
From: jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 4:34 PM
To: Noam Chomsky
Subject: Re:

also max view was that he kept deborah informed=all the way along

do you recall whether you could write well as a child. ?

On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 11:29 AM, Noam Chomsky <[redacted]>
<mailto:[redacted]> > wrote:

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

I've thought about your suggestion. I think it's better to do it step by step, not bringing up issues of legal implications unless it's necessary. I'll write them renewing the request to replace Max by Richard Kahn, along the lines that we discussed 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 the marital trust is designed for those who established it, the IRA as backup.

Noam

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

no question in my mind that it is a huge benefit for the group. but my conjecture is that it is not necessarily good for the individual. . like being a hero (throwing yourself on a grenade) . good for the group not so good for the hero. . as writing forces a linear slow pace. I wonder if in a large population , handwriting will be correlated with G . anyway = I need to get my mind off the way you have been getting screwed. =A0 drives me crazy.

=br>

On Wed, Dec 6, 2017 at 10:51 PM, Noam Chomsky <[redacted]>
<mailto:[redacted]> > wrote:

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/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 he 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. Here:

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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