



# C4P News

Parental Influence on Literacy

## Center for Parenting Update

### Staffing Update:

C4P staff now consists of six team members.

- Dr Heidi Stolz and Dr Denise Brandon– co-directors
- Teri Henke (M.Ed., CFS Ph.D. student) Focusing on: investigating the status of Professional Preparation Programs for parent educators and analyzing the content of Parent Education curricula.
- Heather Wallace (M.S., CFS doctoral candidate) Focusing on: preparing an evaluation of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee's Parent Leadership project, finalizing work on an empirical article.
- Sara Pousson (CFS Master's student) Focusing on: assisting with outreach aspects of the C4P, including Regional Parent Education Conferences.
- Elizabeth Holman (CFS Bachelor's student) Focusing on: working with Teri to analyze the content of current Parent Education curricula.

### Parent Education Conference Updates:

The C4P will be hosting 3 regional Parent Education Conferences this year. The first of these, the Eastern Region Conference, will be held in the Knoxville area on Tuesday, October 20th. Watch for more information about this and the Central and Western Regional Conferences!

## Research Update!

Dr. Reggie Curran-Program Coordinator,  
 Reading Readiness  
 Center for Literacy Studies at  
 The University of Tennessee

Literacy- the ability to read, write, understand, and communicate- begins to develop before children enter school, and is not just a "school-based" activity. Ramey & Ramey (1999) found that "family environment influences children's success in school just as much as schools and teachers," and Shonkoff and Phillips (2000) wrote that research has confirmed that "what children learn... and what they expect from themselves and others are deeply affected by their... parents, and the environment of the homes in which they live", and "even when young children spend most of their waking hours in child care or school, parents remain the most influential adults in their lives". Attitudes about reading, ability to show how literacy is used daily, and willingness to involve kids in conversations about everyday events are ways in which parents impact their child's literacy skills.

Snow et al (1998) described 4 ways literacy is transmitted: simple, direct transmission -reading and discussing the book while reading; participating in literary practice -modeling how literacy helps solve problems (making lists, etc); finding pleasure in literacy -creating pleasant reading environments, reading for fun, helping kids find interesting reading materials; helping children develop oral and written language -hearing sounds, learning vocabulary, and showing kids how to help themselves read. Parents who use events that are part of everyday activities can help children connect reading and writing to life. Cramer (1993) listed these activities as beneficial: cooking, making shopping lists, discussing events, writing and leaving notes, and controlling TV time. Almost any activity can be a chance to help children build their literacy skills.

References: For a complete list of references, please [email](#) us!

## Keeping You Current

- \* September is library card sign-up month!
- \* International Literacy Day is September 8, 2009. This year's theme is *The Power of Literacy*. The National Institute for Literacy can be found at <http://www.nifl.gov>

## Featured Books

**Ready, Set, Read!:** A Start-to-Finish Reading Program any Parent Can Use By Barbara Curtis

**Reading Magic:** Why Reading Aloud to our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever By Mem Fox



## Trivia Question

Children who leave 2nd grade without learning to read have only what chance of reading at grade level by the end of elementary school?

A) 1 in 4 B) 1 in 10 C) 1 in 2 D) no chance

The first person to turn in a correct answer (via [email](#)) will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card!

## Meetings, Trainings, and Events

### Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium:

Infancy: Nutrition, Physical Activity, Parenting and Mothers' Experiences  
 Friday, September 25, 2009  
 12:30-4:30 PM EDT  
 Howard Baker Center & Webcast  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville

For more information and to register (event is free, but registration is required), go to:  
<http://nutrition.utk.edu/seminars/HealthyWeightColloquium.html>.

## Featured Resources

- The Center for Literacy Studies, which can be accessed at <http://sig.cls.utk.edu>, provides resources for professionals and parents, many of which can be downloaded at no cost.
- Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" provides free books to children under the age of five, and is available in many areas of the country. Information on availability and registration can be found at <http://www.dollys imaginationlibrary.com>.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)

Send questions, comments, and suggestions to: [center4parenting@utk.edu](mailto:center4parenting@utk.edu) or call 865-974-3922