



# Texas Association of Parent Educators

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TAPE SPONSORED BY CENTER FOR PARENT EDUCATION

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## Notes from the President by Linda Ladd

## TAPE Mission Statement

Our organization is off to a wonderful start. I think you will agree that the members of the Texas Association of Parent Education represent a rich diversity of backgrounds. I'd like you to meet three parent educators: Sandra Hartnitt, Debora Phillips, and Linda Steinsultz.

As Chair of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Department at Weatherford College, Sandra Hartnitt, MS, CFLE, understands that students who wish to work with young children need to know about child development, guidance, and curriculum resources that support teachers and child educational programs. The ECE program at Weatherford is designed to meet the criteria of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Child Development Associate (CDA) requirements. Sandra reports that it has been said that she amplifies the "Mother Earth" complex. Students and colleagues know that if they are in a quandary or in need of a good laugh that Hartnitt's office is always open! If you want to learn more about Weatherford College, check out Sandra's website at: <http://faculty.wc.edu/social/hartnitt/>.

Debora Phillips, MS, LBSW, CFLE is the founding President and Executive Director of Children's Connections, Inc., a resource agency that focuses on building the quality of life for children and families. As an organizational member of TAPE, Debora and her staff work with families throughout the process of adopting children, conduct home studies associated with embryo adoptions, offer training to child care providers, help parents identify child care resources, and operate a nutrition program for family child care providers. Children's Connections, Inc., is currently



celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving Texas families. You can visit their website at: [www.childrensconnections.org](http://www.childrensconnections.org).

A Texas Woman's University graduate in 2006, Dr. Linda Steinsultz's dissertation was a study of "Inequality of Wealth for Never Married Women" based on the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) data. Too bad she had to travel to Luxembourg to use their data! At Texas Christian University, Linda is teaching classes in sociology that allow her to educate students in the area of gender, race and ethnicity, marriage and family violence, and current social issues. In May, she will teach eldercare at Concordia University. She is involved with families on many levels in the community: cancer support groups, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, and Daughters of Abraham (a women's organization of Christians, Jews, and Muslims that work for a peaceful understanding of family and world issues). She is a retired school nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, and an advocate for family involvement and education.

The Texas Association of Parent Educators is being built upon the diversity of our members. I would love to feature YOU in our next issue of TAPE. Have a great summer!

**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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## Tips for a Stress Free Summer By Prevent Child Abuse Texas



**Prevent Child Abuse  
Texas**



The summer is a joyous time when loved ones come together. But for many families, the summer can also be a time of stress and frustration, sometimes unintentionally resulting in an increased risk to the child.

Prevent Child Abuse Texas offers the following tips to help families enjoy the summer while keeping tension to a minimum:

1. Establish a budget for summer spending. Be realistic about what you can afford to spend on entertainment, special foods, travel, etc.
2. Hold a family meeting to discuss summer plans. Ask for ideas from the children for family activities that would appeal to them.
3. Post a calendar of family activities in a place where all family members will see it.
4. Check community calendars and local lists of events to find inexpensive or free activities for children. Write all possibilities on individual slips of brightly colored paper and put them in a "summer fun jar." When children have been especially cooperative with other family members, allow them to choose a slip of paper from the jar. Then, the family can enjoy an

afternoon of fun activity together.

5. Have your children make a list of elderly or shut-in neighbors in your area. Plan to share a meal, some of your time, or run errands for these neighbors. Explain to children that helping and sharing are important elements.
6. Find time to relax and reflect on the simple joys of the summer. When you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed, take a break to get a better perspective on what needs to be done and what can be done.
7. If you find that it is becoming difficult to avoid being verbally or physically harsh with your children, STOP.
8. Don't take out your anger on your kids. Instead, try the following:
  - Take a deep breath and count to 20.
  - Phone a friend.
  - Take a walk outside, or use another form of exercise.
  - Laugh. Even a comedy show on television will help relieve stress.
  - Spend one hour doing something you really enjoy.

