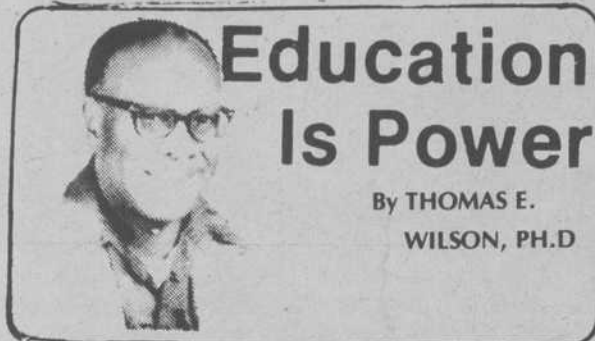


Education



Education Is Power

By THOMAS E. WILSON, PH.D

This is an open letter to Black parents. It is hoped that parents who read it will remember that not too many years ago, they too were children.

Dear Parents:

Kids aren't always "nice." Some children may have physical defects that bother them socially; others may be retarded or emotionally disturbed; most have none of these problems, but still do some strange and puzzling things. There isn't a so-called "normal" child who goes by the book all of the time. Somewhere along the line of growing up, every child behaves in a peculiar fashion.

We, as parents, want to love our children, but there are times when we may not be able to express that love. There is

nothing badly wrong with that. We have feelings, too. Even if we can't show love, we can show understanding. That's what love is all about, and every child knows it.

Every time we hear or read about some expert or other recommending that when kids become too hard to handle parents should "seek professional help," we have to wonder: Where do we find such help? Can we wait long enough to get that help? Can we afford it?

We are all for professional help when absolutely necessary. But such help is hard to find and is usually very expensive. Treatment also takes time. Then, too, some children may need residential care. That means going away and

good facilities are even harder to find and more expensive.

Then, what does a parent do who can't find such help, or can't afford it? What is to be done if there is a long waiting list and help is desperately needed now? We must be realistic. We may have no alternative but to manage by ourselves. We feel that parents can manage the "impossible" child at home if they know what they are doing and how much they are capable of doing. Some parents can do more than others and/or in less time. We should assess our parental goals and capabilities and seek the aid of the Black churches or reliable relatives such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc., to help us manage our children.

"Put the parent back in the driver's seat" is a saying that we often see on television. One question: When did we, as parents, get out of the driver's seat? We believe that every child wants the parent in the driver's seat, but will push the parent as far as he/she can.

Parents are capable of doing something to make the child easier to live with, but first it is im-

portant to relieve the parents' tensions and feelings of inadequacy. Children are not helped when parents are indicted for their (the children's) behavior. If parents are blamed for the way children turn out, they will take out their resentment on the children. This means that the whole family will have more problems than ever. If parents understand that they, too, are human, they will be able to manage their children.

Attitudes affect a child much more than words. Words are important, but knowing how to use them is even more important.

We, as parents, must feel as if we are somebodies in order to make our children feel as if they are somebodies. Every child needs self-discipline if he is to grow up as an emotionally healthy and self-sufficient individual. It is impossible to instill these qualities in a child if we as parents go around feeling sorry for ourselves if our children haven't turned out the way we wanted them to, or if we blame ourselves and feel ashamed because sometimes we can't stand our children.

CCCC New Nursing Instructor



Denise M. Ogletree-Williams

Denise M. Ogletree-Williams has joined the faculty of the Clark County Community College as an instructor in the Practical Nursing Program according to Dr. Paul E. Meacham, CCCC President.

Ogletree-Williams received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland and her Masters Degree in Education from the University of

Louisville in the field of Vocational and Community Counseling. Her professional experiences include a stint as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and responsibilities for nursing in neo-natal nursery and intensive care units.

A member of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society for nursing, and the American Nursing Association,

Remember some kids are harder to raise than others. Nobody knows exactly why. We must not blame ourselves. We must give ourselves the benefit of the doubt. Don't be afraid to use authority, but temper it with understanding. There are times when a good swat will do a child

more good than a lecture or deprivation of a privilege or trying to reason with him/her.

Good luck, Black parents. We need it. Our children will not be able to function in these United States without some form of self-discipline.

Edna O'Neal gets state honor

Edna J. O'Neal, a home economics teacher at Rancho High School, has been named this year's Nevada Home Economics Teacher of the Year.

The honor is part of the National Home Economics Teacher of the Year competition.

O'Neal created a program providing students

with an understanding of aging and the needs of senior citizens. Students conduct library research and arrange panel discussions with elderly citizens in the Las Vegas area.

The national award is sponsored by the 30,000-member American Home Economics Association and Chesebrough-Pond's Inc.



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