

Teaching Einstein

Albert Einstein is regarded as the father of modern physics. German-born, Einstein (1879 – 1955) developed the general theory of relativity, producing a revolution in physics. He received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics.



An insight into his character is offered in a story involving a 10-year-old neighbor girl. The mother of the child noticed that her daughter often visited Einstein's house. When questioned about it, the girl explained: "I had trouble with my homework in arithmetic. People said that at No. 112 there lives a very big mathematician, who is also a very good man. I asked him to help me. He was very willing, and explained everything very well. He said I should come whenever I find a problem too difficult."

Alarmed at the child's boldness, the girl's mother went to Einstein to apologize.

But Einstein responded: "You don't have to excuse yourself. I have learned more from the conversations with the child than she has from me."

This story presents two obvious lessons:

1. We should not overlook learning opportunities for children. Einstein no doubt had much bigger fish to fry, and time is precious. But his work was not too important to lend a hand and his encouragement to a 10-year-old girl.
2. We can benefit from the knowledge and experiences – viewed from the perspective of any age – of the people we encounter if we are willing to engage in conversation and listen. For Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have before us treasure chests of wisdom residing in those we serve if we are willing to open them.

– Beecher Hunter