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Prevent Child Abuse Texas is the leading organization working to prevent the abuse and neglect of our state's children.

More information is available by accessing the organization's website at:

[www.preventchildabusetexas.org](http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org)

## HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) By Carla Weir



*Home is where the start is.*  
**HIPPYUSA®**  
**TEXAS**   
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

The HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) program focuses on parents of pre-school children ages 3, 4, and 5. (Fergus-Morrison, Rimm-Kaufman, & Pianta, 2003). Weekly house calls are made to teach parents how to work with his/her child. Program alumni are trained to make weekly house calls and build relationships with parent that result in the parent working with the child every day for 20 minutes for 30 weeks a year! The curriculum is available in English and Spanish and is the basis of the visit in the home. Parents learn simple activities, parenting skills, and are asked to give back by volunteering in the school. The preschool child benefits by being prepared for school and there's a ripple effect with the other children as parents increase their parenting and communication skills. Schools benefit by receiving children who are ready for the classroom and parents who are eager to volunteer and support their child's education.

According to research in Texas, HIPPY children do better than their peers in state tests. An in depth study of the children in the Irving HIPPY program found that significantly more Spanish speaking HIPPY children were qualified to take the TAKS Reading test in English compared to a control group. HIPPY children passed the 3rd grade state reading test by 89% compared to only 69% of the Spanish speaking 3rd graders in Irving ISD, and 74% of English Language Learners in the state of Texas (Garcia, 2006). Additionally, Kindergarten teachers rated 87% of HIPPY children "ready for school", and 95% of HIPPY children were deemed to have good classroom behavior. Imagine if all kids got such a start, how much better it would be for teachers and schools? If you are interested in bringing HIPPY to your community, please contact Carla Weir, 214-442-1660, [cweir@coe.unt.edu](mailto:cweir@coe.unt.edu).

## TAPE Honors KERA and PAT for Best Practices By Beth Thompson



The newly formed Texas Association of Parent Educators proudly assumed sponsorship of the Second Annual Recognition of Best Practices Awards at the February 2007 Conference on Parent Education. The University of North Texas Conference on Parent Education first recognized organizations that are leaders in establishing and implementing Best Practices in Parenting Education in 2006. This year's Best Practices recipients were selected in two fields, Parent/Family Education and Parent Family Support.

KERA, Public Television and Radio for North Texas, received the Best Practices in Parent/Family Education for their Ready for Life Project. Ready for Life transforms research into a curriculum for parents of children aged birth to five years that is both useful and enjoyable. Ready for Life is based on the work of internationally recognized researchers. You can learn more by visiting <http://www.readyforlife.org>. It combines quality child development training curriculum with video support. Modules cover temperament, attachment and socialization, early literacy and nutrition and fitness for young children. Combining video vignettes, interactive games and practical information, the Ready for Life curriculum modules are professional tools for use with families or caregivers in both English and Spanish.

Texas Parents as Teachers (PAT) was selected as the Best Practices in Parent/Family Support recipient for its work in helping programs maintain high levels of implementation of curriculum and parenting education services over time. The PAT standards and quality indicators provide clear guidelines for implementation of the Parents as Teachers Born to Learn Curriculum. You can learn more by visiting <http://www.parentsasteachers.org>. The corresponding self-assessment guide is a tool for programs to examine their current performance and identify specific areas for improvement. Implementing the self-assessment guide is a rigorous process that involves parent educators, program administrators, the families that participate, and community partners. The culmination of the process is a site visit from a state or national Parents as Teachers representative.

### 2008 National Recognition of Best Practices Programs in Parent/Family Life Education, Involvement in Schools, Support

Nominate yourself or others for recognition as an outstanding parent education, parent involvement, and family support program or group. Awardees will have the opportunity to host a full-day poster/table exhibition and present at a break-out session at the conference. One or more programs will be recognized.

