

Children and Allowances

As long as it's financially possible, each child should be given a share of the family's income, and the freedom to decide how at least some of it should be spent. The only way children can learn to manage money is to have some of their own and the freedom to decide how to use it. By making small purchases, **savings** for something more expensive, and **occasionally** spending money on a disappointing item, the child learns to live within a budget.

As to how this learning experience can be structured, is best to not have the allowance be tied to chores or good grades, and it shouldn't be part of a disciplinings system. Using an allowance as a reward or punishment mixes love with money, and may encourage the child to think that money can buy affection or make up for injury. It is perfectly reasonable to expect a child who is old enough to receive an allowance

to contribute to the household work, but it should be made clear that chores are family responsibilities, not paid jobs. An allowance should be based on the child's needs, and should be adjusted to meet rising prices as well as increasing expenses. Fifty cents no longer buys a comic book and two double-dip ice cream cones. Today a dollar isn't a fortune even to a 6-year. Parents should encourage a child who wishes to save part of an allowance toward some short-term goal. An older child may want to open a savings account.

An allowance may not, and should not be expected to cover all a child's expenses. Parents may want to encourage children to take on small jobs to supplement their income. However, when parents pay the child for such work, it should be clearly outside the range of normal household chores and should meet reasonable standards of quality. When financial problems force

cutbacks in the family's spending, children should be included in discussions about the types of changes that will be made, whether their allowance will be affected or not. A child needs to understand that differences in wealth exist among families, and that every desire cannot be satisfied by the available resources, these lessons are best learned in a real-life situation.

No matter how an allowance system is structured—whatever the amounts, the pay periods, the rules about borrowing, saving, and outside work—parents should remember that the money, or some part of it, is the child's own to spend as he or she likes.

Parents who constantly question and criticize expenditures are not helping their child. Poor choices, after all, are part of the learning process, and gently parental guidance is a useful tool in teaching money management to children.

Children and Stress

Most parents find it hard to believe that childhood can be stressful. However, anxiety, fear, withdrawal or depression are not exclusively adult stress symptoms. We often disregard the seriousness of childhood stress because we think of childhood as being carefree. We've forgotten how scary the dark was, how fearful tests could be or how threatening bigger kids seemed. Childhood is full of fears that we eventually outgrow as we master ever larger environments. But in addition to normal childhood fears and pressures, modern children are faced with more threatening kinds of pressures than their parents probably were.

Today greater emphasis is placed on excelling in school. With this emphasis comes pressure to excel, to get good grades and to plan for the

future. A competitive, industrial society demands excellence causing tots and teens to be pushed and pulled toward achievement. In addition to school work, there is pressure to become part of the school social scene. Peer pressure for socializing and status is never greater than during school years. If parents are not aware of this, children can end up with an average week that allows no chore time at home or no free time at all. For the child, every day is pre-planned with after school meetings or group activities.

Another pressure comes from a society that offers conflicting ideas about life and death, love and sex, honesty and dishonesty. Children are exposed to hundreds of hours of TV, dozens of records as well as movies and magazines that promote varying values and conflicting information. With

these influences, children struggle to find their identity and develop a set of their own values. A group of ten to twelve year-olds reported the following events or anticipation of such events as being most stressful in order of appearance: Losing a parent; going blind; not being promoted; wetting in class; parental fights; caught in theft; poor report card. Suspected of lying; sent to principal; having an operation; getting lost; put down in class; move to a new school; scary dream. Not making it; picked last on team; losing in a game; going to the dentist; giving class report; new baby brother or sister. These ratings may not apply in the same level of importance to your child, but they represent stressors in children's lives that parents must recognize and take seriously if they are to help their children overcome them.

Free extension publications available

Request the following publication be sent to you by calling Sandra or Pennie at the Extension Office, 553-1161 ext. 238.

FS 231—Nutritional Needs of

Oral Contraceptive Users
WRAES 103—Wood Stove Selection
EC 847—Gathering Fuelwood For Home Heating
EC 1023—Fuelwood Facts

WRAES 95—Heating With Wood
EC-991-EC 1000—Learning Is Child's Play (a series of publications on homewood educational toys)

Cost sharing funds available

Funds are now available to cost share on conservation practices under a number of practices such as reseeding abandoned farm lands to permanent grasses, improving areas already in permanent cover with fencing, sagebrush spraying and seeding and water

impoundment reservoirs for livestock water.

