

To Promote Rapid Learning -- Holt-GWS.com

THE END OF COLLEGE-Carey

To Make Schools Better and Help Kids get Through -- HTTP://734.com1.RU -- Edutopia.org -- InvitationalEducation.net -- Cooperative Learning-Enter 'em late -- EMPOWER;i.e., ignore homework; HELP if asked -- Ignore the report card; read if offered -- Explain the system and reassure them -- StopNationalStandards.org

TURN OFF

HOW CHILDREN FAIL

JOHN HOLT

Unschooling -- TEACH YOUR OWN -- Holt and Farenga --

"To a very large degree, school is a place where children learn to be stupid."



End up with Certificates of Demonstrated Competence, not degrees.

Read Aloud To -- Do Choral Reading -- Never Quiz -- Play Games -- Swalton0.Tripod.com -- RadiofreeSchool.blogspot.com -- ThielFoundation.org homeschooling.gomilpitas.com

Nobody starts off stupid. You have only to watch babies and infants, and think seriously about what all of them learn and do, to see that, except for the most grossly retarded, they show a style of life, and a desire and ability to learn, that in an older person we might well call genius. Hardly an adult in a thousand, or ten thousand, could in any three years of his life learn as much, grow as much in his understanding of the world around him, as every infant learns and grows in his first three years. But what happens, as we get older, to this extraordinary capacity for learning and intellectual growth?

Most children in school fail. For a great many, this failure is avowed and absolute. Close to forty percent of those who begin high school drop out before they finish. For college, the figure is one in three.

Many others fail in fact if not in name. They complete their schooling only because we have agreed to push them up through the grades and out of the schools, whether they know anything or not. There are many more such children than we think. If we "raise our standards" much higher, as some would have us do, we will find out very soon just how many there are. Our classrooms will bulge with kids who can't pass the test to get into the next class.

But there is a more important sense in which almost all children fail: Except for a handful, who may or may not be good students, they fail to develop more than a tiny part of the tremendous capacity for learning, understanding, and creating with which they were born and of which they made full use during the first two or three years of their lives.

Why do they fail? They fail because they are afraid, bored, and confused. Google can school shrink your brain?

They are afraid, above all else, of failing, of disappointing or displeasing the many anxious adults around them, whose limitless hopes and expectations for them hang over their heads like a cloud.

They are bored because the things they are given and told to do in school are so trivial, so dull, and make such limited and narrow demands on the wide spectrum of their intelligence, capabilities, and talents.

They are confused because most of the torrent of words that pours over them in school makes little or no sense. It often flatly contradicts other things they have been told, and hardly ever has any relation to what they really know—to the rough model of reality that they carry around in their minds.

"Is School Making Our Children Ill?" - V. Abeles - NY Times, 1/3/16

"Blow it up and start over" - Chester E. Finn, Jr. - Establishment educator and former Asst-Sec. of Education.

The true test of intelligence is not how much we know how to do, but how we behave when we don't know what to do.