

# Parenting Connection

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## Center for the Improvement of Child Caring Offers Parenting Skill-Building Programs

Thirty-two years of dedication and focused research has proven the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring as one of the largest and most influential parenting and parenting education organizations.

The Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, and its founder and executive director, Dr. Kerby T. Alvy, are strong supporters of a grassroots initiative to increase the likelihood that every child in America is raised effectively and humanely by parents who have received the best possible parenting education.

CICC supports a new approach to educating and training parents --- the creation and use of carefully constructed and researched parenting skill-building programs.

These programs are designed to improve parental effectiveness by providing a clear parenting philosophy and a set of positive parenting skills and strategies that can be used immediately to address a variety of child-rearing challenges and problems.

Research has shown that these programs

- Increase parental confidence
- Reduce parental stress and anxiety
- Improve parenting skills

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The Parenting Connection is a publication of the Parenting Special Interest Group and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Correctional Education Association.

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- Reduce or eliminate spanking and hitting
- Improve parent-child relations
- Reduce child behavior problems
- Improve child cooperation
- Improve child self-esteem
- Improve child adjustment
- Improve child academic performance
- Strengthen families

A variety of excellent parenting skill-building programs now exist. Some were created by the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, and all were carefully reviewed by Dr. Alvy and the other professional staff of CICC to ensure that what is taught in the programs is consistent with what the research on child-parent relations indicates is best for raising healthy and confident children and youth.

To find out more about the programs listed below, go to [www.ciccparenting.org](http://www.ciccparenting.org)

### **CICC's Trio of National Model Programs**

- Confident Parenting
- Effective Black Parenting
- Los Niños Bien Educados

### **The Systematic Training for Effective Parenting Programs (STEP)**

- Early Childhood STEP
- STEP for Parents of Elementary School Children
- STEP/TEEN

### **The Active Parenting Video-Based Programs**

- 1,2,3,4 Parents! Program for Parents of Infants and Toddlers
- Active Parenting Now – For Parents of Children 5-12
- Active Parenting of Teens
- Active Parenting Today for Jewish Families

### **The Nurturing Programs**

- Prenatal Program
- Parents and Their Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers (also in Spanish)
- The ABC's for Parents – Children 4 - 5 years (Assuring Better Children)
- Crianza con Cariño para Padres y Niños (Spanish version of the program for Parents and Their Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers)
- Parents and Children, 5 - 11 years
- Crianza con Cariño para Padres y Hijos (Spanish version of the program for Parents and Their Children, 5 - 11 years)
- Parents and Adolescents
- Teenage Parents and Their Families
- Nurturing Skills for Parents
- Program Evaluation Tool

### **School Readiness and Parent Involvement Programs**

- School Success from the Start School Readiness Program
- Parents on Board – Building Academic Success Through Parent Involvement



***“A man never stands as tall as when he  
kneels to help a child.”***

***(Knights of Pythagoras)***

## **National Effective Parenting Initiative Seeks New Members**

Correctional parenting instructors may be interested in a new initiative that is taking shape. You can learn more about it by visiting the website, [www.EffectiveParentingUSA.org](http://www.EffectiveParentingUSA.org).

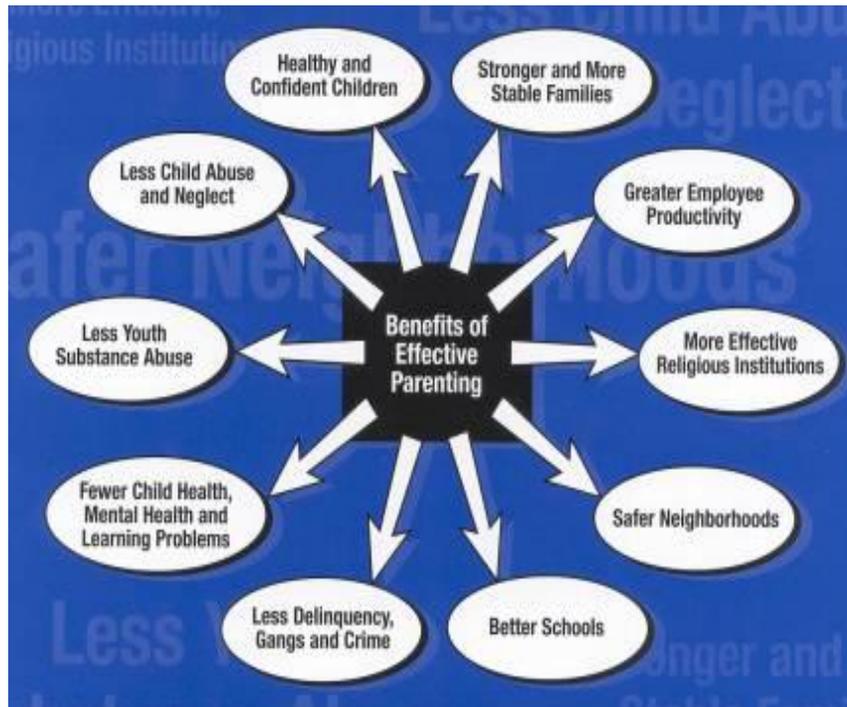
The National Effective Parenting Initiative (NEPI) is about working together to make it the birthright of every child in the United States to be raised effectively and humanely by loving and skillful parents who receive the best possible parenting education and support.

