



Texas Association of Parent Educators

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TAPE SPONSORED BY CENTER FOR PARENT EDUCATION
<http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape.php>

Volume 1, Issue 3

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TAPE Looking Ahead!

The New Year is upon us and life is busy! Some parent educators may be setting up their group classes while others are delivering parenting information on a one on one basis. It is also time to start thinking about two things: attending the UNT Parenting Conference and deciding how TAPE can serve you.

Consider these ideas for YOUR own professional development:

- Plan to attend the UNT Parenting Conference next February 14-15, 2008.
- Support another professional and nominate a successful parenting program for the 2009 Best Practices Award from UNT and TAPE.
- Approach your local newspaper or online program and suggest that YOU write a weekly column on parenting.
- Remind the local radio station that parenting tips make great Public Service Announcements and then volunteer to do one.

Decide to service your profession and volunteer as a board member of TAPE by contacting Linda Ladd at lladd@mail.twu.edu.

TAPE plans to serve YOU as well:

- In 2008, three web-based training sessions are being planned by Sharon Hirschy, VP for Programs and Linda Ladd.
- Feature your program or share your expertise by sending a short article to Nerissa Gillum, Newsletter Editor NGillum@mail.twu.edu.
- Meet to share ideas with other members during the networking luncheon at the UNT Parenting Conference.
- Check out the TAPE website at <http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape.php>.

Finally, please pay your membership fee for 2008; a form is on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you. — Linda Ladd

NCFR Paper wins Division Award!

Comparison of Christian Children's God-concepts and Logical Thinking Ability

Authors: Starrla Penick, MS, UNT, and Armintha Jacobson, PhD, Development and Family Studies, UNT

This journey of researching children's God-concepts began with a literature review of past research in children's spirituality. It was found that children do indeed have the capability of forming concepts (mental representations) of God from a young age. When researching moral and faith development, researchers like Kohlberg and Fowler determined that faith and spirituality progress parallel with a child's cognitive development. Therefore, the next logical step was to ask if children share common God-concepts, and if so, do they also share God-concepts at different cognitive levels? When I met with these children, I interviewed them with *The Children's Interview* by David Heller, author of *The Children's God*. From their responses to the interview, including drawings, story-telling, role playing, questions/answers, and their written letters to God, I found three main categories of common God-concepts shared by all children: *Gracious Guide*, *Distant Divinity*, and *Historical Human*. Forty-two God-concepts were found that were classified according to each category. The most common concepts are below:

Gracious Guide: Comforter, Communicates, Empowering, Protector, Counselor, Parental, Invisible, and Loving.

Distance Divinity: Creator, Provider, Purposeful, Lives in Heaven, All-knowing, Miraculous, Perfect, Powerful, and Real.

Historical Human: Biblical, Male, same as Jesus, has Human Characteristics.

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TAPE Mission Statement

To build a network of professionals and opportunities to increase knowledge and skills in the fields of parent education, parent involvement, and family support in order to promote education in schools, communities, and state.

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Suicide is Third Leading Cause of Death for 15-24 Year Olds

By Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Youth suicide is a silent epidemic that is stealing the futures of our young people. Suicide is the SECOND leading cause of death for college aged youth, the THIRD leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and the FOURTH leading cause of death for 10-14 year olds (*Coming Together to Care: A Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Texas Communities*, Mental Health America of Texas, p.17, 24)

Based on 1999-2004 national data, the Texas youth suicide rate for teens ages 15-19 at 8.5 deaths per 100,000 was higher than the U.S. rate of deaths by suicide for this age group at 7.8 deaths per 100,000.* Nationally, more teenagers and young adults have died of suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia and influenza, and chronic lung disease combined (QPR Institute Trainer's Manual, p. 36).

According to Mental Health America of Texas (www.mhatexas.org) people in the midst of a crisis often perceive their dilemma as inescapable and feel trapped and out of control. Since 90% of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental health or substance abuse condition, they see the world through the grey glasses of despair and are unable to see alternatives to their problems.

