



*"Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in action." Harold S. Geneen*



### Lasting Gains

Critics of early childhood education continue to claim that the benefits disappear by the time children reach third grade. However, Steve Barnett, Co-Director of the [National Institute for Early Education Research \(NIEER\)](#) counters: "Absolutely not! A new NIEER study that provides an objective summary of all the research on preschool education's effects finds substantial positive effects on achievement, special education, grade retention, and social behavior at ages 10 and higher. This is really the last nail in the coffin of the idea that preschool effects disappear at third grade. If you look at all the research — don't cherry pick for results — it shows that long-term effects are robust even if smaller than initial effects. The idea that preschool effects fade out by third grade originated with one flawed study in the early 1960s, and this belief continues to be propagated by those who cite a few methodologically weak newer studies." [Read more](#) of the NIEER research summary.

### Wooden's Wisdom

[John Wooden](#), arguably the best basketball coach of all time, died at the age of 99. Wooden, the Wizard of Westwood, coached UCLA from 1948 to 1975. During that time his accomplishments were unprecedented, including 10 National Championships, four perfect 30-0 seasons, and an 88 game winning streak. When he graduated from elementary school, his dad gave him a \$2 bill and a card with "Seven Things to Do": This card, which Wooden carried with him the rest of his life, read: 1) Be true to yourself. 2) Help others. 3) Make each day your masterpiece. 4) Drink deeply from good books. 5) Make friendship a fine art. 6) Build a shelter against a rainy day. 7) Pray for guidance and count and give thanks for your blessings every day. (ExchangeEveryDay)

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*The best way to kill an idea is to take it to a meeting.*  
-Anonymous

### Wonder: Adults vs. Kids

Children experience wonder much more easily than adults. This is the claim of Ruth Wilson in her [Exchange](#) (May/June 2010) article, [Aesthetics and a Sense of Wonder](#). She observes.... "Watch young children as it begins to snow or as they play in a pile of leaves. You'll witness an abundance of exuberance and joy. You'll see children wholly engaged in the now, and you'll find them responding with their whole bodies. They'll laugh, dance, run, listen, and perhaps even taste. Adults, on the other hand, are more likely to respond with thoughts about what comes next and will spend little time immersing themselves in the moment and in the sensory experiences of what is happening around them. Adults see the snow and think of shoveling the driveway or become anxious about driving on icy roads. They see the leaves and think of all the raking they'll have to do.

"Children's way of relating to the world corresponds to their unique way of knowing the world — that is, a way based more on wonder than analytical thought. Children know the world — especially the natural environment — in a deep and direct manner, not as a background for events. Unfortunately, this way of knowing the world tends to dissipate over time. During the early stages of cognitive development — when learning is dependent on concrete perceptual experiences — perception conducts thought. With adults, however, perception obeys thought. With this shift, the sense of wonder usually diminishes rather quickly.

"Adults would do well to recognize and honor children's way of knowing and strive to keep the children's and their own sense of wonder alive. Wonder, as Rachel Carson says, can serve as a life-long source of joy and enrichment. Wonder can also stimulate the imagination and serve as motivation for further learning. It may even be possible that it is only through wonder that we can come to know the world as it really is."

**Our Pledge:** The KY T/TA State Office pledges to provide timely, current, and interesting monthly newsletters for the Head Start and Early Head Start communities and others interested in the field. In keeping with our mission to be more "green," we will provide our easy to read newsletter via email.

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