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Courtesy River Forest (Ill.) Public Schools

Learning to Grow Up

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GROWING UP can be a very complicated business, indeed. Some youngsters seem to be able to pass through childhood into maturity with ease, while others are deeply disturbed. But even the outwardly calm may be inwardly concerned over matters which are simple if understood.

When one stops to think of it, it is obvious that schools should be helping youngsters to understand and adjust to their own growing-up process, yet an examination of our curricula indicates that we have given insufficient attention to this important phase of learning and living. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP hopes that this issue may focus attention on what we believe to be a current lack but a potential force in the development of better education.

Recognizing that such a broad topic cannot be covered adequately in the brief space of a few pages, we have limited this discussion to one phase of growing up—a youngster's adjustment to his changing body. We believe that in thinking with our authors on this subject readers will become more aware of the whole scope of a youngster's concerns—of his wondering about the meaning of life, sex development, social adjustment, his struggle to self-hood, to confidence and calm assurance. We hope that out of this thinking will come new incentive to look for ways in which we may guide young people to satisfactory adjustments.—R.C.

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