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THE UNIVERSITY of
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C4P News

Center for Parenting Update

Regional Parent Education Conferences:

On April 4th, the Center for Parenting hosted the second Regional Parent Education Conference in Johnson City for the northeast region of the state. Here's what a few participants had to say about what they found most helpful from the conference:

- "The professional development and networking opportunities."
- "Meeting other providers in our area."
- "Relaxation techniques and icebreaker techniques."
- "Connections with other parent educators."
- "Everything was helpful!"

We will be hosting the Southwest Regional Parent Education Conference in Jackson in October. If you are interested in attending or know of others who might be interested, please let us know by emailing the C4P at center4parenting@utk.edu.

Featured Family Program

Claiborne County Schools PARENT Initiative

The PARENT (Parents And teachers Reaching Educational Needs Together) Initiative was formed in the Spring of 2007 for the Claiborne County School System to address each school's need for more parental involvement. Parental involvement and support in the schools is critical to student success. Claiborne County Schools support parent and community involvement by offering programs related to the following topics: parenting, communication, volunteering, involving families in their child's learning activities at home, decision-making, and collaborating with the community. Each school in the district has a Parent Involvement Ambassador, a highly qualified individual responsible for forming and governing a Parent Involvement Committee (a group of parents who coordinate involvement and collaborate with community members and other parents). Since its inception, the initiative has increased parental involvement in each of the schools. To find out more about the Claiborne County Schools PARENT Initiative contact Melinda Turner at turnerm2@k12tn.net or 423-626-3323.

Keeping You Connected and Informed

- The **Protective Factors Survey** is a pre-post-evaluation tool for agencies providing child abuse prevention services. The survey is designed to be self-administered and can be used individually or with groups. The survey results are designed to help agencies measure changes in protective factors that are associated with lower levels of child abuse and identify areas where workers can focus to increase individual family protective factors. The survey measures protective factors in these five areas: family functioning/resiliency, social support, concrete support, nurturing and attachment, and knowledge of parenting/child development. For more information and to obtain the Protective Factors Survey please visit:
<http://www.friendsnrc.org/outcome/pfs.htm>

C4P Trivia Question

This edition's trivia question:

On average, children's free time has declined in the last couple of decades. How much has their time declined?

- a. 5 hours per week
- b. 8 hours per week
- c. 12 hours per week

Please send your answer to: center4parenting@utk.edu

The first person to answer the trivia question correctly will receive a \$5 Starbucks giftcard!

The answer to last edition's trivia question:

- (b) Teenagers who have bad relationships with their fathers in two-parent families are more likely to smoke, drink, and use drugs.

Last edition's winner:

Michelle Humbert, Prevention Education Specialist with the Children's Advocacy Center in Athens, TN.

Tools for Parent Educators

- **Cultural Diversity Bingo** is a good activity to be used by parent educators to help participants recognize that diversity comes in many forms. This activity also helps members of a group become acquainted with one another. To find the Cultural Diversity Bingo card, please click here: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/bingo.htm>. Instructions for the activity: The participants should find persons who match the information on the card to sign the squares. Each person can sign no more than two squares. The winner is the first person to bingo vertically, diagonally, or horizontally.
- Another icebreaker or opener for your parent education class is the **Bumper Sticker Activity**. Each participant is given a piece of paper and provided markers. The participants are asked to create a bumper sticker that highlights a talent, ability, or quality that their child possesses. Their creations are then shared with the group. On a board or flip chart, a list is created of the talents shared. (Example: "Mom of a Kind Kid.") This activity helps parents focus on the positive qualities of their children.

Meetings and Trainings

15th Annual Family Support Conference: *What's Love Got to Do with It? The Heart of School Readiness and Success* sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Education on June 4th in Pittsburgh, PA. For more information please visit: <http://www.education.pitt.edu/news/>

To remove your name from our mailing list, please visit <http://listserv.utk.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=c4pnews&A=1>. Questions or comments? E-mail us at center4parenting@utk.edu or call 865-974-3922