

BOOKS

Making Our Children Like Ourselves

"Children Without Childhood," by Marie Winn. Pantheon Books (New York, 1983). 210 pp., \$13.95.

Reviewed by Rose Ann Harold NC News Service

Many readers will pick up Marie Winn's book because they are already familiar with her numerous books for parents and children. The reader may find himself making an affirmative nod of the head or a negative click of

the tongue in agreement or disapproval of what the author writes in "Children Without Childhood."

Winn, a mother as well as an author, sets out to put her finger on the change in the upbringing of children over the past generation. She sees parents' philosophy shifting from the "Age of Protection" to the "Age of Preparation," which she contends eliminates the innocent, sheltered, dependent position

of trust and security in which a child formerly was raised. Instead parents have substituted a "cooperative exercise" in which the child becomes a "little version" of an adult — independent, knowledgeable, competitive, self-sufficient, worldly-wise — with all the ramifications.

The reader is carried along in an engrossing three-part analysis of how child development got where it is today. Her style and content are

both compelling and well documented. References abound in every chapter.

If the reader is looking for a handbook of "how-to's" for raising children in modern society, this is not it. Sensible, well-researched, thought-provoking, captivating, Winn writes with such certitude that it is hard to put the book down. It recommends itself to parents, educators and professionals

alike. Meaty yet frustrating, no easy answers unfold, but much food for thought or argument, as the case may

be, is provoked. (Mrs. Harold is a high school teacher and mother of five children.)

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