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**From:** Noam Chomsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** jeffrey E.; Valeria Chomsky  
**Subject:** Re:

On vision, I know of some evidence that social interaction=(mother-neonate) facilitates depth perception, but it's years ago. ♦=A0 Maybe there is more now. But the experimental work has been with =olated individuals (kittens, mainly, I think), and seems to yield normal =ision with early patterned stimulation. Let's talk about it some=day.

I've thought about your suggestion. I th=nk it's better to do it step by step, not bringing up issues of legal =mplications unless it's necessary. I'll write them renewing =he request to replace Max by Richard Kahn, along the lines that we discuss=d by phone: that I simply can't trust Max and want someone trustworthy= I'd also like to give the gist of the memo, in particular that =he marital trust is designed for those who established it, the IRA as back=p.

Noam

On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 4:03 AM, jeffrey E. <jee=acation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> > wrote:

=div dir="ltr">

like the military, can be goo= for an individual . but needs a group. ♦=A0 I think "understanding" might be similar as a gro=p function as the visual system is for the individual. . =it needs collective input and then with a recursive interations focu=es on a concept

you should have the call w=th your children asap. feel free to send them debras mem= so they see what you see. her privilege argument m=kes no sense. you WANT the other side to see your =ustifications for your position. she is just trying to s=ay out of the mix. as she has done virtually nothing to =et you what you clearly are entitled to. shameful

</=iv>

On T=u, Dec 7, 2017 at 1:52 AM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

If done prop=rly, like offering free and creative opportunities for kids, I think it ca= be good for the individual.

And with your immense help= for which I can't express enough gratitude, we're working our way=through it I think

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 9:09 PM,=jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> > wrote:

no question in my mind that it is a h=ge benefit for the group. but my conjecture is that it i= not necessarily good for the individual. . like b=ing a hero ( throwing yourself on a grenade ) . good for=the group not so good for the hero. . =s writing forces a linear slow pace. I wonder if in a large po=ulation , handwriting will be

correlated with G. =C2 anyway, I need to get my mind off the way you have been getting screwed. drives me crazy. =A0

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 10:51 PM, Noam Chomsky

> wrote:

<iv dir="ltr">Good to have a fun note.

I suspect that forcing children to do anything is probably harmful. But it's possible to introduce writing and (secondarily) reading in a way that seems to enhance thinking. That's the idea behind "invented spelling" (here's a link to some of the work:

[https://pages.wustl.edu/files=/ages/imce/treiman/Read%20%26%20Treiman\\_Childrens\\_Invented\\_Spelling\\_final.pdf](https://pages.wustl.edu/files=/ages/imce/treiman/Read%20%26%20Treiman_Childrens_Invented_Spelling_final.pdf)

<[https://pages.wustl.edu/files/pages/imce/treiman/Read%20%26%20Treiman\\_Childrens\\_Invented\\_Spelling\\_final.pdf](https://pages.wustl.edu/files/pages/imce/treiman/Read%20%26%20Treiman_Childrens_Invented_Spelling_final.pdf)>

). Back in the early '50s, a philosopher friend of mine (Israel Scheffler) brought me some pages on which his two-year old son had written things that he thought were gibberish, wondering if I could make something of it. It was immediately obvious that the kid had learned the names of the letters and was spontaneously stringing them together to express himself in writing. And making interesting generalizations. Thus the letter "A", pronounced /ey/, he used for the words "came," "pet", "pat"; the letter "i", pronounced /ay/, he used for "pie", "pot," "but". And so on. It all made sense. Our kids did the same thing. Carol wrote some papers about it, Charles Read and others carried it forward. Turns out to be a great way to teach reading too. Kids spontaneously express themselves, often in creative way, and the transition to official orthography is not that difficult now that they have the general idea.

There's a debate about it in educational circles, and though I haven't followed it, my impression is that old-fashioned forcing into a mold probably wins out, undermining the joy of self-expression and possibly reading.

As you may know, Galileo regarded invention of the alphabet as among the greatest of all human inventions. Can do no better than quote his own words. He regarded the invention of the alphabet as "surpassing all stupendous inventions," asking "what sublimity of mind was his who dreamed of finding means to communicate his deepest thoughts to any other person, though distant by mighty intervals of place and time! of talking with those who are in India; of speaking to those who are not yet born and will not be born for a thousand or ten thousand years; and with what facility, by the different arrangements of twenty characters upon a page!"

Shortly after, the same observation was made about the more fundamental matter of sounds (Port Royal Grammar = 1660). I discovered all of this about 50 years ago and wrote about it. Unknown then, still unknown, in my view some of the most profound insights in the human sciences.

Smart guys, the founders of modern science.

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 5:48 AM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>

<mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com> > wrote:

on a more fun note. It is possible that learning how to write and read, in fact slows down your thinking process. forcing children to write and organize their thoughts in a medium that does not lend itself to speed. is not natural?

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