

File: Parenting

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THE WHITE HOUSE

April 19, 1996

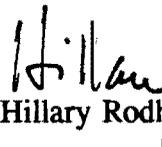
Carolyn Layman Gordon
Centers for Youth and Families
Suite 205
5905 Forest Place
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207-5245

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for sending the information about the parenting program developed by Dr. Marilyn Steele. I hope you know of my genuine appreciation for all the hard work and diligent efforts you and others continue to put forth to make lasting, meaningful differences in the lives of children, youth and families in Arkansas. Your letter and the enclosures are being shared with Carol Rasco, who will be equally interested.

With best personal regards and gratitude, I remain

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Carol Rasco



THE CENTERS

March 26, 1996

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Hillary
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am sorry to be so long in sending you information on the parenting program we discussed during your Little Rock visit, Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities: A Violence Prevention Parent Training Program. The winter months (and flu season) tend to take a toll on my health so we are delighted spring has arrived.

Dr. Marilyn Steele has developed what I consider the most dynamic, affirming, and empowering parent education program in use in our country today. Dr. Steele, herself, is deeply insightful and compelling, and she has created an elegant, far-reaching model for her program. Dr. Steele frames violence and prevention on three levels:

1. Personal violence (drug, alcohol abuse);
2. Interpersonal violence (child/elder abuse, dating violence, domestic violence);
3. Social violence (gangs, delinquency, crime prevention, discrimination, absence of moral values).

The 12-week parenting program teaches many parenting skills and strategies for enhancing family relationships. In addition, Strengthening Families accomplishes goals beyond typical parent education outcomes. The program curriculum and process are affirming and inclusive. Class content emphasizes the cultural and spiritual roots and strengths that all families have. If these strengths are embraced, honored, and actualized, they will sustain family members through life's experiences, whether positive or demanding.

CENTERS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

5905 Forest Place, Suite 205
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207-5245
501 / 666-6833

Joint Commission on Accreditation
of Healthcare Organizations
Member United Way

Hillary Rodham Clinton
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March 26, 1996.

The Parent Center and the Arkansas Department of Health have been actively involved in bringing Dr. Steele's program to Arkansas. The Parent Center is using this program in its work with families in public housing projects; incarcerated mothers; court-referred parents (abuse/neglect cases), and youth (high-risk, delinquency cases); as well as in community based classes. The Health Department is training its health educators who offer the program in communities throughout the state. Together, the two agencies have brought Dr. Steele to Arkansas several times to train more than 80 parent educators, with further training scheduled in the near future. The Parent Center also sponsored Dr. Steele as the speaker for its annual, free parent education community presentation on May 31, 1995.

If you or your staff want additional information on these efforts, the agency contact persons are:

Mary Ann Trulock, Director
The Parent Center
Centers for Youth and Families
5905 Forest Place, Suite 205
Little Rock, AR 72207
(501) 666-6833

Deborah Frazier, Director
Children & Adolescent Health
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 W. Markham, Slot 41
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 661-2321

Both women can provide valuable information on how this effective program is being implemented throughout Arkansas.

I hope you have the opportunity to meet Dr. Steele or hear her speak. She is a dynamic and articulate spokesperson, one who has a clear grasp of the interconnected personal and social issues impacting today's families. I highly recommend her as a trainer, speaker, and witness at relevant congressional hearings. I am sure you will

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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March 26, 1996

find her a compelling advocate for children and families. As we both know, our children are in desperate need of such allies.

I have enclosed some agency and program information which I hope you will find of interest. Thank you, as always, for sharing your voice and vision to better the lives of children and families.

My deepest regards,



Carolyn Layman Gordon

CLG/tr

enc.

cc: Deborah Frazier
Marilyn Steele
Mary Ann Trulock

**STRENGTHENING MULTI-ETHNIC
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES:
A VIOLENCE PREVENTION PARENT TRAINING PROGRAM**

Developed By:
MARILYN L. STEELE, PH.D.

Contributing Author:
MARILYN K. MARIGNA, MSW

In Collaboration with:
Jerry Tello, MA, and Ronald F. Johnson, BA

The ***Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities: A Violence Prevention Parent Training Program (STRENGTHENING PROGRAM)*** is designed as a model for assisting parents of various ethnic and cultural groups to raise violence free children. The ***STRENGTHENING PROGRAM*** recognizes the need for our children to become ethnically and culturally proficient before they can be empowered to resist tendencies to be violent against self (drugs) and others (gangs, crime, family violence). Preliminary data suggests that the Program has been effective with many different ethnic and cultural groups. This model has been shown to enhance the parent/child relationship, and both parent and child ability to express and control emotions as well as behavior. Parents indicate an increased sense of competence in raising violence free children cross cultural lines.

