

# THEY SPEAK

These are children speaking. All of the following statements are the words of children except those which are in italics

## Ways of Working *Pupils give us their opinions about cooperative class planning, "activity" periods, and student government; their statements are a challenge to us to put more meaning into the school program*

*Students show a lively interest in work of the school and express a sincere desire to participate in planning programs and solving problems. Are we giving them the opportunities which they want and need for happy school living and for growth as capable, responsible adults? The students themselves don't always think that we are.*

STUDENTS should have as much responsibility as they are capable of accepting. They should be called in on long-range planning for courses and school activities.

- Students should be allowed to plan with the teacher all the work they do so they will get practice in planning.

- A child reaching the age of 13 or 14 has matured enough to determine the field where his greatest interest lies. This maturity should not be ignored. He should be given the opportunity to choose the general field for his elective work.

- Children should, to some extent, be allowed a part in planning their own program with a strong guidance of a

teacher and parents. The junior and senior classes could be allowed to plan a greater part of their program than freshmen and sophomores because they are more serious and have begun to realize the importance of getting an education. It should all be gradual, with more and more responsibility placed on the individual student. (*From discussions by high school students.*)

¶ *An embarrassing experiment teaches a lesson in group responsibility.*

- Because of a continued failure of the class to take part in discussions, our teacher decided upon a plan to change this situation. One Thursday, she called aside several students who usually carry on class discussion and gave us her plan.

Her idea was as follows: the reason, she told us, for lack of participation in the class was inattentiveness and just plain "mental laziness." It was her theory that in a group like this a few wide-awake people could control the entire group procedure.

On Friday the class began as usual. This was the day we were to see the

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