

# Seymour Papert Quotes

*Kids, Children, School, Thinking, Teaching, Teacher, People, Powerful,  
Educational, Ideas, Jobs, Machines, Games, Mean, Opportunity, Computer,  
Adults, Believe, Moving, Important*

The role of the teacher is to create the conditions for invention rather than provide ready-made knowledge.

~Seymour Papert

You can't teach people everything they need to know. The best you can do is position them where they can find what they need to know when they need to know it.

~Seymour Papert

The scandal of education is that every time you teach something, you deprive a [student] of the pleasure and benefit of discovery.

~Seymour Papert

I am convinced that the best learning takes place when the learner takes charge.

~Seymour Papert

Nothing could be more absurd than an experiment in which computers are placed in a classroom where nothing else is changed.

~Seymour Papert

You can't think seriously about thinking without thinking about thinking about something.

~Seymour Papert

The goal is to teach in such a way as to produce the most learning from the least teaching.

~Seymour Papert

Rather than pushing children to think like adults, we might do better to remember that they are great learners and to try harder to be more like them.

~Seymour Papert

Do away with curriculum. Do away with segregation by age. And do away with the idea that there should be uniformity of all schools and of what people learn.

~Seymour Papert

The reason most kids don't like school is not that the work is too hard, but that it is utterly boring.

~Seymour Papert

Now more people are doing work that requires individual decision-making and problem-solving, and we need an educational system that will help develop those skills.

~Seymour Papert

There's a tendency to make jazzy educational software that's very uniform and therefore just like school. I'd like to see a company develop software for rebellious kids who don't want to go to school.

~Seymour Papert

I prefer software where kids build something and run into problems they have to solve.

~Seymour Papert

Our goal in education should be to foster the ability to use the computer in everything you do, even if you don't have a specific piece of software for the job.

~Seymour Papert

What the gears cannot do the computer might. The computer is the Proteus of machines. Its essence is its universality, its power to simulate

~Seymour Papert

A programming language is like a natural, human language in that it

favors certain metaphors, images, and ways of thinking.

~Seymour Papert

I think Disney is a very interesting company, and it does have an extremely powerful means for projecting a certain way of thinking.

~Seymour Papert

Similarly, computer literacy courses tend to produce computer people who know a lot about computers or a piece of software but they don't help people become fluent with the machine.

~Seymour Papert

BASIC is to computer programming as QWERTY is to typing.

~Seymour Papert

Daddy always asks me and I never know what to say.

~Seymour Papert

If a kid really is retarded and can only come up to a certain level, he will still have more success if what he learns is connected with something important to him.

~Seymour Papert

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