

### TEACH CHILD TO LIKE READING SAYS EXPERT

Dr. Gray of University of Chicago Gives Valuable Hints to Kindergartners

Dr. William Scott Gray, dean of the School of Education, University of Chicago, lectured before the student body of the summer session of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college Friday afternoon, July 8. His topic was "Reading Preparation and Training." Dr. Gray stated that the matter in which he was most vitally interested was the teaching of children to read so they will become good, thoughtful, interested readers and outlined a system of procedure from the nursery school and kindergarten age to the time of learning to read which in his opinion would produce just such a type of reader. He gave six avenues through which the desired result could be accomplished:

1. Wide experience and the arousal of keen interest in learning to read.
2. Reasonable facility in the use of ideas.
3. Facility in the use of simple English sentences.
4. Increasing the oral vocabulary.
5. Correct habits of pronunciation and enunciation.
6. A strong desire to read should be created.

#### Solve Own Problems

Dr. Gray pointed out the fact that while it might not have been so regarded by his listeners before, experiences with life situations, in the home, with flowers, animals, etc., were distinct preparation for the reading experience and that insofar as the teacher was able to make the experience of vital interest to the child would it be

valuable in carrying it over to interest in reading. Reasonable facility in the use of ideas he said could be accomplished through the making of bird houses, valentines, gardens and Christmas gifts. Furthermore that the discussion of their problems and experiences ending with an assignment which would lead to the solving of the problem was a most valuable aid in improving the facility of children in the use of ideas. To the extent which the teacher can carry forward into the reading period this problem solving attitude and how the story will end will her success in producing interest

in reading be shown. Facility in the use of English is necessary, said Dr. Gray, in order that the child may develop a mastery of ideas and be able to organize material and arrange it in logical form and sequence. The vocabulary of children must necessarily be drawn from the associates and experiences of a child and from the stories which are read to him inasmuch as he does not use books himself and here Dr. Gray pointed out the error that is so often made of limiting the vocabulary to certain words and expressions and thereby making it narrow which in turn limits the child's

ability to express himself, as well as losing the opportunity of teaching him new words when he is most able to learn them.

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