

Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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Have you ever heard of an addict who was cured of his or her addiction because someone limited, but did not eliminate, their access to the substance or behavior in question? No, you have not. Is an addiction to gambling less harmful if the addict is only allowed to gamble five hours a week? No, it is not. The proposition is absurd.

Before I continue, a digression: I am allowed, by law, to call myself a psychologist; therefore, I am a psychologist. However, I am ever-increasingly aware that I do not have much in common with most people in my nominal profession. In this regard, I am of the experienced opinion (38 years) that clinical psychology is more ideology than science, more fad-driven than fact-driven, and that the facts are not impressive. Does several years of gradu-

ate school make one a better advice-giver? Is any form of psychological therapy reliably effective? These questions, and many more, remain unanswered to satisfying degree.

My digression underscores a story recently passed along to me by a highly reliable witness. A psychologist, speaking to a group of North Carolina parents, recommended against taking video game controllers away from pre-teen and teen boys who are obviously obsessed with video games for the very reason that they are obsessed. To be clear: Because playing video games is, according to said psychologist, supposedly harmless and "so very important" to these boys and gaming is their main social activity to boot, the controllers should not be taken away. Again, the proposition is absurd.

In the early 1980s, I publicly asserted (in this column) on the basis of observation alone that video games were addictive. I was generally dismissed, even ridiculed. The ridicule, by the way, came primarily from—you may have guessed it—other psychologists. A growing body of research now confirms my theory. Over the years, hundreds of parents have sought my advice concerning teenage boys (never a girl, by the way) who want to do nothing but play video games. Their grades have plummeted, their personal hygiene has collapsed, they are sullen and do not want to participate in family activities, even mealtimes, they get up in the middle of the night to "game," and they become threatening toward parents who even suggests that enough is enough.

My advice is always the same: While the boy is in school, confiscate the controller, smash it, and toss the pieces in a dumpster located at least ten miles from home—and do not ever, under any circumstances, allow one of these nefarious devices back in said household.

Without exception, the child has either gone stark-raving insane or he locks himself in his room and won't come out, sometimes for days; in either event, proving that he is indeed addicted.

It generally has taken several weeks for withdrawal to run its demonic course, after which the child begins to act like, well, a child again. One teen boy, upon discovering that his controller was gone, destroyed his room and would not speak to or interact with family for two weeks. Finally, he thanked his parents, telling them that he felt much, much better and was now aware of the damage he'd been doing to himself. I've heard many similar stories of recovery.

Video games are doing many children great harm. The many

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Third Sunday weekend, Mrs. Katie Horton in Tchula, spent the weekend in the hospital. She came home Tuesday, July 18. She said she is feeling a little better each day.

Mrs. Lou Ethel Morgan went for her check up after breaking her hip the third Sunday in June. Her check-up was on July 20. Let's pray that her check-up went well.

It's good news for this writer. My trips to the hospital in Greenwood are over. My outpatient surgery results came back negative on my kidneys.

There have been several house fires in and around Lexington this year. The Sewing Circle at the Senior Citizens Feeding Site located in the Multi-Purpose Building in Lexington wants to make quilts for these families. However they are in need of used sheets, sheet-size pieces of cloth, quilt batting, blankets or thick material, quilted spreads, etc. to use in making quilts. If anyone wants to donate any of these items, drop them off at the Multi-Purpose Building in Lexington. Pray that these ladies soon will be able to get some quilting frames.

children in question constitute a significant number of boys in the up-and-coming generation.

For these boys to become authentic men, they need to be rescued. They are not going to rescue themselves.

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On Sunday, July 16, Children's Day was held at Rosebank Church. The program was really good. I got a chance to speak to an old friend, Mr. Justice Edwards, he's 94 years old.

Mrs. Goldia Landfair has been on a long visit to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She attended one of her grandson's 12th grade graduation.

She also attended her son Terez's wedding. Now she's at home talking about checking out her garden.

I talked to Mrs. Corean Torry at a nursing home in Greenwood. Mrs. Sylvia Moore and Ms. Doris Whitehead also talked to her. She is doing fine. She just still wants to come home to her house in Lexington. She wants to get in touch with her brother, Mr. R.C. Rucker in New Orleans, Louisiana. Can anybody help her?

WEST REPORT

by West Civic Club

The summer library program for the week of July 27 is a game. Please note that the time has been changed from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. for this week only. There will be prizes and fun to be had.

Jeff and Leca Dew spent some time in Hattiesburg watching Davis, their grandson, play in the Dixie State Tournament, for 13 year old boys. That is always a thrill regardless if you win or loose.

An early reminder: The Big Black River Festival will be held this year the ninth of September, in West. That is the second Saturday of the month.

Anyone wishing more information may call 662-967-2062 for further information.

Intended for the July 20 edition: The summer program for the week of July 20 is at 1:00 p.m. Dorian LaChance The Magician will be the program. Sounds like a lot of fun and entertainment.

It is nice to hear that Ms. Inez Dickerson is home and doing well after her recent surgery. Her family has been taking turns helping to keep things going and caring for their folks. All of their friends wish her a speedy recovery.



UPWORDS

The nonprofit teaching ministry of Max Lucado

God Shapes His Servants

Compassion matters to God. This is the time for service, not self-centeredness. Cancel the pity party. Love the people God brings to you.

This test will be your testimony. Second Corinthians 1:4 reminds us, "God comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, He brings us alongside someone else who's going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us" (MSG).

You didn't sign up for this

crash course in single parenting or caring for a disabled spouse, did you? No, God enrolled you. Why? So you can teach others what He has taught you. Rather than say, "God, why?" ask, "God, what?" What can I learn from this experience? Your mess can become His message!

From *You'll Get Through This*.

This Max Lucado devotional offers wisdom and insight for applying Biblical truths to the ups and downs of everyday life.

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I am Karen Williams and I'm extremely happy to join the staff, as the new principal of Durant High School, it is an honor to become a member of the Tiger Community. During the past few weeks, I have had many interactions with parents, faculty, and students. From these conversations, it is clear there is a collegial partnership between all stakeholders to provide the best possible academic experience for our students. I look forward to fostering these relationships and working with the faculty to provide a world-class educational experience for each child. As I begin my first year as Principal of Durant Elementary, Middle, and High School, I am energized and deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of your children. We will accomplish this by setting high academic expectations for all children and providing supportive systems to assure they are met.

Before joining Durant Public School District, I served in a variety of teaching and educational leadership roles over the past 9 years, primarily with the Jackson Public School District. Some of the roles I have held include classroom teacher, team leader, Math interventionist, PBIS chair, MTSS Chair, STC (site test coordinator) for Jim Hill High School and Hardy Middle School. My academic background includes a Master of Science in Business Management, Specialist in Educational Leadership, and currently enrolled Doctoral K-12 Educational Leadership program.

My greatest initiative is to provide the leadership that will facilitate a school environment to provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each student to the best of our ability. I believe that great schools are the results of great teachers, so my primary objective will be to ensure that every student is receiving high-quality instruction. In order to accomplish this, the educational curriculum must be academically challenging, engaging to each student by linking the curriculum to previous knowledge and experience, and be exciting to promote further exploration of innovative ideas. Parents, teachers, support staff, and administration all have a key role in encouraging our children to become active learners. It is my sincere desire to provide expanded opportunities for our students to acquire the necessary skills to become productive citizens in a vastly changing society.

To accomplish this goal, I have developed over the years a philosophical phrase: The 4 A's to Success. These are: Attendance, Attitude, Academics, and Activities. I will be spending a considerable amount time discussing and implementing these concepts into what we are already doing at Durant High School.

Karen Williams, Ed.S