

The Ideal Education



IN childhood and in the earliest period of education, have more care for the health of the body than for the mind, and for the moral character than for the intellectual. Let nothing base or servile, vulgar or disgraceful, meet the eye or assail the ear of the young ; for from words to actions is but a step. Let their earliest and first impressions of all things be the best. Let them be taught fully all the essential elements of education, and as much of what is useful in a merely mechanical point of view as will have the effect of rendering the body, the soul, and the intellectual powers capable of arriving at the highest excellence of their respective natures. The merely useful, or absolutely necessary, matters of education are not the only ones that deserve attention, but to these should be added such as exalt and expand the mind and convey a sense of what is beautiful and noble. For to be looking everywhere to the merely useful, is little fitted to form an elevated character, or a liberal mind. — *Aristotle.*