



Pat Bordman

## Enlarge child's scope of world



Plant a few seeds and a mini-tree will begin to unfold. (Photo by Pat Bordman)

### Ideas. Concepts. Thoughts.

The only way we know what our children are thinking is through their tendency to think out loud. Called liberated convictions, this thinking out loud gives us clues to their reasoning processes.

A child carefully constructs ideas in an effort to order and organize the surrounding events, sights and sounds. Most of the world seems quite mysterious to a child's unpracticed eyes.

How can a light bulb turn into a daffodil in springtime? Is thunder God moaning from a stubbed thumb? Why is fire always angry? When will that tree answer me?

These ideas of a child's world can be at once funny, profound, and wise, but most often they are confused. Try as we might, we usually cannot dissuade a child from these faulty notions.

Children hold stubbornly to their ideas. They resist suggestion. They rebuff correction.

The only way to effectively alter these fanciful concepts is to enlarge the child's scope of the world. This would provide enough experiences so the experiences themselves begin to challenge the ideas, rather than the challenge coming from the parents.

ONE OF THE real confusions in the young child's world is figuring out where things come from.

Fruits and vegetables would appear to spring full-grown from the grocer's shelves. Potatoes come from boxes. So many things that a child encounters come boxed, completed, already finished.

A simple walk in the neighborhood may be one way of gently helping our little ones shape their ideas in a more realistic fashion. A friend's garden can reveal much about the nature of nature.

The variety of greenery, birds, and insects will broaden the child's information background. Trees do not start out full-grown or from a landscaper's truck.

Perhaps you'll be lucky enough to come across a maple tree laden with seeds. Allow your child to collect a handful and take them home. In a pot of dirt, have your child gingerly "plant" the seeds. Talk about how nature does the planting, by showing your child how the seeds float to the ground. As the seed swirls to the ground, the heaviest part gets stuck in the dirt.

"Plant" your seeds the same way by just sticking the tips into the dirt. Then water as the soil dries out.

Within a few days, a mini-tree will begin to unfold before your eyes. Tiny maple leaves will appear. Don't be surprised, though, if you overhear your child saying, "Hello, Tree."

## Correction

The telephone number printed in Monday's newspaper for the Vital Options Inc. physical fitness retreat at Mercy Conference Center was incor-

rect. The correct telephone number for those interested in the August retreat is 476-8010.

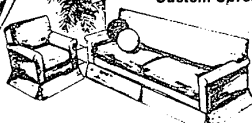


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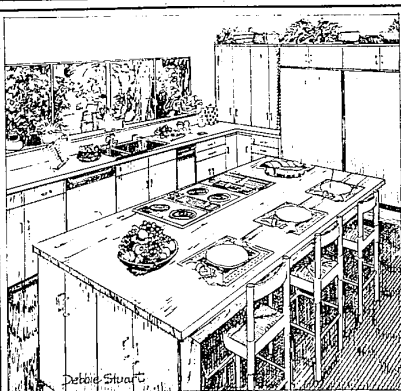
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