

SUPPORT RT

Kansas Children's Service League

Lines

A newsletter for the Parents Helping Parents Support Group Program

Spring 2006

Stuff I Need To Remember

(from Divorceinfo.com website)

I need to remember that stuff is better undone than half done.

I need to remember the growing irrelevance of geography.

I need to remember that yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift -- that's why we call it the present.

I need to remember that I can do anything I want to if I'm willing to pay the price.

I need to remember to pray less for God to bless my work and more to be part of the work God is blessing.

I need to remember the Prayer of St. Francis.

I need to remember that there are two ways to be rich: (1) have more; (2) want less.

I need to remember that I have a focused sense of my own personal ministry, and that lots of other good people don't, and that's okay.

I need to remember to eat only when I'm hungry and to stop when I'm not.

I need to remember that the finest gift I can give someone is to help them discover their gift and put it to work.

2005 Year in Review for Parents Helping Parents/ Kinship Support

January and February have come and gone, "boy, when you're having fun..." Let's take a moment to recap 2005.

- There were 24 support groups during this past year, with some groups remaining active and others choosing to become inactive.
- There were 334 parents in our support groups this past year.
- The PHP/Kinship Support Groups impacted 462 children.
- B.J. Gore's role was expanded to establishing Resource Family Support Groups and Kinship Navigator Support Services in Wichita.

Thanks for your support!

My Normal is Not Your Normal

By Bridget James, Minneola, KS

Being “scared” has become more familiar to me than I ever wanted. As a mother we all know the unwritten code of conduct that we and our children are supposed to follow, simply because society expects everyone to conform. As parents we are trying to figure out what we are ‘doing wrong’ or ‘what else’ we need to do for our children and families to blend into society.

We hear from society that:

1. Our children are acting in a way that is not socially acceptable.
2. It must be the parents’ fault. They are always the first to blame.
3. Discipline is all that the child needs.

From birth my son was very determined, a good baby with a very strong will. With each year he grew more challenging to our everyday life. Naturally, I chalked it up to my lack of parenting skills. By the time my son was 8 we had many encounters with school personnel, counselors, and anyone else who deemed it necessary to give advice. Depressed does not even begin to describe my despair.

I made the decision to seek help from clinical specialists. Through the services I received from these professionals, my son is now getting straight A’s in school and he has friends. Best of all Cody is who he has always wanted to be.

What helped me more than mere words, was interacting with other parents that had difficulties, and allowing my family to be different. But for all of the other parents like myself, the most important lesson we must remember is that my normal is not your normal, nor anyone else’s normal.

Who is Our Advisory Council?

Sharla Pfeffer
Regional Volunteer Facilitator
Topeka

Virginia Sumaya
Regional Volunteer Facilitator
Dodge City

Sharon Dobzadeh
Volunteer Facilitator
Topeka

Bridget James
Volunteer Facilitator
Minneola



SAVE THE DATE
Kick-off to National Volunteer Appreciation Week
Saturday, April 22, 1- 4 p.m.
1365 N. Custer, Wichita, KS
All support group facilitators are invited!

A BIG THANKS!

To Grandparents and Caregivers for traveling to Topeka and testifying for the *Grandparents As Caregivers bill* on January 25th.