

The imaginative power of children leads to invention. This invention must not be confounded with lying. Yet, if the child is unduly praised for his invention and if he becomes hungry for further praise, it is very easy for him to become untrue to himself in his creations. This is the beginning of the habit of exaggeration—one of the worst forms of lying. Imagination should not be abused by exercising it on useless things; it should be employed in raising and elevating life through the inspiring power of lofty ideals. "Imagination is the shaping force without which life would be a chaos."

The interests of the child are in line with his perceptions, his fancies, and his leading activities. The boy loves toys that are connected with action; the girls love their dolls. Interest in results as well as in processes begins to manifest itself. Things begin to have an acquired as well as a natural value. And yet the interests are mainly the same as those in the Beginners' class. The fact that most children learn to read at this time gives them power to satisfy partially their interest in the far off and strange. It is, however, in the next grade that the danger of over-reading manifests itself for the first time. It should be noted, that, whereas very young children are primarily interested in the actions of people, children of this age begin to show great interest in the people themselves. This has great significance for the Primary teacher. The sympathies of the child are extended during this period. Up to the age of six and seven, his life was self-centred. Now he begins to be interested in the activities of others. He finds that companionship is necessary to his own happiness. He wants to go to school. On the æsthetic side there is marked development. Boys fill their pockets with gaudy trinkets, and girls take pride in their clothes. These are but illustrations. It is easy at this time to develop a love for nature in all its forms. The living things are the child's wonder and delight. The Sunday School teacher finds here a great opportunity.