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ANNIVERSARY

The Portland Observer

Kids Prefer Time With Grandparents

Did you know that 85 percent of kids prefer spending time with their grandparents rather than watching TV?

According to a Playskool national parents' survey, this is just one of the many interesting facts about grandparents and grandkids, and ways they can enjoy their time together.

"The grandparent-grandchild connection is a strong one that requires a lot of attention," said Denise Chapman Weston, author of several books on raising children and a member of the Playskool Advisory Panel.

"Grandparents are leading more active, vigorous lives and becoming more involved with their children's kids," Weston said.

The survey, showing cartoons and "Mister Rogers" take a back seat to Grandma, was conducted with mothers of children 18 months to 6 years old.

According to moms:

- Kids prefer spending time with grandparents rather than watching TV (85 percent).
- Favorite activities with grandparents: outdoor play (52 percent) reading and telling stories (13 percent), and playing with toys or games (13 percent).
- Grandparents are most often called: "Grandma" (52 percent) followed by first name (i.e., "Grandma Mary"). "Grandpa" is the most common at 38 percent, and "Papa" (23 percent) is especially popular with younger children.

- Their child visits a grandparent once a week (60 percent); about a quarter reported visits several times a week; and 14 percent said their child visits with a grandparent everyday.
- More than half of today's kids spend more time with their grandparents (54 percent) than moms spent with their own grandparents while growing up.
- Grandparents take note, kids' favorite food: Pasta (35 percent), chicken (17 percent) and pizza (13 percent) were the top picks. And don't serve asparagus; kids' least favorite food are veggies, with nearly a quarter of moms ranking them as least favorite! Treats? Candy (27 percent), cookies/cake (15 percent) and the more nutritious, fruit (12 percent)!

Poll: Kids Know Celebrities, Not Leaders

American children are far more familiar with athletes and entertainers than politicians and world leaders, according to the results of a poll of kids ages to 9-12 commissioned for the debut issue of Time for Kids, a new classroom news magazine.

The survey of kids' awareness of the current events and newsmakers shows parents and family members are a child's most important source of news and information. The environment, terrorism, AIDS and homelessness are the issues kids are most concerned about.

The Time for Kids poll conducted by Roper Starch Worldwide shows nearly every child surveyed recognizes Michael Jordan (96 percent) and Michael Jackson (94 percent). Other highly-recognized names included actors Jim Carrey (87 percent) and Tom Hanks (86 percent), and First Lady Hillary Clinton (82 percent).

Far fewer kids were familiar with Rush Limbaugh (48 percent), Jesse Jackson (47 percent) and Newt Gingrich (35 percent). Kids are much more likely to recognize Judge

Lance Ito (39 percent) than Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (17 percent).

Only a quarter of kids know the name of Senate Majority leader and presidential contender Bob Dole; only 11 percent were familiar with Colin Powell. There was also little recognition of foreign leaders Boris Yeltsin (21 percent) and Nelson Mandela (20 percent).

The poll, shows kids' most important sources of news and information are parents and family members (37 percent), television (29 percent) and school (20 percent). Only 8 percent cite newspapers as their most important news source; 3 percent say "friends"; 2 percent say it's the radio.

Concerns over the environment top the list of issues kids "worry about a lot." Leading the list is "protecting endangered animals and plants," which is a concern of 65 percent of those polled; "pollution" was cited by 63 percent. A second tier of concerns included "bombing or other violent acts by terrorists or criminals" (59 percent); "the spread of AIDS" (56 percent); and "homelessness" (53 percent).

Also, 43 percent say they worry a lot

about "the possibility of our country fighting in a war."

Race relations and health care are issues that do not resonate as strongly with kids. Only 32 percent of kids say they worry a lot about "black people, white people and other groups of people in our country getting along"; the same percentage expressed concern "that everyone who needs help from a doctor or nurse can get it."

Awareness of current events shapes kids' overall impression of the world around them, the poll shows.

"As kids get older, they become more concerned about violence, crime and pollution," notes Claudia Wallis, the editor of Time for Kids. "They begin to see the world as less safe."

The 8-page weekly classroom news magazine produced by the editors of Time Magazine, debuts this week. It is the first new current events publication to be introduced into American schools in 70 years and the first produced by a major news organization. The magazine, which carries no advertising content, is launching with a circulation of over 650,000.

Children Looking For A Family



Maria, Angie, Juan, and Mario, Ages 10, 9, 6 & 4

Maria, Angie, Juan, and Mario are active, likeable children waiting to become someone's sons and daughters! They are among the over 200 Oregon children currently awaiting adoption.

Some are individual children, while others, like these four, are siblings who need to be adopted together.

Maria and Angie share similar interests. They both like art work and outdoor play. Although they have different personalities and sometimes argue, these sisters are emotionally close. Both girls need parents to help them with school work and supervise their homework.

Juan and Mario enjoy active outdoor play, and age-appropriate interests and toys.

Juan is an intelligent boy who is learning to pay attention in school. Mario receives special help for speech, and is learning much in his preschool and foster home. Unlike their sisters, Juan and Mario live in a bi-lingual foster family, so they have been able to retain their Spanish.

A nurturing family is needed for this fun foursome. A bilingual family would be ideal.

To learn more about adoption and the children who wait, contact The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at They Boys and Girls Aid Society, 222-9661. Oregon agencies waive or reduce fees for persons adopting children in state care, and information meetings are available statewide. Single adults as well as couples are encouraged to apply.