The ***STRENGTHENING PROGRAM*** addresses violence prevention from a variety of strategies, i.e. Ethnic and Cultural Roots, the Parent-Child Relationship, Parent Modeling (Family and Community), and Parent Teaching (Relationships, Discipline and Society). This Model focuses on helping parents and children express emotions, develop empathy, manage anger, and enhance the life skills necessary for functioning in today's society. The program also integrates positive discipline approaches as a vehicle for fostering high self-esteem, self-discipline and social competence in children.

The ***STRENGTHENING PROGRAM*** emphasizes the importance of community involvement by parents and a need for responsive coordinated efforts by the major socializing agents of children, i.e. church, school, family, community, and media. Parents are provided with a mechanism to connect with community resources and encouraged to form a multi-ethnic parent community action group to address social, political and economic issues related to violence prevention.

There is an Orientation Session and twelve weekly three-hour sessions which are taught in consecutive weeks. The curriculum is designed to address the needs of parents, families, and communities with children between the ages of 3 and 18. This Program uses a variety of teaching practices: modeling, role-play, lecture, discussion and follow-up activities. The Program also includes an evaluation procedure that can be used to determine program effectiveness for individual participants as well as agencies and communities.

Each group is facilitated by a Certified Instructor. Certification must be obtained by participation in a Facilitator Training Workshop. For additional information, please contact Dr. Marilyn Steele (213) 936-0343 (Consulting and Clinical Services, 1220 S. Sierra Bonita Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019).

Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities

Program Components

I. Cultural /Spiritual Focus

- Validate values. Engage participants. Not until every culture is celebrated will there be peace among groups. Culture, values, and traditions give direction/focus and a sense of responsibility to family, community, ancestors, and unborn generations.
- Look at different stories from participants' experiences . . . family expectations . . . values passed on from past generations . . . examples of how individuals were reared. Try to connect to positive aspects of each participant's upbringing.
- Ask parents to bring 2 items to share ethnicity with the group. Each week leave parents with "think" questions, e.g., "How do you notice your child imitating your behavior? Think about your relationship with your parents growing up - - How does it make you feel?"
- Point out that we can change cycles.

II. Rites of Passage

Present information in the following 10 areas:

1. The *Personal Rite of Passage* addresses the areas of self esteem, building and maintaining connections with positive adult role models, creating visions for self, family, and community.
2. The *Spiritual Rite of Passage* addresses the areas of developing a relationship with the Greater Spirit, the development of pro-social goals, morals, values, courage, and unconditional love.
3. The *Physical Rite of Passage* addresses understanding the importance of sexual responsibility, diet, nutrition, exercise, and avoidance of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

4. The *Mental Rite of Passage* focuses on the importance of the acquisition of knowledge, school attendance, studying, test taking, and the development of left and right brain thinking skills.
5. The *Cultural Rite of Passage* addresses the areas of awareness of each cultural/ethnic group, and the maintenance of rituals, ceremonies, custom, and traditions which carry the values of each particular culture from one generation to the next.
6. The *Historical Rite of Passage* addresses the contributions that various ethnic groups have made to world history, maintaining relationships with the elderly, and making plans for the further development of each ethnic community.
7. The *Emotional Rite of Passage* addresses the development of empathy, anger management, impulse control, feeling vocabulary, and stress management.
8. The *Economic Rite of Passage* emphasizes the establishment of a sound economic base. The specific areas that are addressed are managing money, obtaining a job, career development, and recycling dollars.
9. The *Social Rite of Passage* addresses the development of leadership skills, organizing for specific social problems, assisting less fortunate members of the community, and defining and utilizing community resources.
10. The *Political Rite of Passage* facilitates an understanding of the importance of participation in the political process, how the political system operates, and knowledge of current elected officials and their stance on key issues which directly affect the community.

Parents are never forced to accept the points presented in any of the *Rites of Passage* areas. The general process used by the facilitator is to present the information and to ask parents to discuss how much emphasis was placed on each of these areas when they were growing up. Parents are then encouraged to discuss the importance of each area in assisting our children to develop the tools and skills that will help them to function successfully as adults and to achieve violence free lifestyles.

