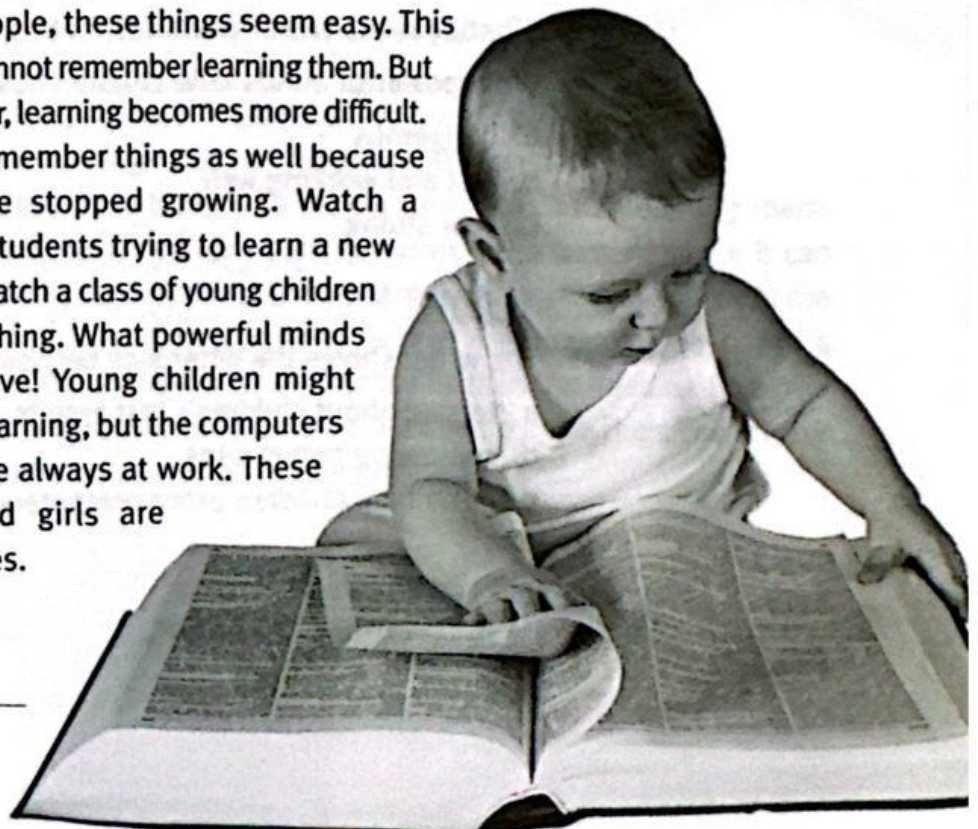
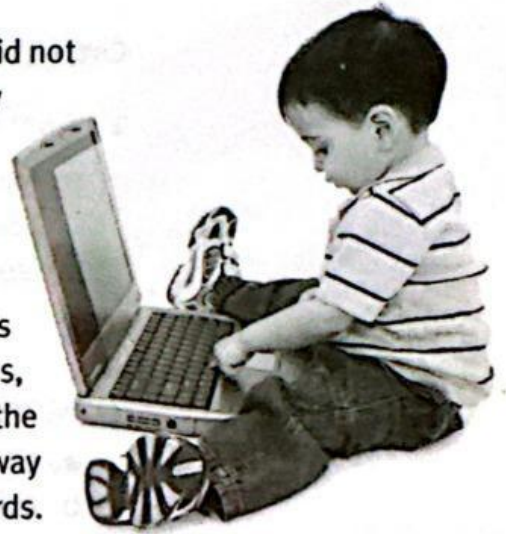


Scientists used to think that people's minds did not develop anymore after they were born. Now they know that children's minds actually keep developing in their first three or four years of life. That is why children learn more between ages 0 and 4 than at any other time in their lives.

A young child's mind is like a computer. It is always gathering and storing information it learns, such as names, colors, and words. Even though the child cannot yet talk, he or she is listening to the way others speak, and the child is recognizing their words. Children are able to learn many different languages at this age. If they hear a language enough, they will speak that language when they begin to talk. If they hear two languages, they will be able to speak both languages.

It is really interesting to think about how much young children learn. They learn how to walk and how to eat by themselves. They learn how to tell others what they want by pointing and using their hands. They learn how to look at pictures and recognize family members. They learn which things are safe to touch and which things are not. They learn the names of common things such as dog, cat, table, and book.

To older people, these things seem easy. This is because they cannot remember learning them. But as people get older, learning becomes more difficult. People cannot remember things as well because their minds have stopped growing. Watch a class of college students trying to learn a new language. Then watch a class of young children doing the same thing. What powerful minds little children have! Young children might not seem to be learning, but the computers in their heads are always at work. These young boys and girls are learning machines.



Time

Circle the right answer.

1. What is the reading about?
 - a. How people learn languages
 - b. Learning a language
 - c. How the mind learns
2. According to scientists:
 - a. children's minds stop developing when they are born
 - b. children's minds keep developing after they are born
 - c. a child's mind does not learn as well as an adult's mind
3. Which of these is NOT mentioned as something children learn by themselves?
 - a. How to count
 - b. To recognize pictures of their family
 - c. To speak different languages
4. What does the word "powerful" in this sentence mean?
What **powerful** minds little children have!
 - a. dangerous
 - b. fast and working well
 - c. very strong
5. The writer shows the difference between adults and children by:
 - a. talking about children's test results
 - b. comparing two classes
 - c. describing children using computers

Score _____