### **Achieving this goal includes:**

- Having each parent commit themselves to being the best parent they can be and receive the best possible parenting education.
- Honoring parents for the contributions they make to their children’s growth, health and happiness through such activities as National Parents’ Day celebrations and Effective Parenting weeks.
- Urging our elected government officials to create and support Effective Parenting Initiatives at the national, state, county and city government levels that will make both effective parenting and parenting education priorities.
- Creating and supporting effective parenting projects at the community level, such as projects that bring parenting education opportunities into every preschool, child care center, and family day care home, and projects that bring these opportunities into work places and schools.
- Having more individuals trained as parenting instructors, family life educators and parent coaches.
- Preventing the abuse and neglect of all children.

The National Effective Parenting Initiative has the potential to help every child reach his or her full potential, as well as to make our communities safer and better places to live. NEPI can also serve to reduce the numerous and costly problems that our nation faces due to ineffective and uninformed parenting, including helping to prevent child abuse and neglect.





## Benefits of membership:

There is no other organization for parents and parenting professionals that provides its members with as many benefits as the National Effective Parenting Initiative.

Professional members of NEPI receive a series of benefits to help them be the best educators of parents they can be.

- A free *Power of Positive Parenting* guide written by NEPI's founder, Dr. Kerby T. Alvy
- Regular online *Positive Parenting Ideas* to help in being the best parent possible
- An online newsletter with *Tips for Effective Parenting* which are provided by many of America's top parenting authorities
- Discounts and certificates for attending Parenting Seminars and classes, including online classes
- Thousands of free and discounted parenting books, videos, CDs and DVDs
- Free and discounted parenting publications
- Discounts on enrollments in professional workshops to learn to conduct state-of-the-art parenting programs in their agencies, schools and practices
- Discounts on the manuals and parent handbooks that are needed in running the programs
- Free consultation on parenting program development and evaluation
- Their own online newsletter for professionals with articles on the latest research and the marketing of parenting programs, written by outstanding researchers and practitioners

To become a member and important part of what the National Effective Parenting Initiative is seeking to accomplish, go to [www.EffectiveParentingUSA.org](http://www.EffectiveParentingUSA.org).



# Ten Financial Principles for Successful Living

1. Financial problems are usually behavior problems rather than money problems.
2. If you continue doing what you have been doing, you will continue getting what you have been getting. (Nothing changes until something changes.)
3. Nothing (no-THING) is worth a relationship.
4. If your money is going toward something of value, then you will usually feel a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. But if your money is going toward something you do not value, then you will usually experience a sense of frustration and futility.
5. We know the price of everything and the value of nothing.
6. You can never get enough of what you don't need, because what you don't need can never satisfy you.
7. Financial freedom is more often the result of decreased spending and the absence of bondage than increased income and the abundance of money.
8. Be grateful for what you have.
9. The best things in life are free.
10. The value of an individual should never be equated with an individual's net worth.

from: UW-Extension, Family Living Programs

## Family Connections Presents Seminar

Family connections of Wisconsin, Inc. is holding a number of seminars around Wisconsin to provide information on topics related to Re-Entry. Social Workers, Workforce Development Professionals, Teachers, Employers, Landlords and others who work with ex-offenders or their families need up-to-date knowledge of the restrictions that can be imposed as well as the remedies that can assist an ex-offender in overcoming barriers to re-entry. The full day seminar will provide: the latest in re-entry information; the legal basis for restrictions on employment, housing and other rights; the legal remedies to obtain financial, educational and housing services; parental rights; drivers license issues; and the strategies to expunge or correct a criminal record.

Presenters include Art Besse from Art Besse & Associates LLC who is a consultant, trainer, grant writer and speaker who has special expertise in offender employment and the collateral consequences of having an adult or juvenile record and Iris Christenson, attorney at law, who has worked with various programs providing services to women offenders for over 23 years. She is Vice President of the Board of Family Connections of Wisconsin Inc.—a program focused on strengthening the bonds between incarcerated parents and their children.

Interested persons may call Art Besse at (608) 831-8129 or email; [artbesse@netzero.net](mailto:artbesse@netzero.net) for dates and times of the seminar and any other information required.



# Editorial:

The election of 2008 is over and now we can get back to our regular scheduled programming. It will be exciting to see what changes come for children with the new administration. Early childhood education was mentioned several times over the course of the campaign. I have advocated for birth to three programs my entire career and will be watching closely to see if we can get it right sometime soon. Child Development Theory (the only thing educators had to go on when I was in college) has been replaced by scientifically proven brain research. We know what causes the problems in child development but we do not put any financial backing into prevention of the problems. The new president has promised to do that. Time will tell.

I have included in this issue a piece called Ten Financial Principles for Successful Living given to me by a teacher who teaches a Financial Literacy class here at WRC. I am planning some more articles on other information she has shared related to financial literacy and families. What is going on in your programs? I would love to hear from you and possibly feature your program in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. If you feel shy about writing, just give me the facts and I could write the article for you. We all benefit from hearing about new things.

Have a wonderful Holiday season and make one of your New Years' Resolutions a goal of sharing your parenting program with the rest of us who read the *Parenting Connection*. I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

**Mary K. Knox**

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