"Waiting Children", Anthony



Anthony, Age 9

This beautiful, bright-eyed little boy needs a family to help him recover from past rejections and regain his childhood. Nine-

year-old Anthony is one of over 200 Oregon Children Currently awaiting adoptive parents.

When not overly stressed by his situation, Anthony is a delightful boy who can be genuinely affectionate with trusted adults. His energy and enthusiasm result in many interests, including playing sports, riding bikes and horses, and playing Nintendo. Anthony gets along best with same age or slightly older children in small group situations. His fourth grade teacher reports that Anthony follows class rules and is very likeable.

To learn more about Anthony and other children awaiting adoption, please call The Special Needs Adoption Coalition at The Boys and Girls Aid Society, 222-9661. Single adults as well as couples are encouraged to inquire. Oregon agencies waive or reduce fees for persons adopting children in state care. Information meetings are available statewide.

Local Children To Receive Free Personal Identification Kits

Chevron Teams up with Local Elementary Schools, Part of a Regional Child Safety Awareness Campaign

Portland-area parents have good reason to rest a little easier this month. Teaming up with local schools, parents and law enforcement agencies, Chevron is hosting Child Safety days for more than 1140 students at local elementary schools. The pro-

gram aims to drive awareness about safety and equip children, and their parents, with personal information about the child for use in the event of an emergency. Chevron's Kinderprint Child ID kits, which include the child's photo, fingerprints and vital statistics, will be distributed at schools and available at local Chevron stations free-of-charge September 25 through October 15.

According to the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children, approximately one in seven children have been recovered as a direct result of the distribution of that child's photograph.

"A thorough record of a child's identifying characteristics, including recent photograph and fingerprints, is a key tool used by police to locate missing children," says Sergeant Jim McNelly of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

Taking Tougher Courses Pays Off

U. S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley and guidance counselor Jimmi Barnwell agree—student who take algebra, trigonometry, literature and other advanced courses are more likely to make the grade in college or in life. "Take the tough courses," they say. "It pays off in the long run."

As a new school year gets underway, strong evidence -- higher SAT scores, significant educational gains by minorities, and lower dropout rates -- suggests that

emphasizing high standards and taking more difficult courses pays off.

These important gains are being posted as Congress prepares to enact some of the deepest cuts to education in the nation's history.

"This is no time to retreat from the progress we've made," Riley says. "I am deeply concerned that our educational progress is being jeopardized by the actions of those members of Congress who are

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Portland City Workers Help Kids Get "SMART"

On Wednesday, September 20, 1995 Mayor Vera Katz proposed a program that will make it easier for city employees to help Portland school children improve their reading skills.

The "City Kids" resolution will allow city workers to use flex time to volunteer with Oregon's SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) program, or to volunteer in their own children's schools.

"The City Council has made children and families a priority as evidenced by our

funding of school police and after-school activities -- despite the fact that it's not in our immediate realm of fiscal responsibility," said Katz. "City Kids is another way we've found to help children continue to be competitive in the expanding global marketplace, by working to make sure every one of them will leave school knowing how to read."

SMART volunteers read to and listen to children read for two hours a month.

The SMART program also provides each child with two free books a month, to encourage them to build their own personal libraries.

"SMART has shown real results," said Katz, "so we wanted to give our employees the opportunity to help Portland's future leaders by giving their own time to assist, read, mentor, and bond with them."

City employees will be able to donate their time to the SMART program at 14 Portland schools including: Astor, Vestal, Gilbert Heights, Whitman, Kenton, Faubion, Mill park, Brooklyn, Ball, Vernon, Woodmere, Kelly, Applegate, and Sunnyside elementary schools. They may also volunteer their time at any other school their own child attends.

Birth Announcement

Baby Name: Keenan Scott Green
Sex: Male **Date of Birth:** 8/27/95
Father's name: Timothy Scott Green of Portland
Mother's name: Catherine Marjorie Green of Portland

Weight: 7.4
Length: 20"

Paternal Grandparents: Dianna And Don Green, Portland
Maternal Grandparents: Anne Krieger and Dirk Vanbekieft, Portland
Maternal Grandfather: Paul Prentice

Birth Announcement

Baby Name: Jaida Gabriella Kelly
Sex: Female
Date of Birth: 9/16/95
Father's name: Martin Allen Kelly Jr.
Mother's name: Brenna Catherine Kelly Of Portland

Weight: 10 lbs. 2 oz
Length: 21 1/2 Brother: Tyler Zingli

Paternal Grandparents: Melinda McQueen, Portland
Maternal Grandparents: Pat & Ron Dennis, Beaverton

Katz And Portland Postmaster Motivate Anti-Drug Movement

Mayor Vera Katz helped to launch the Portland promotion of the anti-drug book, *The Red Ribbon, A Story of Hope* during a brief ceremony September 22 at the front doors of City Hall.

The book will be placed in Portland libraries and classrooms in an effort to discourage school-age children from getting involved with drugs. The Red Ribbon is about an unhappy kingdom that learns to work together to solve their problems.

"This is a heart-warming, encouraging tale," said Katz. "The story goes far beyond a simple anti-drug message and the scare tactics used in the past. It helps build confidence, thus strengthening a child's resolve not to do drugs."

Portland Postmaster Michael J. Daily, an Oregon Partnership representative, and postal courier and author John Lasne presented the book to Mayor Katz. Lasne is on a national tour to promote the book and its anti-drug message.