III. Enhancing Relationships

The relationship between a positive parent/child relationship and the parent's ability to teach ("right from wrong", how to positively interact with others, and social competence) is stressed continuously in parent education. The activities presented in the Strengthening Program assist parents in strengthening their parent/child relationships in a variety of ways:

- Special Time - - Time spent without questions, directions, or criticisms with each child, each day.
- Unique Characteristics - - Parents think through the individual characteristics of each of their children and make a commitment to enhance each child's self-esteem by enhancing the child's understanding and development of unique characteristics.
- Temperament - - Provides parents with information in the area of temperamental styles. Encourages parents to look at the "match" between their own temperamental styles and those of their children, and to consider the impact that these "matches" have on their relationship.
- Circle of Interdependence - - Parents help their children develop a circle of people that they can rely on for guidance and support.
- Developmental Information - - Parents receive information on how development influences child behavior and attitudes. Parents learn techniques that will prepare them to "respond" to their children's attitudes and behaviors instead of "react" to them.

IV. Positive Discipline

Once it is understood that "discipline equals teaching", the following techniques fall into three basic categories:

- Increasing Respectful Behavior
 - Parent Modeling
 - Clear Instructions
 - Consequences and Behavior
 - Ignoring/Praise
 - First/Then
- Decreasing Disrespectful Behavior
 - Confrontation and Logical Consequences
 - Family Rule Discussions
 - Time Out
 - Mild Punishment
- Parent and Child Choices
 - Incentives
 - Family Contracts

V. Parent/Community Involvement

A key factor in the prevention of violence is the issue of community involvement and the role parents can play in the area of affecting social policy. The Strengthening Program incorporates specific activities that encourage participants to connect with community resources.

- Community Speakers
- Community Action Council
- Community Connections
- Parent Sharing
- People as Resources
- Commit to a Plan of Action

VI. Notes:

SUGGESTED READING

- Brazelton, T. Berry. (1984). To Listen to a Child. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.
- Christophersen, Edward, R. (1988). Little People (3rd ed.). Kansas City, Missouri: Westport Publishers.
- Clark, Lynn. (1985). SOS! Help for Parents. Bowling Green, Kentucky: Parents Press.
- Dinkmeyer, Don and McKay, Gary D. (1976). The Parents Handbook. Circle Pines, Minnesota: American Guidance Service.
- Dinkmeyer, Don Sr., McKay, Gary D. and Dinkmeyer, James S. (1989). Parenting Young Children. Circle Pines, Minnesota: American Guidance Service.
- Dodson, Fitzhugh. (1987). How to Discipline with Love. New York: New American Library.
- Dreikurs, Rudolf. (1964). Children: The Challenge. New York: Penguin Group.
- Faber, Adele and Mazlish, Elaine. (1976). How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk. New York: Avon Books.
- Ginott, Haim. (1969). Between Parent and Child. New York: Avon.
- Glenn, H. Stephen, & Nelsen, Jane. (1989). Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World. Rocklin, CA: Prima Publishing Company.
- Lerman, Saf. (1984). Responsive Parenting. Circle Pines, Minnesota: American Guidance Service.
- Wyckoff, Jerry and Unell, Barbara C. (1984). Discipline Without Shouting or Spanking. Deephaven, Minnesota: Meadowbrook Books.
- Patterson, Gerald, R. (1975). Families. Champaign, Illinois: Research Press.
- Patterson, Gerald, R. (1980). Living with Children. Champaign, Illinois: Research Press.

You are invited to use The Parent Center lending library!

5905 Forest Place, Suite 205
Little Rock, AR 72207
666-6833

TIME FOR MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

JANUARY 9-30
Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
4 Sessions
\$25 per person (\$27 after 2/5/96)
\$35 per couple (\$37 after 2/5/96)
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 207

FOR: Married couples, individuals working with married couples and couples contemplating marriage.

A strong marriage is the foundation of a loving family. This workshop will address topics such as:

- Communication
- Positive Conflict
- Emotional Intimacy
- Physical Intimacy
- Developing a Shared Parenting Approach

GROWING THROUGH DIVORCE

JANUARY 17-FEBRUARY 28
(no class on 2/14)
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
6 Sessions
No Charge
Program is underwritten by the Junior League of Little Rock and Rally's of Central Arkansas
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Woodlawn at Monroe
Repeat: April 3-May 8

FOR: Children grades K-2 and children grades 3-6 with corresponding parents' group.

Divorce can be confusing for children. These groups focus on discussion and skills building to give kids the tools and insight to work through divorce-related challenges.

