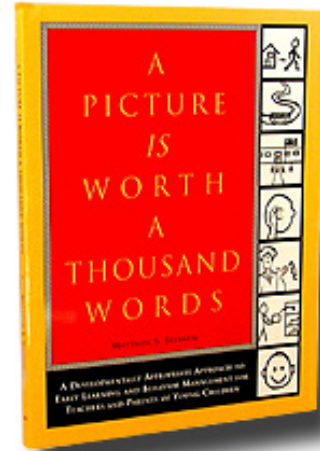




A Picture IS Worth a Thousand Words: a Developmentally Appropriate Approach to Early Learning

By: Matthew S. Seebaum

Parents don't get an owner's manual with each child. There are no instructions to read or customer service technicians to call. Teachers, while trained professionals, have to deal with a new group of students each year. Many students are coming from backgrounds increasingly different from their own, making it difficult to establish a long-term bond. Matthew (Matt) S. Seebaum, a veteran educator with years of early childhood teaching experience, wrote *A Picture IS Worth a Thousand Words* for those parents and educators who could benefit from practical tools to aid in dealing with young children.



A Picture IS Worth a Thousand Words is an instruction book for teachers and parents about how to use images to explain abstract concepts to young children. In the book, an **aha!** Process, Inc. publication, Matt explains lessons that are easily adaptable for home or school; the book is appropriately generic in its location.

Matt Seebaum emphasizes that children are not merely miniature versions of adults. They are people who see and experience the world differently from adults. Very often, they don't understand abstract concepts because of their reliance on visual information. Such differences mean special learning tools need to be created to enhance their understanding. For instance, many people know that in a classroom students are expected to ask permission before they are excused. But young children, struggling to understand theoretical ideas, won't understand what permission means. For those children, extra care is needed to explain the process of asking to be excused.

To help explain abstract thoughts to young children, Matt recommends that teachers or parents use pictorial behavior strips or picture plans to convey information visually about desired conduct. These have proven to be very helpful in demonstrating what behavior is acceptable and reinforcing it.

Aptly named, *A Picture IS Worth a Thousand Words* helps explain to adults the unique visual learning needs of children.