

**Annual Forum October 20, 2005**  
**Making the Most of our Early Education Investments**

**How to Build a PK-3 Curriculum**

**AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Do you build a PK-3 curriculum from the top-down or the bottom-up?

**JIM HINSON:** Great question. What we have tried to do is look at what is developmentally appropriate for our kids starting with the early years and then build the curriculum from there. What we have found in our experience has increased and enhanced our expectation for kids from the beginning through grade 12 because when we had individuals that were trained and certified in our early years, they understood the expectations of those kids and they increased expectations. So far, that component has worked extremely well for us.

**GENE MAEROFF:** It should be one of the attributes of a PK-3 approach that it not only goes down, but goes up. The philosophies meld together.

**JIM HINSON:** I don't want to attest that it has been easy because we've certainly had resistance from some of our faculty in that regard. It was a territorial and turf issue. "We've taught these objectives in fifth-grade math for the last twenty years and by-gosh we're going to continue to teach them!" But I think we've finally arrived at where we need to be.