Most suicidal individuals give definite warnings of their suicidal intentions, but other people in their lives may be either unaware of the significance of these warnings or do not know how to respond to them. In fact, 90% of youth tell another young person that they are thinking of taking their own life.*

For more information on suicide prevention in Texas please go to www.TexasSuicidePrevention.org. If you or someone you know is in crisis and needs immediate help, please call 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WISQARS,

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/pdf/mortality/nvsr54_13_t29.pdf Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 15 to 19, CD-10 Codes: X60-X84, Y87.0,*U03.

"CHEESE"

By Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Dallas Morning News

"Cheese," the latest designer drug surfacing in elementary through high schools across the country, came to the attention of law enforcement in 2005 in Dallas, Texas and was labeled the "starter heroin." The mixture of heroin and Tylenol PM, low cost at \$2-\$10, is very accessible and tantalizing to young people. *

What Parents Need to Know

Short Term symptoms/effects:

- Sleepiness – drowsiness
- Lethargy – disorientation
- Hunger
- Sudden change in grades and friends

Effects lasting 5-6 days

- Agitation – anxiety
- Severe headaches
- Chills
- Muscle spasms
- Disassociation

Long term effects

- Addiction
- Collapsed veins
- Circulation problems
- Infection of the heart
- Pneumonia/breathing difficulties
- DEATH

What Parents Can Do!

- ✧ Drug test child if you see warning signs
- ✧ Talk with child regarding trends
- ✧ Educate on drug reality
- ✧ Communicate openly
- ✧ Trust

"CHEESE" article Spanish

"Cheese" es el nombre común de la última droga diseñada que ha surgido desde las escuelas elementales hasta las escuelas preparatorias y a través de todo el país. Esta droga llamó la atención en el 2005 al departamento legal en Dallas Texas y fue etiquetada como la "heroína iniciadora". Cheese es la combinación de una mezcla de heroína y Tylenol PM y tiene un costo relativamente barato, \$2-\$10 dólares, que la hace muy accesible y tentadora para la gente joven.

¿Qué necesitan saber los padres?

Síntomas a corto plazo/ efectos:

- Amodorramiento –Somnolencia
- Letargia-Desorientación
- Exceso de apetito
- Un cambio repentino en sus Calificaciones y amigos

Efectos después de 5-6 días

- Agitación- Ansiedad
- Severos dolores de cabeza
- Escalofrío
- Espasmos musculares
- Disociación

Efectos a Largo Plazo

- Adicción
- Venas colapsadas
- Problemas circulatorios
- Infecciones en el corazón
- Neumonía/ Dificultad Respiratoria
- MUERTE

¿Qué puede hacer los padres?

- Hacerle una prueba de drogas a su hijo si observa alguno de los signos
- Hable con sus hijos acerca de estas tendencias y modas
- Edúquelos sobre la realidad con las drogas
- Tenga una comunicación abierta
- Confianza

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Dallas Morning News

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Playgrounds: Are We Keeping Kids Safe? By Karen Petty, PhD

As safety for children remains a top priority for all of us, the use of playgrounds during outside play is of concern. The play spaces that we provide for our children at any age must meet certain standards to ensure that no harm comes to a child while engaging in the most developmental pleasure that a child can experience - play.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Safety Council, based on treatment, more than 200,000 children are injured on public and home playgrounds each year. Although most do not result in critical injuries or death, many are serious enough to require overnight hospital stays.

Note the following playground accident statistics from the websites at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and KaBOOM!, "a national nonprofit organization committed to building safe playgrounds for America's children":

23% occurred on home playground equipment

76% of the injuries happened on public playground equipment

(approximate breakdown of the public areas where these injuries occurred):

- * 45% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in schools.
- * 31% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in public parks.
- * 10% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in commercial childcare centers.
- * 3% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in home childcare.
- * 3% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in apartment complexes.
- * 2% of injuries involving public equipment occurred in fast food restaurants.