So that all farmers have an equal opportunity to request funding, the Wasco County Committee has decided to hold a sign-up period. The period will be now through January 31, 1981.

Additional information can be obtained from Clint Jacks, Extension Agent in the old administration building. Sign-up for the program is in the Wasco County ASCS office 400 East 5th Street. The Dalles Oregon, phone 298-8559.

Mice can become winter problems

Winter weather often brings field mice into residential areas in search of food, especially in areas with snow cover. Rabbits and mountain beavers can also be a problem in rural areas.

In cities or towns, field mice can become established in areas with thick stands of grass or weeds, such as vacant lots or parks.

The rodents can severely damage trees and shrubs by feeding on their upper roots and lower trunks.

If not controlled, they can girdle the plants and kill them.

Recently planted fruit trees are quite vulnerable to invasions of field mice.

A fine mesh hardware collar wrapped around the base of

trees and shrubs will protect against mice. The best hardware material is available at garden stores.

Traps and poison baits are also effective in controlling rodents.

If poison baits are desired for use, check with a local garden store for types available and conditions under which they should be used.

Extension Notes



from Pennie Little and Clint Jacks

Overwintering Cattle

How the herd is organized, fed and watered is very important to successfully overwintering cattle, according to Dean Frischknecht, Oregon State University Extension animal scientist.

"Cattle producers can do a great deal toward making the overwintering operation more productive by segregating their cattle according to age group," says Frischknecht.

Heifer calves, young steers, heifers that are going to calve for the first time in the coming spring and heifers that have just raised their first calf should be separated from the main herd and fed in their own group.

Separating the younger cattle from the main herd enables the younger animals to get enough to eat without having to compete for food with the older animals. Also, with the cattle separated it's easier to feed them according to the nutritional needs of the individual groups.

"A sufficient supply of feed that contains adequate nutrition is major requirement

of overwintering cattle," Frischknecht notes.

Generally, cattle that are still growing require a little higher quality feed than the main herd for overwintering. In the case of cows that have calves, their nutrition requirements are higher when they're nursing.

Besides feed, adequate water and shelter are two other important requirements of overwintering cattle.

"Usually all the shelter cattle need is an open shed or natural cover like that offered by trees," Frischknecht notes.

The best source of water for cattle is a spring or well where the animals can be assured of getting all the water they need. If the cattle have to drink from a trough and temperatures are likely to drop below freezing during the winter, an electric warmer can be installed in the trough to keep the water from freezing over.

"It's also important to have salt available for the cattle and to keep the cattle free of lice during the overwintering period," Frischknecht says.

Insects in firewood

People who bring firewood into their homes for use in fireplaces or woodstoves may unknowingly be opening their doors to a variety of insect pests.

Many species of insects overwinter in the bark of tree trunks and limbs that may be cut up for firewood. If the firewood is stored in a garage or house, the insects in the bark respond to the warmer indoor temperature and become active.

Types of insects that often shelter in wood bark are yellow jackets, bark beetles, ant termites, wood wasps and carpenter ants.

"Most insects that invade homes are more of a nuisance than anything else," says Joe Capizzi, Oregon State University Extension entomologist. "However, one pest that can be a problem in homes is the carpenter ant."

Carpenter ants like to make their nests in any soft material such as certain types of wood or insulation. If these pests are

brought indoors on firewood that is left unused in the house for a few weeks, carpenter ant infestation may result.

How old the wood is and how long it's been in the wood pile often determines what kind of insects will take refuge in it." Capizzi says. "One type of wood that isn't likely to harbor insects is clean-cut wood such as that left over from the construction of a house or other building."

The easiest way to avoid invasions of overwintering insects hiding in firewood is to store the wood outdoors. In areas of heavy rain or snowfall the wood can be protected from moisture by covering with a tarp or black plastic, if no other outdoor cover is available. Because firewood will absorb moisture from the ground, store it on a moisture-proof surface if possible.

After storing the wood outside, bring it in the house only as it's needed and avoid leaving quantities of it in woodboxes or in corners of a back porch or basement.

Horse For Sale

A gentle three-year old mare is for sale by Jack Shadley. A

bride, saddle, and saddle blankets goes with the chestnut

sorrel mare Shadley is asking \$600. If interested, call Shadley at 475-6486.