

# The Tree and the Gardener - The child as a tree

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)

Foundation House / Elementary (Classes 5-7)



## Innate Powers of the Child (A Pestalozzi Approach)

**(NB: The activity in the Teaching Idea ‘Sense-Impression (1)’ can be used to lead into this activity.)**

(NB: This activity can be adapted to suit any level by discussing the plant - child analogy at increasingly complicated levels)

Students go to a place where they are able to see as wide a variety of trees as possible.

### Instructions to students:

- Choose a tree you can see which you would like to be
- Say why you would like to be that tree
- Draw it
- Discuss in what ways you are like this tree and in what ways you are different.

### Back in the room, the teacher asks the students to do the following:

- Draw two circles, which overlap in the middle. Give the left hand circle your name.
- Give the right hand circle the name of your chosen plant or tree
- Write the ways you are like the tree in the overlapping part of the circles
- Write the ways you are different from the tree in the left hand part of the left circle
- Write the ways the tree is different from you in the right hand part of the right circle
- The students discuss what an analogy is



### Materials Needed

- Blank pieces of paper and pencils and colouring pens for each student
- For advanced level students, a copy each of Pestalozzi’s analogy between a child and a tree. ‘

(An analogy is a comparison between one thing and another, typically for the purpose of explanation or comparison).

Each student writes a poem. The poem should be an analogy made between the student and the tree he or she chose in the activity above.

Advanced level students read and discuss Pestalozzi’s analogy between the education and development of a child and the natural growth of a tree.

## The Tree and the Gardener - The child as a tree

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According to Pestalozzi, the child is a living organism, which can be compared to a tree. The child has within it the design and powers needed to develop into a humane adult, just as the seed contains the design of the mature tree. The child is complete at any stage of its growth, as is the tree.

It was very important to Pestalozzi that students are outdoors in nature as much as possible and that they learn to draw and properly observe by drawing real objects.

## The Tree and the Gardener continued - The teacher as a gardener

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### Innate Powers of the Child (A Pestalozzi Approach) Teacher as a Facilitator

Instructions to students:

**(NB: This activity can be adapted to suit any level by discussing the gardener - teacher analogy at increasingly complicated levels.)**

The students plant some seedlings in pots or outside and tend them as they grow.

The teacher divides the students into groups of three, and instructs the groups as follows:

- Discuss and list what a gardener does
- Discuss and list what a teacher does
- Discuss and list the similarities and the differences between a gardener and a teacher
- Discuss the ways in which a teacher educating a child can be compared to a gardener tending a young plant

### Materials Needed

- Seedlings
- Earth pots
- For advanced level students, a copy each of Pestalozzi's Analogy





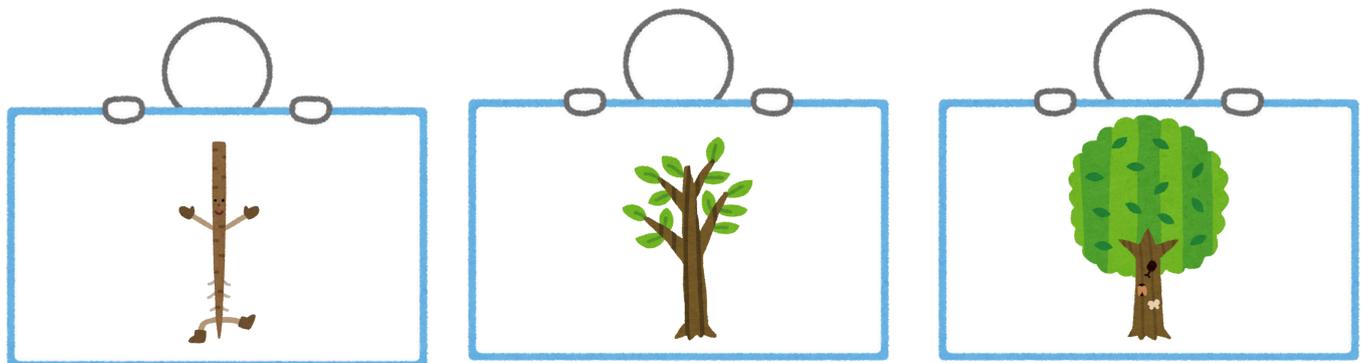
## The Tree and the Gardener continued - The teacher as a gardener

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The teacher explains the ways in which Pestalozzi saw the teacher as a gardener – in more or less detail depending on the level of the students. The students discuss analogies and metaphorical language.

Advanced level students read and discuss Pestalozzi's analogy between the education and development of a child and the natural growth of a tree in 'Pestalozzi's Analogy – The Teacher as a Gardener'



**According to Pestalozzi, the teacher should be like a gardener. Both are facilitators, creating a positive environment for development and growth and supporting the natural development of the child / plant. Pestalozzi wanted students to be given opportunities to garden since gardening is a practical activity and a vocational skill, and because the activity gives students the opportunity to work with nature.**