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Looking Toward the Future

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Editorial Comment

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

This editorial for the Spring issue of *Reading Horizons* is being written a few days before Christmas. On January 14 the Reading Center and Clinic of Western Michigan University, publisher of this journal, is moving to new quarters. The transfer is not without its problems but, despite all the difficulties, we are eagerly looking forward to the move and to the future. Beginning in 1974 we will be located in the mainstream of campus life. We will leave behind us the quiet eddy where we have worked for the past 34 years and where the achievements have been significant. We welcome the physical change and anticipate a dynamic, exciting, and productive future.

1974 and the years which follow will bring many adjustments for all of us. American society in its struggle to control its technology and to resolve its energy and moral crises is likely to undergo considerable change during the next 34 years. Our children must be prepared *now* to cope with life in the future. As teachers and parents, we can no longer try to shape children to fit a static world. We should help them prepare themselves for a wide range of possible futures and to think in terms of alternative futures rather than a single one. We should show them that choices being made today, whether these choices are made deliberately or not, influence what will happen tomorrow. We should help each child develop his own ways of thinking about the future so that he is able to anticipate the events that will influence his life. We should help each child develop the potential for growth and self-direction so that he is able to live in a future of his own choosing. One of our major goals should be to strengthen children's inherent flexibility and adaptability in this world of rapidly accelerating change.

We suggest that you begin today to look toward the future and to help your children and your students become prepared to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

Dorothy J. McGinnis
Editor