

**HANDBOOK OF THE MINNESOTA  
CHILD STUDY ASSOCIATION,  
CONTAINING SUGGESTIONS  
FOR THE STUDY OF CHILDREN**

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Handbook of the Minnesota Child Study Association, containing Suggestions for the Study of Children by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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MINNESOTA  
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Suggestions for the Study of Children.

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PRINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF MEMBERS.

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PRICE TO THOSE NOT MEMBERS, THIRTY CENTS.

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1897.

## HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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The way was paved for the organization of this association by letters sent to the educators of the state by Prof. M. V. O'Shea. The first step toward organization was taken at the Summer School Congresses held at the University in August, 1895, when a committee consisting of Prof. L. H. Galbreath, Supt. S. S. Parr and Miss Marietta L. Pierce was appointed to prepare a constitution. The organization was effected at the holiday meeting of the State Educational Association by the adoption of the constitution reported by the committee and by the election of officers. About 80 persons joined at this meeting and as many more during the year 1896. A very few have withdrawn from the Association and a number have joined this year (1897).

The first Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, L. H. Galbreath, before he left the State, in June, 1896, sent out eight communications to members treating of the following topics: Communication I., Child Study Literature; II., Eyes of School Children and Their Defects; III., The Use of Stories and The Child a Volume to be Read; IV., Plan and Method in the Study of Children and Thurber's Outlines for the Study of Children's Reading; V., Rythmic Sense, Movement and other Unnoticed Educative Influences; VI., A Plan for the Study of Memory; VII., A Study of Unexpected and Incorrect Answers of Children; VIII., A Study of Unexpected and Irrelevant Questions of Children. Besides the communications, there were sent to the members pamphlets published by the Iowa and the Michigan departments of public instruction and a special child study number of School Education.

The communications sent out by the present secretary are as follows: IX., General Remarks to Members, The Dull Child the Wise Man's Problem, Children's Habits, A Study of Child-

ren's Experiences with Money, Sound Blindness, Adolescence, Mental Images and Test of Accuracy of Incidental Attention and Memory; X., Child Study Literature; XI., Outline for reporting Attempted Improvement of a School and a Pupil. This handbook and a special child study number of School Education will also be sent to all members who have paid their dues this year.

The supply of all the above communications, except a few copies of VI., VII., VIII., X. and XI., is exhausted, but the most valuable parts of some of them are reprinted in this pamphlet.

The meetings of the Association have been a round table and business meeting at the time of organization, a child study day at the Educational meetings at the University Summer School, in 1896, and a round table and Annual meeting at the time of the Minnesota Educational Association, in the holidays. Other meetings will be held this year, in August, at the University and at St. Paul when the State Educational Association meets.

The importance of the subject of child study to teachers has been recognized by the Department of Public Instruction by the employment of three persons to present the matter to the students in the various Summer Schools of the state. The persons appointed for this service were S. S. Parr, President of our association; E. A. Kirkpatrick, Secretary; and J. A. Vandyke, one of the corresponding secretaries.

At the last business meeting a committee of five, consisting of E. A. Kirkpatrick, S. H. Rowe, Isabel Lawrence A. W. Rankin, and Lillian Blaisdell, was appointed to prepare plans for child study, and this pamphlet is the result of their efforts in that direction. It is intended to be what its name implies, a "hand book" for continuous reference and use by all members and of permanent value to all persons doing anything in the line of child study.

The secretary of the association will be glad to correspond with members as to work in child study, receive reports and aid in special investigations in every possible way.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MINNESOTA CHILD  
STUDY ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME—The name of this organization shall be the Minnesota Child Study Association.

