

DR. SHANNON'S REASONS FOR BEING AS OLD AS POSSIBLE IN KINDERGARTEN

(Any child whose birthday is after February 28)

1. **IT IS NOT ABOUT INTELLIGENCE!!!**
2. **IT IS ABOUT SELF-VALUE.**
Am I wonderful?
Is it o.k. to be me?
Is it o.k. to act my age?
3. Teachers are wonderful and dedicated; but they have too many students and they don't have enough time and they are mainly trying to get children ready to take state tests so their school won't lose funding.

Despite being wonderful, dedicated people, and because of their time and resource constraints, most teachers will measure you child by her grade or size without without having time to notice her age in relationship to other children in the class.

4. Kindergarten teachers will usually consider the behavioral abilities in children related to differences in age. However, with each passing year, the teacher will have less time to pay attention to the age differences, and your child will be measured against the oldest, most mature children in the class. The teacher will not intentionally show preference toward the older kids in the class, but they just sit stiller, listen better, get it quicker and are easier to deal with. Your young child may begin to think the teacher likes the older kids better or he may think that there is something wrong with him.

WHEN A CHILD CANNOT BE HIMSELF, HE WILL

EITHER

DECIDE TO BE SOMEONE ELSE (the teacher's pet, the good one, the bad one, the class clown, the helper, the pleaser) **OR DECIDE TO GIVE UP** (I'll never be able to make her (the teacher) or them (the parents) happy").

5. PEERS KNOW WHEN YOU ARE NOT BEING YOURSELF.

6. **OLDER CHILDREN:**

- (a) listen better in class
- (b) can absorb more material in class
- (c) have less homework because they did more in class
- (d) have more time after school for other activities
- (e) seldom need tutors

7. **FIRST CHILDREN** are the least likely to tell us how they feel or if they are struggling, because they think much of their value comes from making parents and others happy!

8. Too many adults are searching for the childhood they didn't have because of being rushed thru it.

Your child has a life expectancy of well over 100 years.

WHAT'S THE RUSH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!