Together group members will:

- Strengthen their communication skills
- Learn about feelings and self-control
- Practice problem solving and deal with anger
- Learn to handle emotionally challenging situations
- Build self-esteem



ACTIVE PARENTING TODAY

JANUARY 25-MARCH 28
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
10 Sessions
\$50.00 per person (\$52.00 after 1/24/96)
\$60.00 per couple (\$62.00 after 1/24/96)
\$12.50 textbook
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 207
Repeat: July 11-September 12

FOR: Parents and other individuals who work with children 3 through the teen years.

Being a parent is the most significant responsibility people may ever have during their lifetime, yet we receive more instruction on driving a car than raising children. We are proud to offer in our community **Active Parenting Today**, a new and updated version of the parenting program that has been used by over one million parents and has been featured on AETN. Topics covered are:

- The Purpose of Parenting
- Instilling Courage and Self-Esteem
- Understanding Your Child
- Developing Responsibility
- Winning Cooperation
- Family Meetings and Decision Making



RESPONSIVE PARENTING

FEBRUARY 2-16
Fridays, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
3 Sessions
\$15 per person (\$17 after 2/1/96)
\$20 per couple (\$22 after 2/1/96)
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Woodlawn at Monroe

Parenting isn't easy for anyone. It is a difficult, demanding and challenging job—one that requires effort, stamina and devotion. Yet, in giving we also receive. During the three sessions together, participants will discuss the following topics from Saf Lerman's *Responsive Parenting*:

- Helping Children as They Grow
- Helping Children Help Themselves
- Building a Child's Positive Self-Image



POSITIVE DISCIPLINE FOR CHILDREN 2 - 6 YEARS

MARCH 1-15
Fridays, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
3 Sessions
\$15 per person (\$17 after 4/30/96)
\$20 per couple (\$22 after 4/30/96)
Pleasant Valley Church of Christ
10900 N. Rodney Parham Rd.

FOR: Parents and individuals who work with children from 2-6 years of age.

During the first 5 years of life, children change rapidly and dramatically. You are your child's first and most influential teacher. Positive discipline involves teaching the child that he/she is valued, that people are trustworthy, that life has limits and that problem-solving can be fun! Issues addressed will include:

- Stages of development
- Negative methods: What they are and why they are not helpful
- Identifying the goals of behavior
- 32 positive approaches to discipline
- Positive ways to express anger



BABY AND ME (A BRING-YOUR-BABY CLASS)

MARCH 2-16
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12 noon
3 Sessions
\$15 per person (\$17 after 3/1/96)
\$20 per couple (\$22 after 3/1/96)
First United Methodist Church
6701 J.F.K. Blvd., NLR
Repeat: June 1-15
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 207

FOR: Parents and caregivers of infants (newborns to pre-toddlers)

Babies learn about the world at an incredible rate in their first year of life. Providing your baby with an environment and activities that help them learn and make learning fun benefits your child and yourself. Bring your baby to this educational group to learn more about:

- Your baby's physical, mental, emotional and social development
- Environments that are safe and encourage learning
- Activities for you to share with your baby that stimulate development while strengthening the bond between parent and child

STEP/TEEN (SYSTEMATIC TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS)

APRIL 2-30
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
5 Sessions
\$35 per person (\$37 after 4/1/96)
\$45 per couple (\$47 after 4/1/96)
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 205

FOR: Parents and individuals who work with junior and senior high youth.

Do you wonder why your attempts to give advice to your teen always end in a hassle? STEP/TEEN addresses the tough challenges of raising teens. It will help parents understand why teens misbehave and learn how to build a family relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation. You'll answer questions such as:

- How can I keep my teen away from the drug scene?
- When should parents share responsibility for homework?
- What signals serious teen depression?



PASE (PARENTS AS SEX EDUCATORS)

APRIL 9-APRIL 30
Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
4 Sessions
\$30 per person (\$32 after 4/8/96)
\$40 per couple (\$42 after 4/8/96)
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 207

FOR: Parents and caregivers of children 0-18 years of age

Starting at birth, children learn both attitudes and information about sex. You are the single most influential "sex education" teacher your child will have. This workshop will help parents become more comfortable in teaching young people to:

- Developing their own values
- Increase their self-esteem, i.e. understand their obligations and responsibilities to themselves
- Understand their obligations and responsibilities to others
- Develop insights concerning human relationships with members of both genders
- Learn the skills of communication, decision-making, assertiveness and peer refusal



