



The Patriot-News

Early childhood

Friday, June 15, 2007

As the Legislature ponders the governor's proposed early childhood education budget, I remember Robert Fulghum's classic poem, All I Really Need to Know About Life I Learned in Kindergarten.

We know more now than we did in the '90s about early brain development, and how important every early year is. Because kindergarten may be too late, I am suggesting an alternative:

What I Am Learning in Preschool About Being a Grown-up:

- When I work with my friends, I can build bigger block towers.
- When I spill something, it's my job to clean it up.
- I feel proud of myself when I learn new things.
- If I ask for help, I will probably get it.
- If I take care of my toys, I can play with them tomorrow.
- When I care for my friends, they want to play with me.

Isn't it amazing how this correlates with the essential qualities to become successful and responsible adults? Legislators need to support the governor's early childhood education budget. Our future grown-ups are depending on us.

-- SUE SMITH, New Cumberland

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