

Teach Your Children

Words and music by Graham Nash, from Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young's *Déjà Vu*



Graham Nash penned "Teach Your Children" for the 1970 Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young release, *Déjà Vu*, and it ended up being the biggest hit on the record, despite the fact that nearly every other song became a hit as well. Nash or Stephen Stills played alternating-bass strum patterns like the one below, and fingerpickers can approximate the al-

ternating-bass strum feel with the picking pattern below. Jerry Garcia laid down some perky pedal-steel lines between vocal phrases, and though the song appeared under the CSN&Y banner, Neil Young didn't actually appear on the recording.

Chords



Strum Pattern



♩ = 160

*♩ = down; ♪ = up

Picking Pattern



1. **D** You who are on your **G** road
D Must have a code that you can live by **A**
D And so become yourself **G**
D Because the past is just a good-bye **A**

2. **D** And you of the tender years **G**
D Can't know the fears that your elders grew by **A**
D And so please help them with your youth **G**
D They seek the truth before they can die **A**

Chorus

D Teach your children well **G**
D Their fathers' hell did slowly go by **A**
D And feed them on your dreams **G**
D The one they pick's the one you'll know by **A**
D Don't you ever ask them why **G**
D If they told you, you would cry
Bm So just look at them and sigh **G**
A And know they love you **D G D A**

Chorus

D Teach your parents well **G**
D Their children's hell will slowly go by **A**
D And feed them on your dreams **G**
D The one they pick's the one you'll know by **A**
D Don't you ever ask them why **G**
D If they told you, you would cry
Bm So just look at them and sigh **G**
A And know they love you **D G D A D AD**