STRENGTHENING STEPFAMILIES

APRIL 11-MAY 9
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
5 Sessions
\$35 per person (\$37 after 4/10/96)
\$45 per couple (\$47 after 4/10/96)
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 205

FOR: Stepparents and church, school or social service counselors

This program can help stepparents turn obstacles into opportunities. It helps stepfamilies deal with the struggles and disappointments that occur because of unrealistic expectations, undeveloped skills, and unresolved grieving. It addresses such vital topics as:

- Pitfalls and potentials of stepfamily living
- Dealing with anger and guilt
- Major decisions about money, more children and living arrangements
- Discipline and roles
- Sexuality



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES: A VIOLENCE PREVENTION PARENT TRAINING PROGRAM

APRIL 18-JUNE 20
Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
10 Sessions
\$50 per person (\$52 after 4/17/96)
\$60 per couple (\$62 after 4/17/96)
\$16.50 textbook
The Parent Center
5905 Forest Place, Suite 207

FOR: Parents and other individuals who work with children 3-18 years

All individuals have ethnic and cultural backgrounds that play an important role in shaping who they are and will become. This program addresses parenting skills and violence prevention using a variety of strategies:

- Ethnic and cultural roots
- The parent-child relationship
- Parent/adult modeling
- Parent teaching (relationships, discipline and society)
- Positive discipline skills

BROWN BAG LUNCHES WITH THE DYSLEXIA TRAINING CENTER

JANUARY 12, MARCH 8 & MAY 10
Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 1 Session Each
 Free (Registration is required. Call 375-0782 to register or for more information.)
 The Parent Center
 5905 Forest Place, Suite 207

FOR: Parents and others who work with children with learning differences

January 12: Spelling 101: Understanding and Helping Your Poor Speller

- Strategies you can use with your child to improve his/her performance on weekly spelling tests

March 8: Before and After the Evaluation: A Parent's Perspective

- How to get your child evaluated for a learning difference and what to do when you get the results

May 10: Unscrambling the Myths of Dyslexia

- What is Dyslexia
- How can I tell if my child is at risk for reading failure?
- How serious is it?
- What works and doesn't work?



REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out this form and return with full payment. Make checks payable to: Centers for Youth and Families. Enrollment is limited. Advance Registration Required.

WORKSHOP TITLES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING PRICE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Limited scholarships are available.

Please mail to:
 THE PARENT CENTER/COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIVISION
 ATTN: WORKSHOP REGISTRATION
 5905 FOREST PLACE, SUITE 205 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207

Call the Family Life Education Coordinator (666-6833) for more information on workshops or for information on presenting/developing workshops for businesses, industries, schools, churches, conferences, and the general public.



Sponsored in part by:

Carolyn Layman
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 Little Rock, AR 72205

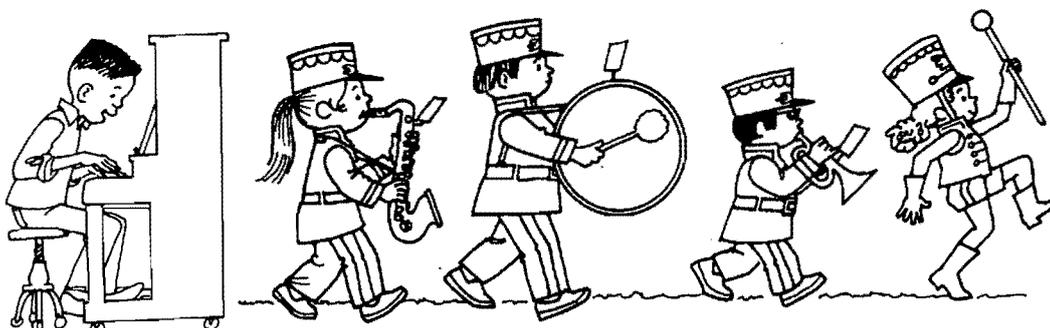
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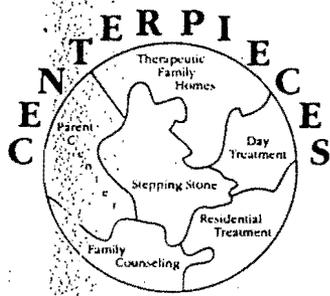


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THE PARENT CENTER

Winter/Spring Workshop Schedule 1996





CENTERS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Staff Newsletter

Volume 8

July 1995

Number 7

Richard's Remarks



I will never forget the orientation which I received when I became a part-time employee of Sears and Roebuck Co. over thirty years ago. I worked in the hardware department and the major items sold in the department were Craftsman Tools which were sold with a lifetime guarantee.

