

Primaries & Preschoolers
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“Our goal should be to give our children the skills for learning so they can embark upon a lifetime of becoming educated.” – Mortimer Adler, 20th century educator

Development –

Most important tasks:

- Develop emotional stability –

- Develop language and communication skills

- Develop knowledge about things and events around them

- Develop a “disposition to learn”

Kindergarten school principals had these priorities:
 (How do you think they ranked? – How would you rank them?)

_____ Academic Achievement	_____ Academic Achievement
_____ Artistic Expression	_____ Artistic Expression
_____ Emotional Development	_____ Emotional Development
_____ Health & Safety Habits	_____ Health & Safety Habits
_____ Language Development	_____ Language Development
_____ Motor Development	_____ Motor Development
_____ Physical Coordination	_____ Physical Coordination
_____ Self-discipline	_____ Self-discipline
_____ Social Development	_____ Social Development
_____ Work Habits	_____ Work Habits

Action – There is NO magic age when “schooling” begins.

When taught at the right time, with the right approach, learning will happen.

- Pray and let God direct this process.
- Try some things.
- Ask your friends.

Academic vs. Developmental –

Don't underestimate everyday life, conversation, activities, problem solving, life skills, **delight!**

Quick overview of learning to read –

- Learn to talk
- Pre-reading – Goal: learn what reading the writing are for and that they are useful and enjoyable things to do.
 - Reading books aloud and talking about them develop:
 - Vocabulary
 - Sequencing
 - Problem solving
 - Knowledge
 - Thinking skills
 - Sentence structure
- Fluency Stage – Goal: Learn to read
 - READ!!!! Practice, practice, practice
 - Reading is learned by reading
 - At least 2 years
 - Easy is OK & good
 - Let them devour books
 - Develops:
 - Vocabulary
 - Spelling skills – by seeing words often
 - Beginning writing skills
- Information Stage – Goal: Read to Learn (4th-Jr. High)
 - Read for information and recreation
 - Will probably read more books during this period than any other time of life
- Things to keep in mind:

Keeping Little Ones occupied while working or teaching others:

- Fill their tank
- Have special toys/games/activities and a special place
- Utilize their siblings
- Use nap time

Resources:

LIFE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Language & Thinking for Young Children – Ruth Beechick

The Three R's – Ruth Beechick

Slow & Steady, Get me Ready - June Oberlander

Little Hands to Heaven - Carrie Austin

For the Children's Sake – Susan Schaeffer McCauley

Preschool Activities in a Bag – Paula Reetz & Sherri MacLean

Mudpies to Magnets – Roger Williams

Dot-to-Dots

Blocks

Play Doh

Mazes

Buttons

Fabric

Hidden pictures

Scissors/Hole punch/Paper

Measuring cups & spoons

Jigsaw puzzles

Pipe cleaners

Pattern blocks

Idea Share Time