(For more information, call toll-free 1-888-789-PLAY or visit the KaBOOM! web site at www.kaboom.org. <<http://www.kaboom.org>>).

As providers and facilitators of play for children, it is our duty to be vigilant and always on the alert to hidden dangers or hazards where toys and playground equipment are concerned. No child should be injured or die from a play experience.

The following websites can be accessed to acquire more information on toy and play-

ground safety. As the holiday season approaches, many toys and play structures will be purchased. Information is key and with new knowledge of hazards and dangers, more informed decisions can be made.

Playground Safety:

www.kidsource.com <<http://www.kidsource.com/>>

www.nsc.org <<http://www.nsc.org/>> (National Safety Council)

<http://www.uni.edu/playground> (www.PlaygroundSafety.org <<http://www.nationalplaygroundsafety.org/>>)

Toy Safety:

www.nncc.org <<http://www.nncc.org/>> (National Network for Child Care)

www.toy-tma.org/ (Toy Industry Association)

www.toysafety.net <<http://www.toysafety.net/>> (pictures of toys that are unsafe)

www.cps.gov <<http://www.cps.gov/>>

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html <<http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>> . To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp <<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>> . Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov <<http://www.cpsc.gov/>> .

Karen Petty, Ph.D is Component Leader and Associate Professor in the Early Childhood Development and Education program in the Department of Family Sciences Texas Woman's University. If you are interested in learning more about earning a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree in child development or early childhood education, please contact Dr. Karen Petty at: kpetty@mail.twu.edu or 940-898-2685. Additional information is also available at www.twu.edu/famsci where you can click on the ECDE programs.

Save March 5, 2008 for TAPE Online Workshop with Dr. Wally Goddard

Do you eat lunch and do you need clock hours? If "yes", then save March 5 for a FREE one hour online workshop where you will listen and interact with Wally Goddard, Arkansas Extension Specialist.

Dr. Wally Goddard is the author of *Guiding Children Successfully* a self study program for parents and child care providers that covers such topics as "guiding children with love and good sense" and "helping children use their gifts". Wally will talk with workshop participants about being a parent educator and other issues pertinent to our profession. Email Linda Ladd at lladd@mail.twu.edu or Sharon Hirschy at SHirschy@CCCCD.EDU with questions and your interest!

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God-concepts at Logical Thinking Ability

In testing children with the Group Assessment of Logical Thinking (GALT), 20 out of 24 children were found to be concrete thinkers, and 4 children were classified as transitional children, meaning they were in the logical thinking level somewhere between concrete and abstract.

Because they were so close in age, the concrete and transitional children all viewed God predominately as a Gracious Guide in their lives. The transitional children viewed God as a Distant Divinity meaning that they more readily embraced the more mysterious and sovereign concepts of God. The concrete thinking children discussed God more as Jesus on earth, a Historical Human.

Starrla Penick, MS, is a Family Life Specialist for Marriage Mentors, a non-profit organization in Richardson, TX.

Arminta Jacobson, PhD, is Professor of Development and Family Studies at UNT and Director of the UNT Center for Parent Education.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

College of Education Center for Parent Education

Practitioners, parents educators, social workers, child protective services associates, students preparing for careers working with children, childhood intervention specialists, teachers, parents and others interested in family issues are invited to attend the 16th Annual Conference on Parent Education which will be held on February 14-15, 2008 at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

The conference includes more than 60 workshops, special interest sessions and research to practice sessions that explore the latest research relating to child development, family support, parent involvement, program evaluations, parent education and partnerships in family law just to name a few.

This two-day interdisciplinary conference features prominent speakers from around the nation. This years keynote address on, "Building Family Resilience through Troubled Times" will be presented by Dr. Froma Walsh. Dr. Walsh is the Mose and Sylvia Firestone Professor in the School of Social Service Administration and Department of Psychiatry, and Co-director of the Center for Family Health at the University of Chicago.