All of the salespeople in the department were trained to provide a new item to any customer returning a broken Craftsman Tool... regardless of how it got broken even if it appeared to the salesperson to have been abused.

We were told "the customer is always right".

I know that it is still difficult for most of us to think of the families, parents and/or young people we are here to serve as "customers". However, whether we call them clients, customers or consumers, they are the reason we are here and without them we would all be pretty useless.

Still, from time to time I get reports from parents or referral sources indicating that they feel that they have been treated unprofessionally or responded to in ways which cause them to feel that Centers' staff view them with less than a positive attitude.

You and I know that the customer/client is not always right. They are, however, always the customer/client, and we are always here for the purpose of serving them.

We may not be able to give them what they want or respond to their every expectation in the way they would like...but, we can be courteous...we can go the extra mile to be understanding...we can bite our tongue and be polite even though we may feel like being just as mean and unreasonable as the customer/client is being.

Quality at the Centers is your business and it is my business. Quality means meeting or exceeding the customers'/clients' expectations. Quality means smiling and saying "thank you" when we might rather suggest to someone that they drop dead. Quality means remembering why we are here and that our customers and clients do have other places they can go to get the service we are here to provide.

It is part of our job...it is part of my job, to do everything we can to meet our customers' expectations, even when they may seem unreasonable at the moment.

It is also part of our job to help each other to be more aware of our tone of voice, our facial expressions and the numerous other ways our actions might speak louder than our words when we are communicating with parents, DCFS caseworkers, school officials, police officers, and even angry, defiant teen-agers.

All of these people are our customers...our consumers, and as members of the staff of an organization that is determined to become a "quality" organization we must always be friendly, polite, courteous and thoughtful when we interact with them. I hope that you will join me and your colleagues in making the commitment to customer/client satisfaction that must be the hallmark of any organization that aspires to being a "quality" organization.



STEELE PRESENTS AT CENTERS

by Mary Ann Trulock

Marilyn Steele, Ph.D., nationally recognized parent educator and executive director of Consulting and Clinical Services in Los Angeles, was in Little Rock, May 30-June 4. Her visit and training were sponsored by Centers for Youth and Families Parent Center Division. Marilyn is the co-author of Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities: A Violence Prevention Parent Training Program.

The first night of her visit, she was the guest of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church members who are currently enrolled in Steele's 13-week parent education curriculum. These classes are sponsored by the Parent Center and facilitated by Clarice Miller and Mary Ann Trulock. The class members hosted a cook-out in honor of Marilyn at the home of Drs. Charles and Vye Watson on Hickory Creek Circle.

May 31, Marilyn was a special guest at the Centers' Volunteer Luncheon. That evening she presented a 2-hour lecture on Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities held at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center, and underwritten by Rally's of Central Arkansas and St. Vincent.

June 1-3, Marilyn trained 22 people to be certified as facilitators for this curriculum. Centers for Youth and Families employees and volunteers receiving this training/certification are: **Margaret Morgan-Cohen, Rosiland Hunter, Susan Santoro, Sharon Long, Ti Roher, Mary Matthews, Mary Lou Rasco**; other participants came from Central Arkansas and around the state, representing Health Department, Little Rock School District, New Futures, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Exchange Clubs Child Abuse Prevention Center (Memphis), West Memphis Public Schools and Newton County Resource Council.

Friday night, June 2, Marilyn was honored by the Parent Center Advisory Group and Parent Center staff with a reception in the home of **Mary Lou and Terry Rasco**. **Mary Lou** is chairperson of the Parent Center Advisory Group. Other Advisory Group members attending were **Clarice Miller, Ti Roher, Jim Gattis and Ellison Cockrill**, Centers for Youth and Families Board chair. Centers staff attending were **Richard Hill, Pam Sodman, Marice Gardner, Marilyn Fobbs, Katherine Donald, Charlotte Jackson, Sharon Long, Mary Ann Trulock and Susan Santoro**. Others attending were members of the Facilitator Training workshop, members of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church class, and other community guests.

A special presentation was made that evening to **Jim Gattis** with love and deep appreciation for his leadership and support. **Jim** was given a framed photograph by Artist Denice Martin who is also a Parent Center volunteer in the Parenting from Prison program. Another 3-day Facilitator Training Workshop led by **Marilyn Steele** is scheduled for September 21-23.

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