

Practical Hints and Examination Papers.**THE KINDERGARTEN.**

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The three points to which I would call your thoughtful consideration are: First, What is education? Second, What can be done for the child between the ages of three and six by way of really educating him? Third, What preparation does the kindergarten need for thus training the child?

First—What is education? All education worthy of that name aims to prepare the child to meet life and its problems in a better, more rational way than he would be able to meet it without this education. All thinking educators agree that this preparation must include not only the training of the child's muscles, that he may have complete control of them and thus make his body the servant of his soul, but also the training of his senses in such a manner that he shall be able to take into himself clear impressions from the outside world, upon which depends so much of the definiteness of his mental concepts. Nor is the training of his powers of observation, his judgment, his memory and his imagination, all. He must learn also that greatest lesson in life, how to deal with his fellow-beings, what his relations are to the rest of mankind, and what are the duties arising from them. To the exact degree in which he has learned this lesson do the obstacles vanish from his pathway. If this is education, let us turn now to what part of it can be given to the child between the ages of three and six. This is the free, creative, play period of the child's existence. He has passed out of the passive, receptive period of infancy and is not yet ready for the eager, acquisitive period of childhood.

Play is his natural atmosphere, and play is his delight. His soul opens out to impressions which may come to it in the guise of play. No effort is hard or disagreeable if it helps to make more real to him his play. This is why the kindergartner, understanding the wholesome, lovable condition of this age, seizes upon its most salient characteristic and educates by means of play. When the child is trying to fly like a bird, to leap like a frog, to pound like a blacksmith, to saw like a carpenter, to march like a soldier, his every muscle is unconsciously coming under control, for he