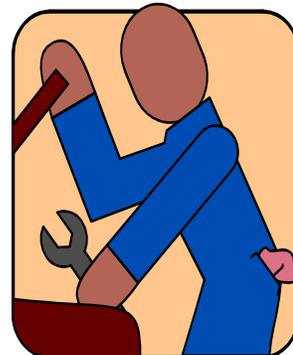


13. Troubleshooting

My Child Is Not Ready

A common dilemma of parents occurs when they discover that their child is not ready to do something that other children their age are doing. Reading is one of the best examples of this. The expectation is for children to be ready to read at five or six years old. In actuality, many children do not read until seven years old or even older. Maturation times are different for each child. There are many influences on child development. Girls seem to mature faster than boys. First-born children seem to be more precocious. Children from language-enriched environments do better than those who are language-deprived. If your child does not easily accommodate this program, move to the pre-readiness activities described in this book. Be patient and supportive with the child. If you grow discouraged or think something is amiss, see the *Seeking Help* topic that concludes this part, 13. *TROUBLE-SHOOTING*.



My Child Can't Make Some of the Sounds

It is common for children to have difficulty with some sounds. Point and say the sounds with your child. Let the child watch your lips as you make the sounds. Treat exceptions to normal speech very calmly. They usually go away. Again, if you become discouraged, seek the avenues of help available. See *Seeking Help* at the end of this part.

My Child Has Trouble with Spelling, Mechanics, and Usage

Spelling, mechanics, and usage involve arbitrary rules, established to bring uniformity to the printed page. A great deal of schooling will be spent mastering these conventions that are most commonly used by proofreaders. With young children, it is best to let them spell phonetically, as they hear the sounds. Spelling, punctuation, and correct forms of usage will be taught later. There are over 800 different and variant spellings in English. Most of these will be accommodated by the students over time. All of us can remember our own experiences with words, such as *island* or *eight*.

My Child Cannot Touch-Type

If your child uses a typewriter or computer, do not force the child to touch-type. Although it is useful, it is not essential to either reading or writing. Do not make the typing an end in itself. At the appropriate time, a good touch-typing program can be installed on a computer.

Seeking Help

In the final analysis, you may need help. You may suspect that your child has a real problem preventing the reasonable development a parent might expect. Public school districts are required by law to provide testing and other services to children three years old and older. Your pediatrician or family doctor can also refer you to the appropriate individual or agency for proper diagnosis and/or treatment. If you suspect any abnormality at all, you should seek this public or private assistance.