"CHERISHED MOMENTS" COLUMN
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"CHERISHED MOMENTS"
The "Cherished Moments" column is written by Cathy L. Graham, County Extension Director with the Scotland County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension. The following column will provide information to improve relationships between adults and children. "Cherished Moments" is dedicated to the many adults (parents, teachers, caregivers, volunteers, educators) who strive to grow and to the children who will surely benefit.

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man - Unknown

Raising Moral Children

Of all the parts of parenting, no part is as important as raising moral children with good values. We may hope our children are good athletes, achieve in school, are artistically talented, or good looking, but nothing is as important as their values and moral behavior. If our children are not honest, self-disciplined, kind, hard-working people, then their humanity is diminished. But what does it mean to say our children have good values ... it means children are:

- Honest, trustworthy, faithful, loyal, hard-working, responsible, and self-disciplined
- Kind, with concern for their fellow human beings; independent, able to resist the pressures of the crowd
- Generous, giving, altruistic, loving, empathic, sensitive, tolerant, friendly, helpful, cheerful, and gentle
- Concerned for justice, respectful of legitimate authority, rules, and laws
- Respectful of themselves and the rights of others; respectful of life, property, nature, elders, and parents
- Courteous, polite, well-mannered, fair in work and play
- Understanding, merciful, and forgiving and know the uselessness of holding a grudge
- Service-oriented, contributing to family, friends, community, country, religious organizations, and school
- Courageous, peaceful, calm, and serene

(more)
What gets in the way of parents raising children with good values? Here are a few roadblocks parents face when trying to raise a moral child in an immoral world:

- Less support from extended family, neighborhoods, and community
- Less time due to economic pressures, dual wage-earner families, and more single-parent families
- Social environment that is actively hostile to values we would like to teach (for example, music, television, movies, computer games, et cetera, that glorify sex without commitment, violence, and exploitation of others)
- New "me-centered" morality (look out for "number one," self-centered, self-indulgent morality) which actively competes with traditional morality, with its roots in religion, focusing on respect, service, self-sacrifice, resistance to temptation, and moderation in the pursuit of pleasure
- Juvenile crime is up (especially violent crime); disrespect for authority is up and materialism is on the increase
- Teenage sexuality, pregnancy, and drinking are on the rise
- Cheating, vandalism, and cruelty to others are on the upswing in schools

Source: Raising Good Children by Thomas Lickona

FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- Invite someone to come and teach your family to knit or crochet.
- Have children draw a picture while you tell a short, descriptive story.
- Have a waffle-fest... make waffles with different toppings (whipped cream, strawberries, syrup, etc.)
- Act out characters in Disney movies; guess who the characters are.

For more information contact the Scotland County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 277-2422. Employment and program opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. In addition, North Carolina State University welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

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