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE—The purpose of this Association shall be the promotion of child study.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS—The officers of this Association shall be a president, elected for a term of two years, a secretary-treasurer elected for two years, and three directors elected at first for terms of one, two and three years respectively and thereafter, unless for vacancies by death, or resignation, one each year for a term of three years. The officers above named shall constitute the executive board and shall have control of all general business of the Association under forms and limitations customary in such bodies. In all elections voting shall be confined to those who have paid their current membership fees.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP—Any person actively engaged in educational work, or any other person who will sign the membership roll as a pledge to cooperate by active participation in the work of the Association, may, by prepayment of fifty cents into the treasury of the Association, become a member of the same.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS—The meetings of this Association shall be of two kinds: general meetings representing all members and centers, and particular meetings of local centers. Each kind of meeting shall occur at such times and places as the body to which it belongs shall determine. All elections shall be by open nominations and written ballot. All orders shall be subject to the usual parliamentary restrictions.



### **BY-LAWS.**

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1. All membership fees shall go into the general treasury, provided that no such receipts go to expenses of officers or other outlay of a particular nature unless ordered at the annual meeting.

2. The local organizations shall be by means of centers or round tables which shall organize, hold at least three meetings per year, pay fifty cents per member into the general treasury each year, follow the directions of the parent society and contribute observations and reports properly when called upon.

3. The Association shall make at least one general printed report each year after the first year and one within this year if desirable.

4. This Association shall seek to become a department of the Minnesota State Educational Association.

5. The executive board shall be empowered to appoint a first, second and third vice-president to serve each for one year and whose duty it shall be to organize and manage local centers.

6. Amendments to this constitutions and to these by-laws may be adopted at any regular meeting of the Association provided that such amendments be reported to the executive committee at least twenty-four hours before they are acted upon by the Association.

### OFFICERS.

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*President*—S. S. Parr, St. Cloud.

*Vice Presidents*—First, Charles F. Koehler, Mankato; Second, Henry S. Baker, St. Paul; Third, Harlow Gale, Minneapolis.

*Secretary-Treasurer*—E. A. Kirkpatrick, Winona.

*Advisory Board*—Dr. W. A. Mayo and Dr. Charles Mayo, Rochester; Dr. John H. James, Mankato; Dr. J. C. Boehm, St. Cloud; Dr. Chas. N. Hewitt, Red Wing; George A. Merrill, State School, Owatonna; Inspector Geo. B. Aiton, Minneapolis; Supt. W. W. Pendergast, St. Paul.

*Corresponding Secretaries*—A. E. Engstrom, Cannon Falls; L. C. Lord, Moorhead; K. W. Buell, Spring Valley; George R. Kleeberger, St. Cloud; F. V. Hubbard, Red Wing; Edgar George, St. Peter; E. E. McIntire, Glencoe; J. A. Vandyke, Wabasha; Miss Sarah C. Brooks, St. Paul; Mrs. C. L. Place, St. Paul; Mrs. Alice M. Cooley, Minneapolis; D. E. Cloyd, Cloquet.

*Financial and Business Executive Board*—R. E. Denfeld, Duluth; A. W. Rankin, Minneapolis; Miss Gertrude C. Ellis, Austin.

## PURPOSES OF CHILD STUDY AND OF OUR ASSOCIATION.

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Children have always been studied more or less by parents and teachers but not until recently have they been studied by scientists or in a scientific way. Our association and similar ones in other states aim to increase the interest in child study, awaken an appreciation of its importance and direct it in such a way that it will be more systematic, more scientific and more sympathetic.

The purpose most prominent in the minds of parents and teachers in the study of a child or a group of children is that they may understand them better, know how to deal with them more successfully and how to more wisely guard their physical, intellectual, emotional, volitional and moral development. The association recognizes this, and the chief aim of this pamphlet is to offer suggestions that will help parents and teachers attain these objects.

Scientists who study children have another purpose in view. A scientist is trying to discover general truths about children. He is not trying to discover the peculiar characteristics of a child which he wishes to influence but to find out what is true of all children, or of children of certain ages under certain conditions. He wants to learn these truths either because of his love of truth and desire to know all that can be known about children, just as other scientists wish to find out all they can about plants and animals, or else, because he wishes to get a basis for some other science, as that of education. The latter is most frequently the purpose of the scientific study of children, for it is now pretty generally recognized by thoughtful educators that few of the educational questions now under discussion as to courses of study, methods of teaching, etc., can be settled except by a more accurate determination of general truths as to the nature and development of children.