

Interest in school

There can be more interplay between home and school this year. Since the third grader likes to talk about what happens at school, you will find it easier to supply things which relate to school projects. For example, if the class is studying Native Americans and you have a pictorial book on the subject, your child would love to share it with the class and teacher.

The student likes to bring home her papers, too. Take the time to look for strengths and weaknesses in them. You can see, for example, which letters she may be writing incorrectly. "Trace and Say" will give her practice in correct and automatic letter formation. Here's how:

Write the troublesome letter at least six to eight inches high on a chalkboard. Have her trace over the letter and say the letter name. After she has traced the letter about 10 times, ask her to write the letter several times herself.

Then dictate words with that same letter at the beginning, the middle, or the end (example for "b": bat, about, tab).

If the letter form deteriorates when she joins it to other letters, the child should trace the entire word, saying each letter name as it is traced, and then saying the name of the word. Keep tracing and saying until the formation of the letter is automatic.

This procedure is tedious, but gets good results. Save it for the last of the homework time and give your child a reward afterward.

Developing a taste for new foods

This is the year to enlarge your youngster's food preferences. She still has food dislikes, but now she is ready to taste almost anything.

Table manners! There is a definite contrast between your child's style at home and away from home. If you get discouraged with her at home, take her out to a nice restaurant or invite friends in for dinner.

This extra stimulus will show you what your child is really capable of doing (even adults slip at times if there is no incentive!). She will manage to keep her napkin on her lap—at least most of the time!



Physical stamina increases

The student's better school-attendance record not only reflects her desire to be where "the group" is, but also her better health. If she has a cold, it usually lasts no more than two days. Even though her temperature may shoot up, she tends to recover quickly.

She may complain of a sore throat but more often than not, nothing more materializes. It's her stamina.

She also handles stress better now. She does not "wear out" as quickly. She does get a stomachache if something is bothering her, and allergic children may have a return of asthma and hay fever which they had last in the first grade.

"Good manners and good morals are sworn friends and fast allies."

—Bartol—