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PROFILE

Oregon Social Learning Center

The Oregon Social Learning Center is a research institute that seeks to understand family processes. There are currently more than 500 families in the Eugene/Springfield area participating in a wide variety of studies. The researchers at OSLC have been studying ways to strengthen the family for nearly two decades. Their work has received both national and international attention. Various research projects examine different aspects of developmental problems: socialization of toddlers, delinquency problems, results of treatments used for behavior change, placement in special foster homes, and the effects of divorce.

The National Institute of Mental Health is supporting the OSLC's current study on divorce; in particular, its effect on mothers and their children. The divorce

rate in America has had a sharp increase for the 20 year period between 1960 and 1980. It has leveled off somewhat since the early 80's, but the rate is still high. If the current rate of divorce stays as it is right now, 70% of all children born in the 80's will spend some portion of their childhood living in a single parent family. Previous studies have already been conducted by both Mavis Hetherington and Judith Wallerstein, world leaders in this area of research. Both studies have found that in the first two years following the divorce, boys show an increase in aggressive behavior at home, at school, and in the community. While girls do not tend to show this pattern, they do seem to have a delayed reaction, acting out more as they reach adolescence. Why do boys and girls react differently to the stress of di-

orce? Can anything be done to prevent problems for the children of divorce? Can anything be done to help their mothers manage the multiple stressors that bombard them as they adjust to a new style of family life?

The Divorce Study at the OSLC is seeking answers to these important questions. One hundred and fifty local families have already taken part in the study. Fifty more families are needed to share aspects of their daily living experiences while they adjust to their new family life.

If you are a mother who has separated from her husband in the past 3-12 months, and if you have a boy between the age of 6 and 12, you may be eligible to participate. Families are paid up to \$250 for their help. If you are interested in joining this research effort, call Judy, at 485-2711.

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Weekly Eye Opener

by Larry Deckman

(Taken from *The Cosmic Mind-Boggling Book* by Neil McAleer): "Just one square inch of the Sun's surface shines with the intensity of 300,000 candles. If we wanted to manufacture enough candles to equal the Sun's total brightness, the amount of tallow necessary would be ten times larger than the mass of the Earth, and the candles, bunched together, would cover an area as large as the orbit of the Earth around the Sun—over six thousand trillion square miles."

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