

## ***Nurturing Student Interest in Learning is Vital***

While the parent's role in the nurturing process is crucial to the overall success of a child, the school's role is also vital. Once a child enters kindergarten, he or she will spend the majority of the waking hours in school. Therefore, the kind of nurturing a child receives in the classroom directly affects his or her success.

Teaching is by its very definition, a nurturing profession. Virtually all training and curriculums are planned, systematic approaches to help each child develop to the best of his or her abilities. This is accomplished by integrating the curriculum with a variety of educational programs and teaching methods.

Each child is an individual with specialized talents and needs which are best served by focused educational strategies. Therefore, educators use a number of strategies to gear instruction toward each student's specialized learning style. For example, if a child is a visual learner, then the classroom teacher introduces information using a variety of visual stimuli. For the auditory learner, the material must be heard a number of different ways. The tactile student learns through hands-on approaches, using materials that involve the sense of touch. Educators strive to incorporate those strategies necessary to serve the

learning styles of the children within their classrooms.

During the past decade, social problems have necessitated expanding the nurturing role. More of today's parents are laboring under excessive stress which diverts their attention from the academic success of their children. Revolutionary support services – such as psychological counseling, parenting skills training, child care, health care, and transportation – have been identified as key factors to improving the learning environment.

The number of children who themselves become parents has increased alarmingly nationwide, creating an entirely new challenge for educators. Schools

are now providing wide-ranging assistance and alternative methods for educating these students. In addition, schools are providing drug awareness programs and are discouraging gang membership while working to adequately prepare students to enter the workforce.

It's a tall order, but the effort is most successful where parents and educators work as a team to enhance the nurturing process. As a result, children flourish not only as students, but develop in a broader sense – as successful members of society.

