Education

Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

How do we handle the difficult child? No one knows for sure what it is that makes one child more "impossible" than another. Out of six children, five may be a cinch to raise, and one will give the parents fits. All flowers in a garden do not bloom alike. It is the same with children. It may be that difficult children are just more sensitive to happenings around themselves and thus become more vulnerable. This sensitivity may be caused by some organic damage or physical handicap, some of which may be obvious and some may not.

If you have a difficult child, the first thing to do is to be sure that the child has a complete physical examination and have any organic problems that exist corrected.

If there are no organic problems, or if the child remains hard to handle despite medical attention to any physical deficiencies, one has to find ways to contend with the youngster's unpleasant behavior. The parents have to be realistic. Children cannot be made over nor can their parents. Don't set impossible goals at great costs to yourselves. Don't try to do the impossible. Don't become anxious and resentful. This usually results in making a bad situation worse. Don't try to do too much. There may be physical and/or mental limitations that prevent adjustment or improvement beyond a reasonable point. Parents must be careful not to compare their difficult youngster with one who is better endowed physically or mentally. We must be careful that we are not trying to "re-do" the child without regard for his/her basic personality.

We must respect our children's limitations. We must also respect our own limitations. We must be honest with ourselves. Reduce our expectations and reassess our goals so that they match the limits of our children's capabilities. Go slow. We might ask ourselves these questions: Can we relate to the difficult child without getting too uptight to make rational decisions? Can we control our impatience if our children do not respond immediately the way we want them to? Do we feel comfortable going along with a technique agreed upon by our spouses and ourselves? Are our skins thick enough to shrug off our children's unreasonable attitudes? Do we live by the examples we choose to set for our children's behavior? Can we put up with dirty looks and worse from friends and neighbors without penalizing our children for "offending" them. Have we begun to feel a little less irritable and a bit more understanding toward our children? Are we really ready to try new techniques, not just to help our children, but also for our own peace of mind? Do we really believe that we are better parents than our children's behavior seems to give us credit for?

We may not be able to reply "yes" to all of these questions, but if we can say "yes" to half of them, we are already in command and should eventually be successful. By being able to answer "yes" to half of these questions, we already have a fairly good idea of our weaknesses and strenghths. Cultivate the qualities we need to deal more easily with our difficult children.

Once we abandon our unrealistic expectations of ourselves and of our children, we automatically raise our tolerance levels. When this is done, we can take our time in trying to bring about permanent change and grow a thick enough skin to absorb the punishment, criticism, and ingratitude that often are the prices of parenthood.

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

From the Office of AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & MINORITY AFFAIRS

GET YOUR COMPUTOR CAREER STARTED AT CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BY JOE A. GRIFFITH

If you are interested in becoming a part of the computor industry, but do not feel that you have the ability or the intelligence to understand those complicated machines with all their intricate circuitry, you could be right; however, there is also the possibility that you are mistaken.

First, let's clear up some misconceptions about the requirements or prerequisites to getting started in the computer or data processing field. Indeed, a great many would-be computer students stop their progress toward a promising career before they even get started, because they have the mistaken notion that if you are going to work with computers you have to be brilliant. This is not true unless you are going to be a computer engineer or computer scientist.

However, if you want to be a computer programmer or computer operator, it is not necessary to have a vast background in math and science.

Courses in algebra, statistics, and an introductory course in logic would prove to be helpful, however, as you pursue a career in computers. Personal attributes would include patience, a high tolerance level, and a determined drive toward success. Programming a computer is very time consuming; designing, writing, and debugging a computer program could take hours, days or even longer. Combine those personal characteristics with a good training program and you will be ready to meet the demands of business and industry.

Where, then, can you get the proper training, gain the necessary skills, and obtain the knowledge you will need to get a job in data processing? Where do you start your program? There are a variety of answers to this question.

However, I am going to tell you about a program that I know to be an excellent one for the person interested in becoming a computer programmer; that is the data processing program at Clark County Community College. Why? First, there are some excellent instructors teaching this program. Most of them are currently working in the field while they teach part-time at the College. And because they are out in the field working, they are aware of the constant changes in the programming methods that occur, which help them, in turn, to teach their students about the state of the art, the latest methods in data processing.

These instructors explain in the subject matter clearly and concisely so that the students get a thorough understanding of what computers can do. They take a personal interest in the students' work. They help motivate the student to want to learn as much about computers as they are able to absorb.

In short, study for your computer career at Clark County Community. When you finish your program and get your degree, you are well prepared to go to work in the field of data processing. At the College, you get more than just a degree to go out and get a job; you get a quality education which will be with you for the rest of your life. And, if later on you decide that you want to continue your education at a four year school, your first two years are completed.

A "Micro-mini Spring Term" has been added t the spring schedule at Clark County Community College (CCCC). Clases are:

Survey el Electronics and Electronics I...April 12 through June 6.

Business Law II, Personel Supervision, and Women in Management...April 15 through May 14.

Principles of Sociology and Survey of Data Processing...April 22 through May 21.

Registration is being held on the CCCC Cheyenne Campus Monday through Thursday form 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to regular classroom instruction, over 50 clases are available in the Open Lab, which is a self-paced course of study. Instructional staff is always available to help students, and students may take up to one year to complete classes. Currently, classes available in the Open Lab are accounting, math, office administration and management, and typing.

For further information, consult the current spring schedule or call 643-6060 ext. 229.