

## Philosophy for Children in a Democratic Classroom

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**ABSTRACT** In this paper the researchers examine the educational possibilities that Philosophy for Children can offer to the development of children's thinking and social skills in a democratic classroom. In the first part the researchers provide commentary on Mathew Lipmann's three modes of thinking namely: critical, creative and caring thinking. The second part of the paper focuses on his pedagogy which he calls a Community of Inquiry and how it is seen as a democracy in action. In conclusion the researchers state that Philosophy for Children can transform people and how they can relate to the world.

*"There is no such a thing as a neutral educational process. Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes "practice of freedom", the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world."  
(Paulo Freire)*