

Parenting Education in the world

TAPE

Texas Association of Parent Educators
June 7, 2012 Webinar

Eve Sullivan
Founder, Parents Forum
Cambridge, Mass.

- Overview of the field
of parenting education
and definition of terms
- Preview of a global survey
of our field

First of all, what is parenting ?

It is an odd 'business'

...part service

...part production.

Next, what is parenting education ?

It has three key elements:

- knowledge about children's growth and development, and self-knowledge
- skill in providing care appropriate to the child's age
- support for social-emotional learning in parent(s) and child and support for this in couples and among caregivers

What makes parenting
education effective?

Is it the *curriculum*,
the words and images
on the page or screen ?

Or the *presenter*,
the person facilitating
the learning experience ?

Both... but *the presenter is more important.*

Parenting education, like parenting itself, has two purposes. It serves parents and caregivers, directly, and serves society, indirectly, by providing parents with:

- knowledge
- skills
- social-emotional support

Who does parenting education?

So many people work with parents in a variety of capacities and have the opportunity – or the obligation – to do parenting education that . . .

the answer will not fit on one slide!

Finally,

who pays for parenting education ?

and, just as important, who pays for
the lack of parenting education?

We all do.

All of us in this field know that it is *essential policy and much-needed practice* that supports individual and family well-being and helps maintain intergenerational bonds.

Comments from colleagues . . .

- **Catherine Bernard**, SERFAC: Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, India
- **Mary Crowley**, FIEP: International Federation for Parenting Education, England
- **Cristina Napolitano**, IFFD: Int'l Federation for Family Development, Spain and New York
- **Jamesa Wagwau**, Peace Crusade Africa, Uganda

Sr. Dr. Catherine Bernard

Founder and Director of SERFAC, based in Chennai India, was asked by her bishops, 30-plus years ago, to teach family planning to rural women in order to help them space their pregnancies.

SERFAC has held 13 international conferences: the first in 1983, with 300+ delegates from 56 countries.

The most recent SERFAC conference was held in 2011 with over 2000 delegates from 98 countries.

“The materialistic life style is dealing
a death blow to marriages and families.”

Sr. Catherine Bernard

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serfacglobal.org

defendfamily.org

Mary Crowley, OBE

President of the International Federation for Parenting Education (FIEP), was head of the UK Parenting Education and Support Forum - now Parenting UK - came to the field as an adult educator.

Policymakers, Mary Crowley found, are often wary of suggesting that parents need help or support and, instead, they focus on children.

Europe presents a diverse picture: some countries provide excellent services, some provide little, if any.

Parenting education in the U.S. - in Mary's view – is a few steps ahead of that in Europe and, perhaps, of that in other regions and she points to NPEN the National Parenting Education Network: www.npen.org

See also the FIEP site: www.fiep-ifpe.org

(Full disclosure: I serve on the NPEN board and that of of the Int'l Federation for Parenting Education. - Eve S.)

Cristina Napolitano,

A mother of four living in New York City, became involved with IFFD, the International Federation for Family Development, an agency established in 1978 in consultative status with the United Nations, when she sought classes for herself.

“Families’ challenges are universal because human nature is universal. I am talking about relationships, irrespective of economics.”

Cristina Napolitano

International Federation

for Family Development

www.iffd.org

Jamesa Wagwau,

Writes for Uganda's leading daily newspaper *New Vision*.

In 2008, he spearheaded a successful peace project organized to address violence in Ugandan schools.

Mr. Wagwau works part-time as a counselor in Gayaza High School and is the father of two. He recently founded a nonprofit Peace Crusade Africa.

In commenting on a UN publication, Men in Families, released February 2011,

Jamesa wrote,

“Fatherhood is changing tremendously....

Although vestiges of authoritative fatherhood linger, especially in conservative African communities, a wave of change seems to be sweeping across Africa.”

www.peacecrusade.org

info@peacecrusade.org

Men in Families

www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/social/men-in-families.html

-or- short form: j.mp/g6qUsB

which begins . . . “In a rapidly changing world, we will continue witnessing the growing momentum and recognition of the importance of men for => gender equality, => work-family balance and => children.”

I have several notes to add in closing.

First: the United Nations Family Programme, part of the Department of Economic & Social Affairs or DESA.

Renata Kazsmarska, head of this programme (yes, spelled the British way), is planning for 2014 and the 20th anniversary of the *International Year of the Family*. Also, each year on May 15, she organizes activities to mark the *International Day of Families*.

Second:

Do you know that August 1st
is *Respect for Parents Day* !?

This was originated by
Marilyn Dalrymple

<http://marilyndalrymple.tripod.com>

[/index-4.html](http://marilyndalrymple.tripod.com/index-4.html)

I hope this will go into your calendar also.

Third and last, another calendar note:

Prepare Tomorrow's Parents Month

runs from Mothers Day

through Fathers Day

and is now in progress!

The intent is to prepare children and teens for parenting to make a difference.

www.preparetomorrowparents.org

Thank you! This webinar is my first ever and I appreciate your
patience with my baby steps in presentation.
Pictures, next time, I promise!

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Where the Heart Listens
in print, ebook and audiobook

and follow me on Twitter: @evesullivan . . . why not?

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6/7/2012