

**What I want in an
Education for my child?**

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This is such a complex and involved question. If schooling is all that is wanted, to enable my child to be able to read and write, to add and subtract, then the question is not so complex.

But if I want an education, a start, a grounding in life and living for my child then it is more complex. What I seek from the teachers, the school and myself, the parent, becomes vaster requiring much thought, caring and involvement.

For I believe that the education of the child is not just done at school, it's a 24 hour a day process with the parents playing the greatest part, as it's through them the child is educated.

So the education for my child needs the parents and the teachers working together.

This education should be child centred, meaning based on the child in his/her various stages within childhood. The young child with his/her great imaginative play, with the imitation of all that surrounds. The junior child with his need for real life heroes, (not T.V. idols); the older child, the adolescent needing to be treated as a young adult, needing to study the science and technology of the Twentieth Century.

So the education should allow the child to develop as a child, to experience and explore the different levels of childhood to the full, and nourish him in his endeavours. To be allowed to be a child. To unfold and blossom on his journey towards adulthood gently and with reverence. (Our children today are pushed into adult ways earlier and earlier, therefore, by the time of pre-puberty they have had experiences which harden and close them to the sensitivity of people and the world. It's no wonder they hit out at society in their early teens, there's nothing left of the wonder of the world for them to experience.)

This education should address the child as a total being, a thinking, feeling, physical being. A being that is spiritual as well as having a physical body. A being that has more than just a brain for intellectual learning. So if my child has no great mental ability, he should not become a failure in society's eyes. There are many other facets that can be developed in the human being, e.g. the creative, the artistic, the feeling and the imaginative. Education should develop these, bringing forth from the child, who he is, an individual, a personality with gifts to offer.

A school should not be full of individual personalities, however, who cannot work and be together, but should rather be a group of children who are able to integrate and interact together socially. Social awareness should be developed, therefore, to enable this to happen.

The education needs to develop the same physical powers of the will, so enabling the child to endure, to stick at life and life's foibles, to take responsibility for his or her life.

It needs to develop the emotional, the feeling side of life, the caring, the sharing, the helping, to take part in life.

Lastly to develop the more spiritual side of life, the crowning of mankind, the thinking quality. So as a young adult, the child can reason and rationalise, take and make decisions using the powers of creative thinking.

The education of my child should allow him/her to come to maturity, to adulthood gently and as fully developed and balanced as possible, ready to take up his/her life with responsibility, sensitivity and a willingness to tackle life and its problems with love and with joy.