

Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

The self-concept of the individual is one of the single most important factors of any individual. Studies have shown that if a person perceives himself as being somebody, and he perceives that others think of him as a person of worth, he will prob-

ably be successful in school.

Parents have the first and foremost responsibility for the development of an individual's feeling of self-worth or his self-concept. It is the parents who get the first chance at instilling within the child the



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knowledge that he is a person with dignity and self-worth. This responsibility may sometimes become overwhelming, and the parents may require help in the development of a positive self-concept for their children. Help may come from the church, the school, and from other community agencies.

In order to aid in the improvement of the child's concept of himself, the parents, too must feel that they are persons of worth. The parents' feelings about themselves and their plight in American society may be reflected in the actions of their children at school. If the self-concepts of the parents and the children are positive, the children will usually reflect this in their behavior in school. The reverse is also true.

The teacher's image or self-concept is also extremely important. The teacher's feelings about himself are usually translated into his feelings toward the children in his/her classroom. This concept manifests itself in classroom behavior that may be good or bad for the children depending upon the side of the spectrum in which the teacher feels himself/herself caught up.

Children usually learn more, behave better, and are happier in classrooms where the teacher feels that he/she is a person of worth.

Several factors may tend to inflate or depress the self-concept of the teacher. Classroom size, paperwork, classroom assignment, discipline problems, parental attitudes, colleague attitudes, school evaluations, community attitudes which sometimes appear to project the teacher as somewhat of a para-professional, and salary all may affect the self-concept of the teacher.

If we subscribe to the notion that a positive self-concept is important in the development of educational power for any child, and especially for the Black child, then a poor self-concept can result in lack of motiva-

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By Carolyn Oats, Management Assistant I

I became acquainted with Clark County Community College when it was much like a small family facility on So. Main St. in 1972. At the time, I was a Freshman in college and welcomed the warmth and concern shown me as a new student of the college. The quality of instruction present in those days was no less superior. High standards were set from the start and have progressed down thru the years. CCCC had adapted a No Fail Policy which in many ways relieved unnecessary pressure from the student to perform at their maximum mental capacity. For the first time in the history of the college, effective Fall Semester 1983, the "F" grade was assigned to students who failed to complete required course work satisfactorily.

Since those early years, the facility has grown with the capability to serve adequately, a full-time enrollment of 12,500 students. One would assume that along with such growth would come an impersonal relationship between the Administration / Faculty and students. Quite to the contrary, the institu-

tion, underachievement, or unproductive conduct.

If the Black child has not developed a negative self-concept before attending school, care must be taken to assure that he/she does not develop one because of the structure of learning experiences engaged in by some schools. It is of paramount importance that schools should work to help create and maintain a positive self-concept in each child. School experiences can either reinforce the positive self-concept possibly acquired from the environment or help to develop or influence a negative self-concept.

Clinical psychologists have often observed that a child's success in the skill subjects of school such as reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, etc., are directly related to a child's ideas about himself.

Education indeed is power!

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tion, underachievement, or unproductive conduct.

Since I am also a student majoring in Business Administration, she is extra special to know. Because I've been both student and employee, I am capable of viewing the college objectively from both points of view. When you work around a group of



Carolyn Oats

tion has maintained a personal touch and the ability to show genuine concern for its students while keeping the respect and reputation of a top quality educational institution and providing various other services to assist the students beyond the classroom setting.

Presently, I am Management Assistant I to the Business Division Director, Mary I. Williams. Ms. Williams is the type of Director who encourages her personnel to take classes which will enhance their abilities, capabilities, flexibility, and self-worth. I'm sure she believes that you are a reflection of the people you surround yourself with; at any rate, if you are around her for any length of time, you are encouraged to perform at peak perfection. She is a reservoir of Business Knowledge and

individuals whose responsibilities, desires, and goals are not only to receive knowledge but to effectively impart it, one can hardly help, or does not care to resist the air generated throughout the college, motivating you to strive toward higher educational purposes, dressing the mind as well as the body and thereby achieving one's potential.

If you are a senior in high school, you might want to check into our Early Studies Program to get a head start on your career future.

If you are looking for advancement in your present career or maybe you have become tired of your present career and would like a change . . . Clark County Community College offers excellent training programs in the areas of Accounting,

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