If you would like more information

about the conference you may access the conference program at: <http://www.cpe.unt.edu/conferences.php> or contact Debbie.Klinger@unt.edu or call 940-369-7246.

For conference registration visit: <http://www.cpe.unt.edu/conferences/areg> or contact Gina Howell at ghowell@unt.edu. or call (940) 565-3481.

TAPE Members may attend the conference at a discounted rate. Complete the TAPE Membership form on pg. 5 of this newsletter and send along with payment to **Dr. Arminta Jacobson, UNT Center for Parent Education, University of North Texas P. O. Box 310829, Denton, TX. 76203-0829. Discount is not applied until TAPE Membership dues have been received.**

Public Policy

Advocate for Families

Identify existing or proposed state or federal legislation related to family issues and your Senator or Representative at: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> or <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/>.

Use the AAFCS Public Policy Tool Kit at www.aafcs.org for advocacy and letter-writing guidelines.

Check out these websites for issues before the 2007 Texas Legislature.

- The Center for Public Policy at <http://www.cppp.org/>
Texans Care for Children at <http://www.texanscareforchildren.org/>
Prevent Child Abuse Texas at www.preventchildabusetexas.org

Organizational Structure

MEMBERSHIP is open to all professionals, students and groups who share the same mission as TAPE. TAPE Board Members consist of the following professionals who provide governance to the organization:

- President: Linda Ladd, LLadd@mail.twu.edu
Vice President Programs: Sharon Hirschy, shirschy@cccdd.edu
Vice President Credentials: Beth Thompson, ethompson@hcde-texas.org
Secretary: Debbie Klinger, Debbie.Klinger@unt.edu
Treasurer: Sandy Renick, Sandy.Renick@unt.edu
Members at Large: Mary Ellen Nudd, menudd@mhatexas.org
Lucy Long, lucy.long@pisd.edu
Nerissa Gillum, NGillum@mail.twu.edu
Arminta.Jacobson@unt.edu

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities and announcements may be submitted to Debbie.Klinger@unt.edu by January 1, 2008 for posting at the 16th Annual Conference on Parent Education to be held on February 14 & 15, 2008.



Texas Association of Parent Educators (TAPE)
Annual Renewal: September 1, 2007
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2007-2008
<http://www.cpe.unt.edu/tape.php>

The purpose of TAPE is to promote parenting education, parent involvement, and family support in the schools, communities, and the state as well as create opportunities to increase member knowledge and skills in these fields as well.

Name _____

Organization _____ Your Role _____

Preferred mailing address _____

City/State/zip code _____

Preferred Phone _____ FAX _____

Email Address _____

Include my demographic information in the Texas Registry of Parent Educator Resources on-line data base _____ Yes _____ No

Circle areas below -- if you can share some professional time with TAPE!

TAPE Leadership	Newsletter	Membership
Training activities	Professional Development Recognition System	
Organizing a local affiliate	Other _____	

Select the membership level that best fits your professional needs:

- _____ \$15 Student Membership: Member receives all TAPE communications and has voting rights. Must enclose a copy of their student ID.
- _____ \$50 Professional Membership: Member works in the field of parenting education, family support, or parent involvement. Receives all TAPE communications and has voting rights.
- _____ \$100 Supporting Organization Membership: Non-voting membership in TAPE. The organization receives, through a single point of contact, all TAPE communications, including newsletters.
- _____ \$150 Practitioner Organization Membership. Organizations with five or more TAPE members may purchase a Practitioner Organization Membership. Each individual member receives all TAPE communications, including newsletters and pays dues at a reduced rate. If the organization falls below five TAPE members, its participating members would become Individual members with the next membership renewal.

Send completed form and membership dues to:

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P. O. Box 310829
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