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It's not the end of the world: Raising Resilient Children

By Sugandha Jain

"It is far more important to know how to deal with the negative than to be positive"

----Martin Seligman, Author of the book Learned Optimism Do you want your children to grow up to be fragile as a flower or tough as Teflon? If you want your children to be strong, then, you need to fuel them with power to face every adversity that comes their way. According to Paul Stoltz, Aversity Quotient (AQ) is the ability of individuals to withstand adversity and surmount it. Resilient children with a high AQ turn obstacles into opportunities.

Resiliency is the ability to not only survive, but thrive. In order to remain strong, we must stretch ourselves and spring forward. In life, things happen that knock us back for awhile. We just don't want to get stuck there. We may fall back, but then look out- we're moving forward, stronger than ever!

A rubber band can be used to explain the concept of

resilience in children. A rubber band can be stressed and stretched, but it quickly returns to its regular shape when the stressor is gone. Similarly the resilient child quickly «bounces back» from stress or trauma. This ability to recover quickly from a stressful experience is important to brain development. When a child is stressed the brain is bathed in a stress hormone called cortisol. If cortisol levels remain high, the hormone starts to interfere with the development of connections within the brain.

A 2012 study by Stanford University School of Medicine team used used MRI scans to identify how humor affects children's minds. The research proves that a strong sense of humor is an important part of positive emotion and may help children to be more resilient. Being able to see the humor in stressful situations, or to be able to laugh at difficult things can make children successful in life.

Parents have to find ways to laugh more and find humor in everyday life. Laugh at yourself and FOR your children. As parents we have many opportunities to show our children when things don't go as planned, that we can fret, pout, wish for different circumstances OR we can bounce back and make fun!

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THE TALK

Financial Focus - Student Loans Crushing College Grads

Submitted by Rich Keith

Today's college grads are facing the "real world" with an extra scoop of debt. Two-thirds of students graduating from college or graduate school have student loans - about \$25,000 on average. That's a 25% increase over the past 10 years. In fact, today's twentysomething holds an average debt of \$45,000, including everything from student loans to mortgages and credit cards. Unfortunately, unemployment for those aged 18-29 is 12.4%, well above the national rate of 8.2%.

Don't feel as if you have to be the savior. Six in 10 boomers report giving financial help (outside of college tuition) to a child or grandchild in the past five years. Of those, \$59,000 was the average amount of aid. If this sounds like you, ask yourself: Do I really have the resources? Am I saving enough for retirement? Try to share more financial wisdom and less cash with your adult offspring. The more you save for your own future means less possibility that you'll need their help later on.

Without going into too much detail, share the family financial picture with your children once they hit the mid-teen years. They need to know the family income is X and it takes Y amount to cover the mortgage and bills. Once they see X minus Y in action they will be surprised at how

> much it actually costs to run a household. This may have a side benefit of limiting how much and how often your children ask you for money and gifts.

Children who have a basic understanding of money, especially the corrosive effects of debt, have a better chance of becoming financially independent later in life. They will be more resistant to the credit card offers sure to come to them in their freshman year at college. And they will more ready to partner with their parents as the family manages their college finances with them.

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THE TALK

A Focus on Heat Emergencies

HEALTHY TIPS TO STAY COOL IN EXTREMELY HOT WEATHER

By: Concentra Urgent Care SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Heat emergencies fall into three categories of increasing severity: Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion & Heatstroke.

Heat illnesses are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather. Children, elderly, and obese people have a higher risk of developing heat illness. People taking certain medications or drinking alcohol also have a higher risk. However, even a top athlete in superb condition can succumb to heat illness if he or she ignores the warning signs.

If the problem isn't addressed, heat cramps (caused by loss of salt from heavy sweating) can lead to heat exhaustion (caused by dehydration), which can progress to heatstroke. Heatstroke, the most serious of the three, can cause shock, brain damage, organ failure, and even death.

— Heat Cramps —

- Sweating
- Pain in arms, legs, and abdomen

— Heat Exhaustion —

- Moist, pale skin
- Fatigue and fainting
- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Headache and confusion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid pulse and breathing

— Heat Stroke —

- No sweating
- Dry, hot, red skin
- Confusion and loss of consciousness
- Rapid pulse
- Temperature over 103° F
- Seizures

CAUSES:

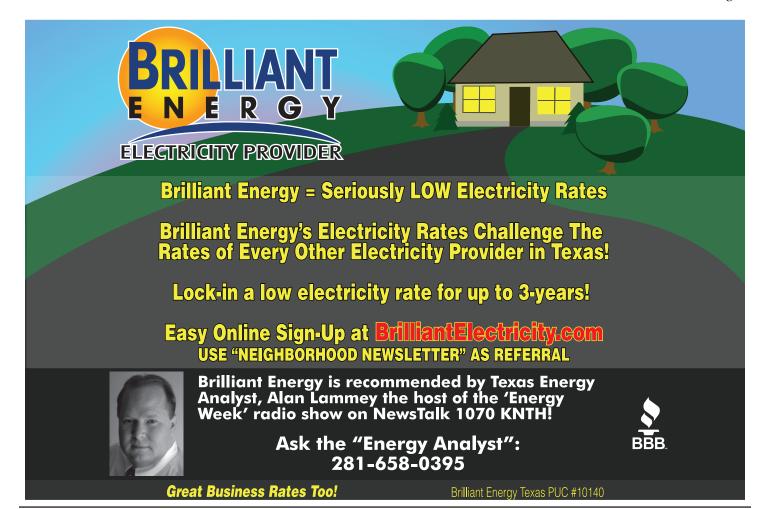
The following are common causes of heat emergencies:

- High temperatures or humidity
- Dehydration
- Prolonged or excessive exercise
- Excess clothing
- Alcohol use
- Medications, such as diuretics, neuroleptics, phenothiazines, and anticholinergics
- Cardiovascular disease

What to do in heat emergencies.. FIRST AID

1. Have the person lie down in a cool place. Elevate the person's feet about 12 inches.

2. Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to the person's skin and use a fan to lower body temperature. Place cold compresses (Continued on Page 7)



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A Focus on Heat Emergencies- (Continued from Page 6)

on the person's neck, groin, and armpits.

3. If the person is alert, give cool water or sports beverages. It's advisable to drink slowly and steadily, particularly if they are experiencing nausea.

4. For muscle cramps, give beverages as above, and massage and stretch affected muscles gently, but firmly, until they relax.

5. If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails, and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and continue cooling procedures, as described above.

DO NOT:

- DO NOT underestimate the seriousness of heat illness, especially if the person is a child, elderly, or injured.
- DO NOT give the person medications that are used to treat fever (such as aspirin or acetaminophen). They will not help, and they may be harmful.
- DO NOT give the person salt tablets.
- DO NOT give the person liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. They will interfere with the body's ability to control its internal temperature.
- DO NOT use alcohol rubs on the person's skin.
- DO NOT give the person anything by mouth (not even salted drinks) if the person is vomiting or unconscious.

PREVENTION:

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in hot weather.
- Rest regularly in a cool area; seek shade when possible.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity in hot or humid conditions.
- Drink plenty of fluids every day. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity.
- Be especially careful to avoid overheating if you are taking drugs that impair heat regulation, or if you are overweight or elderly.
- Be careful of hot cars in the summer. Allow the car to cool off before getting in.
- Avoid heavy meals and hot foods.

For more information on how to cope with the heat, ask your Concentra health professional, or visit the CDC's Web site at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/

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