#### Best Practices Nomination Cover Sheet:

- Name of Organization or Program
- Contact person for organization or program
- Phone, fax, and e-mail numbers of contact person
- Address of organization or program
- Website of organization or program (if applicable)
- Name and contact information for person making nomination of different from above.

#### Nomination:

- Name of Organization or Program
- Purpose and/or Mission
- Summary of Best Practices (1-2 pages)
- Evidence of Best Practices (if applicable): Can include testimonies, evaluation outcomes, local support or recognition, other.
- Category:
  - Parent/Family Education
  - Parent/Family Involvement in Schools
  - Parent/Family Support
  - One-to-two sentence short description for Conference Program.

Short resume or biographical sketch for best practices developers or leaders (if applicable).

**PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS  
TO: [LLADD@mail.twu.edu](mailto:LLADD@mail.twu.edu)**



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## RAISING TEXAS "With Sound Minds and Sound Bodies" BY Judy Rios Willgren, M.Ed

**Raising Texas** is a statewide, collaborative effort to strengthen Texas' system of services for young children and families so that all children enter school healthy and ready to learn, according to a recent news release from Judy Willgren, M.Ed., *Raising Texas* coordinator, Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Through the collaborative partnership of nine state agencies, 16 community-based agencies and 60 key stakeholders, a state plan has been developed to improve the current system of services for all children age birth to 6 years.

"The *Raising Texas* strategic plan is designed to promote evidence-based practice and increase the coordination between health, behavioral health, and education services," said Willgren. The plan can be viewed at: [http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/si/OECC/OECC\\_home.html](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/si/OECC/OECC_home.html)

Following is some additional information summarized from the news release:

The *Raising Texas* strategic plan is designed to improve the current system of services across four major service delivery areas. These four areas include:

- o Access to Insurance and Medical Home
- o Social Emotional Development and Mental Health
- o Early Care and Education Parent Education and Family Support

According to Willgren, there are more than 2 million children in

Texas under the age of 6 years. In the state's health and human services agencies, there are more than 30 programs spending \$3.5 billion in services to children under the age of 6 years.

For more information on the *Raising Texas* initiative contact: Judy Rios Willgren, M.Ed., *Raising Texas* Coordinator, Health and Human Services Commission, [judy.willgren@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:judy.willgren@hhsc.state.tx.us)

### Public Policy Updates

**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](http://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](http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org)

### Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities may be submitted to Debbie Klinger @ [DKlinger@coe.unt.edu](mailto:DKlinger@coe.unt.edu) by August 1, 2007 to be published in the 3rd Issue of TAPE Newsletter.

## 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](mailto:LLadd@mail.twu.edu)
- **Vice President Programs:** Sharon Hirschy, [shirschy@ccc.edu](mailto:shirschy@ccc.edu)
- **Vice President Credentials:** Beth Thompson, [ethompson@hcde-texas.org](mailto:ethompson@hcde-texas.org)
- **Secretary:** Debbie Klinger, [DKlinger@coe.unt.edu](mailto:DKlinger@coe.unt.edu)
- **Treasurer:** Sandy Renick, [srenick@coe.unt.edu](mailto:srenick@coe.unt.edu)
- **Members at Large:**  
Mary Ellen Nudd, [menudd@mhatexas.org](mailto:menudd@mhatexas.org)  
Lucy Long, [llong2@pisd.edu](mailto:llong2@pisd.edu)  
Nerissa Gillum, [NGillum@twu.edu](mailto:NGillum@twu.edu)  
Arminta Jacobson, [Jacobson@coe.unt.edu](mailto:Jacobson@coe.unt.edu)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conferences

**16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PARENT EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS IS:**

**FEBRUARY 14-15, 2007**

**TO REGISTER VISIT: [www.cpe.unt.edu](http://www.cpe.unt.edu)**

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Call for Proposals

**SUBMIT YOUR CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON PARENT EDUCATION BY GOING TO OUR NEW ONLINE FORMAT AT:**

**<http://www.coe.unt.edu/cpe/presenterproposal1.asp>**

