

Getting Kids Through School

Though the system means well, many kids -- in public, private or charter schools -- are prone to a great deal of fear, anxiety, depression, boredom, confusion, failure, humiliation, ineffective learning, and rage. In the meantime, it's well known that the later a child enters school, the higher their ultimate achievement level. Which is why the home/unschoolers are on top of the heap socially, psychologically, physically, and intellectually.

For those who do go to school, the following ideas have been shown to be useful:

1. Avoid preschool unless a child is from an EXTREMELY deprived family. Strictly limit TV and other electronic gadgets. Send to school as late as possible; i.e. use relatives or another family if both parents are working.

2. At any age turn the responsibility for learning and achievement over to the child where it really belongs by a) NEVER ask about homework but HELP them if THEY ask for help, b) NEVER read the report card unless your child offers it; i.e. sign it blindfolded, and c) NEVER, except in an emergency, talk to their teacher unless your child asks you to do so. (90 - 95% will raise their grades after a couple of weeks, perhaps, of goofing off, at which point the teacher will get on their case.)

3. Find a school which most children like; i.e. small, flexible, progressive etc. where there's much moving around, talk, and cooperative endeavors. The best are those that use Invitational Education instead of quizzing and testing; i.e. "Show me what you CAN do and then I, or another child, will HELP you do better."

4. For children over the age of ten tell them to "split-brain." That is, turn half the brain into a floppy disc on which you put everything that your teacher/professor wants to hear about -- in talk, quiz, or test -- while the other half become a hard-drive on which you put everything that's interesting or useful like the basic thinking, learning, questioning, cooperating and working skills you were BORN with plus reading, writing, arithmetic and maybe button pushing so that you're ready to learn the job on-the-job in The Real World, as opposed to The Credential World.

5. Explain: --"The law says you have to go to school since we feel unable to have a homeschooling program"-- (even though it's very simple to HELP kids keep on learning with the joy and effectiveness of the average toddler.) "But the law doesn't say you have to like it, and it doesn't say that you have to like your teacher. But you'd better not tell her so. And you'll have to put up with their rules. And it doesn't say that you HAVE to learn anything, but there are lots of INTERESTING things that you CAN learn in school, and some of them, like the 3Rs, are really important."

6. Ask your school system to look into [HTTP://734.com1.RU](http://734.com1.RU) -- www.Edutopia.org -- www.InvitationalEducation.net and proven techniques like Choral Reading, using newspapers as the #1 textbook beginning in 3rd grade, playing games with numbers, helping them write letters to their heroes, having opportunities for plenty of art, music, dance, and sports etc.

(maybe only)

7. Hope that some system will try, beginning in kindergarten, and then working up one year at a time, to make the compulsory attendance law apply only as far as the playground, and then let them mill around until they're bored to death, after which the vast majority will come VOLUNTARILY into the classroom, and can be sent back to the playground if they fail to settle down. But com1.RU applied it to all in hi-school.

8. Keep all electronic gadgets out of the school/college building; i.e. many schools are getting rid of the laptops since they're of no educational value.

The Committee for Clear Thinking - Apt. 15E, 210 Locust St.

Ref:-THE CONTINUUM CONCEPT-J.Liedloff Philadelphia, PA 19106-3924
Ref:-DESCHOOLING SOCIETY - Ivan Illich--www.Unschooling.com 267-414-3758

PS Homeschooling resources include www.HoltGWS.com -- NHRI.org -- EducationRevolution.org
www.OpenConnections.org -- and in Philadelphia--Sonia@Meow.Name + AskPauline.com

MOST OF OUR SOLID/INTEGRATED/PERMANENT LEARNING OCCURS AT HOME, IN THE COMMUNITY, ON THE JOB AND/OR FROM OTHER PEOPLE, AND SOMETIMES FROM BOOKS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS. Thus, schools and colleges can sometimes help but are no longer really NEEDED for learning purposes.

SCHOOLING AS VIOLENCE - How Schools Harm Pupils and Society - Clive Harber, 2004

SCHOOL IS DEAD - Everett Reimer
Study Finds That Online Education Beats the Classroom
8/19/09 By Steve Lohr NYT --- TEACH YOUR OWN-Holt + Farenaga