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## Do Teachers Really Know Their Students?

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## *Editorial Comment*

### **Do Teachers Really Know Their Students?**

It is easier to understand subject matter and the various approaches to education than it is to understand boys and girls. It is easier to organize and teach the content of a course than to determine the interests and needs of the individual. Boys and girls of all ages differ in their heredity, environment, and social background. Norms and standards are more apparent than real. There is no such thing as a normal child. Each individual is deficient, average, and superior in various respects. Each is a unique creature having his own interests and needs. No other child is like him and what is beneficial to others may be of little worth to him.

Do teachers understand their students? What do they know about the home, the neighborhood, and what these have done to the student? What do they know about the child, his interests, his fears, his worries, and his goals? Some teachers "just teach" and believe that they have met their responsibilities to the child, to the parents, and to the community. Like any union member they have done their job and earned their pay.

If teaching is to be effective, it must fit the individual and his well being. It is a process of developing the individual physically, psychologically, and sociologically. It involves preparing him to take his place in a changing world. The teacher must really know his students if this is to be accomplished.

Homer L. J. Carter  
Editor