

"No Two Alike"

In these days of smaller families we're apt to overlook a basic concept in child development...that each child is different in terms of growth and, more importantly, in terms of needs. Ask the mother or father of a large family about the individual differences in their children and you'll likely find that no two of the children are alike--even twins!

Those of us who work with young children are successful only when we find ways to discover a child's needs and provide appropriate activities and challenges to encourage growth. This means observation, communication, and the building of a bridge of trust between teacher and child.

Often this is the child's first experience with trust outside of his immediate family. This requires not just inspired teachers, but enough teachers to accomplish such a goal. Otherwise, you are depriving a youngster of an opportunity to grow and develop at his or her appropriate pace.

Without an individualized approach the 'overachiever' can lose interest, and the 'underachiever' may lose heart. Lost too, may be the fire of a gifted teacher. Attention to individual differences is the foundation of every good early learning center.