission of the City of Birmingham this 8th day of October, 1962, to be effective upon publication.

FLORENCE H. WILLETT
Mayor
IRENE E. HANLEY
City Clerk

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