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DR. HYMES SPEAKS ABOUT
'YOUNG CHILD,' SCHOOL
IN UM LECTURE

MISSOULA--

"The young child is the kid who cares, who is puzzled," emphasized Dr. James L. Hymes Jr. at his Wednesday evening (Oct. 21) speech at the University of Montana.

Dr. Hymes, consultant, lecturer and author on early childhood education, who is on a speaking tour in Missoula and vicinity/ through Friday (Oct. 23), presented his initial lecture in room 1 of the UM Women's Center. His topic was, "What is the Young Child Like? Knowing This How Should We Educate The Young Child?"

A child, Dr. Hymes said, is an ever-growing, changing, challenging individual who is, "so darn curious. So eager to touch, to handle, to feel, to work."

Because he is so eager for input about the world around him, many times it seems to the adult that the young child wants to, in Dr. Hymes' words, "Find out everything about everything that he sees."

Dr. Hymes characterized the young child from ages 3-5 as one who is "hungry" for knowledge, who does not need to be lured into learning. Mostly, the child is curious about the new and the real and must be allowed to test, try out and do things firsthand.

Dr. Hymes emphasized that the young child is a "play-child" to the very core of his being. He lives mostly in his imagination, playing roles from what he hears and sees in real life. For instance, the young child may become the pilot when he is a passenger on a plane.

Because of the child's deep curiosity and playfulness, a good school is a school that helps the child play much better than he could on his own. It is a school that is not impatient to make the child grow up, that does not force the child to be constantly quiet, the speaker said.

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By allowing the child to play, the school is letting him make sense out of the information, experiences, and feelings he receives every day. It is enabling him to react to life, giving him a chance to derive some comfort, power, or whatever he needs to make life "good," Dr. Hymes added.

A wonderful school, Dr. Hymes said, is one where there are many small groups of children, all interacting with and enjoying each other. This, he added, takes into account the child's new-found love of his own body and his need for companionship.

Perhaps, most of all, a good school fosters movement and growth. It "boosts" the child. It gives him the feeling that he is always an "A" or "B" and never a "C", "D" or student.
"F" The good school makes the child feel at this most crucial point in his life, when he is "new to himself" that, "Hey, I'm pretty good!" , Dr. Hymes concluded.

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