

A CURRICULUM FABLE

The Concept of Differences

Once upon a time the animals had a school. The curriculum consisted of running, flying, climbing and swimming. All the animals had to take all the subjects.

The duck was good in swimming; better, in fact, than his instructor. He made passing grades in flying, but he was particularly hopeless in running. Because he was low in this subject, he was made to stay after school and drop his swimming class in order to practice running. He kept this up until he was only average in swimming. But, average was acceptable, so nobody worried about that except the duck, and his parents.

The eagle was considered a problem pupil and was severely disciplined because, although he beat all the others to the top of the tree in climbing class, he insisted on using his own method.

The rabbit started out at the top of the class in running, but he had a nervous breakdown and had to drop out of school because of so much makeup work in swimming.

The squirrel led the class in climbing, but his flying teacher made him start his flying from the ground instead of at the top of the tree. He developed charleyhorses from overexertion at the take-off and began getting C's in climbing and D's in running.

The practical prairie dogs apprenticed their offspring to the badgers when school authorities refused to add digging to the curriculum.

At the end of the year, an abnormal eel that could swim well, run, climb, and fly, a little, was made valedictorian.

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