

INTEGRATING SELECTED HOME MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS  
IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HOMEMAKING

by 45

ANITA MAE PALMER

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## INTRODUCTION

The tremendous explosion of knowledge in recent years has made it impossible for one person to learn everything. Teachers cannot teach all there is to know about a subject; therefore decisions on the selection and organization of curriculum content are mandatory. According to Denmark, "The answer [to this curriculum dilemma] lies in carefully assessing all fields of study and selecting those elements of each which provide the strategic keys to an understanding of other events."<sup>1</sup> Phenix concurred:

By a careful analysis of the structure of knowledge it is possible to discover certain key concepts distinguished by their power to epitomize important common features of a large number of more particular ideas. Such concepts are basic central ideas an understanding of which opens the door to an effective grasp of an entire field of knowledge.<sup>2</sup>

The teacher not only needs a conceptual framework around which to organize subject material but also needs an understanding of concept development. Burton, Kimball, and Wing explained that meaning and concepts develop slowly out of many experiences. They described the development as

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<sup>1</sup>George W. Denmark, "The Curriculum Challenge of Our Times," National Education Association Journal, 50:13, December, 1961.

<sup>2</sup>Philip H. Phenix, "Key Concepts and the Crisis in Learning," Teachers College Record, 58:140, December, 1956.