

Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Q: Our son, age 8, did fine in school in first grade, but has struggled in second. We've taken your advice and not helped much with his homework other than occasional and brief "consultations." He's making average grades but his second-grade teacher – she's fairly young, by the way – tells us that he is actually slightly behind in both reading and math. We met recently with the school counselor, school psychologist, and his teacher, all of whom recom-

mended that he be tested for ADHD (they told us that he's easily distracted) and a learning disability. We really don't want to go down that road, but they're making it seem like that's the only responsible thing for us to do. What are your thoughts on this?

A: I agree. You really don't want to go down that road. In the first place, the fact that an eight-year-old boy is "struggling" in school and "slightly" behind in reading and math, yet making decent grades does not, in my estimation, indicate a serious problem. The bell-shaped curve – which schools seem to

have forgotten (or conveniently ignore) – predicts that some otherwise normal (problem-free) children will perform below the academic mean. Private schools try to weed out children who will bring down their test scores; public schools cannot. So, in public school, one is likely to find a greater proportion of kids who "struggle." Furthermore, a disproportionate number of the kids in question are likely to be boys – and boys tend to be distractible.

As I have said many, many times in this column, books, and my weekly radio show (American Family Radio), there is no scientific validity to a diagnosis of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. Unlike a verifiable physical disease like cirrhosis, ADHD is a construct, not a verifiable reality. On numerous occasions over the past thirty years, I have publicly

challenged my colleagues in the mental health professions to provide concrete proof of heritability, a biochemical imbalance, or a consistent "brain difference" (all of which they frequently claim concerning ADHD). I have yet to hear a lucid response.

As for determining whether a child "has" ADHD by giving tests, it is fascinating to note that the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (the diagnostic "bible" of the mental health professions) lists not one test-based criteria for making the diagnosis. The question, then, becomes: Since tests do not figure into the diagnosis, why then are they often administered? The only answer I can come up with is that tests are given to create the impression that the diagnosis is arrived at vis 'a vis a scientific process (when it is not).

When I make that charge, psychologists tell me that the tests are given to obtain a diagnosis, but only a "big picture" of the child. The question then becomes: If the (expensive) tests in question are not necessary to the diagnosis, why do so many parents obtain the impression that they are?

Then there's the fact that public schools receive supplementary funding for every child diagnosed with ADHD and put on what is called an "individualized education program" or IEP (so do certain private schools, by the way). Call me cynical, but when money is a possible incentive to making a certain diagnosis, I am suspect.

Two things jump out at me: first, that your son didn't have problems in grade one; second, that the second-grade teacher is inexperienced. It may well be that your son's struggles say more about her than they do him. I would be inclined to give him the benefit of the doubt and simply recommend that you hire a tutor – ideally, an older, veteran teacher – to work with him during the summer and bring him up to academic speed before he goes back to school in the fall.

The simplest and most obvious explanation for a problem of this sort is usually the correct explanation; furthermore, the simplest and most obvious solution is usually the best solution.

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April 19 - Towanda Jordan, Kevin Thomas, Morgan Bigbee, Macie Bigbee, Jeffrey Cohen

April 20 - Eva Dickerson, Richard Jones, Sheryll Murtagh, Michael Sanford, Shanna Smith, Cate Barnes Cain, Bobby Anderson

April 21 - William Cade, Kristin Hocutt, Luke Johnson, Teagan Allen, Dewayne Caldwell, Crystal Greco, Jeremy Jackson

April 22 - Ernest Wilson, Jr., Don McBride, Janie Wynne, Lacey Lewis, Marty Keith, Rone Thomas Tate, Brian Robinson

April 23 - Ty Johnson, Thomas Taylor, Eleanor Ellison, Pierce Thomas, Seth Burton

April 24 - Lawson Nichols, Siobhan RaQuel Cox, Neketa G. Carthan, Virgil King, III, J.D. Chisolm, Pat Hood, Ryder Goss

April 25 - Mary Ashley O'Reilly, Tyler Diffey, Fredrick Jordan, Terrance Ross, Aden Barrett, Louanna Garrett, Joseph Luke Dees, Terry Bigbee, Zachary Goering



April 19 - Matt and Lacy Hathcock, Mr. and Mrs. Allin Murphy

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April 23 - James and LaWanda Powell, Steve and Stacie Sizemore

April 24 - Leo and Carol Merchant, James and Fay Engle

April 25 - Charley and Gena Boykin




Hallie Murtagh
Bailey Rutledge
May 25


Anna Weems
Reid Sumrall
June 2

Joy Hayes
Brooks Ables
June 30

Kasey Myers
Alex Killebrew
June 30



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THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker

Wicker Challenges FCC Assessment of Cell Service in Mississippi

Real-Life Stories Paint Different Picture Than Coverage Shown on Agency Map

Earlier this month, I sent out a survey asking Mississippians to tell me about their experiences with mobile broadband. The responses so far have been forceful but not surprising – Mississippians are very frustrated with their coverage. This is a far different story than I saw on the wireless coverage map released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in February. According to this flawed FCC map, only a fraction – 2 percent – of our state does not have access to a consistent 4G LTE con-

nection, one of the fastest connections available. Simply put, the FCC map is wrong.

Mississippians Describe Impact of Poor Connectivity

In just over a week, I received more than 1,800 responses to my short survey, which specifically asked about the quality of service and whether Mississippians had experienced any negative issues with connectivity. A majority replied they did not have fast wireless internet service at home or work.

The survey also revealed how the lack of reliable wireless service continues to impact Mississippians' daily lives in inconvenient and sometimes costly ways. Some detailed how difficult it is for their children to complete their homework, requiring frequent trips to the local library to submit assignments online. One respondent described having to find a place with better coverage in order to apply for a job. Another said a weak signal made it impossible to FaceTime a loved one deployed overseas. Several respondents expressed concerns about safety, describing worries about whether their vehicle might break down in an area with no coverage or how connection problems had once interfered with their call to the police to report a disturbance.

Map Accuracy Is Important to Rural Broadband Deployment

This feedback and the real-life experiences of Mississippians are important to closing the digital divide that exists between our country's rural and urban areas. We need to know exactly where coverage and support is lacking. The purpose of the FCC's map on wireless internet coverage is to help determine where to send Mobility Fund Phase II funding, which is specifically for rural broadband deployment. The flaws in the FCC map are troublesome because this could mean that federal resources may not get to areas with the greatest need. Even though Mississippi is a ru-

ral state, 98 percent would not be eligible for Mobility Fund Phase II funding under the current map.

As chairman of the Senate subcommittee that oversees internet and telecommunications issues, I have expressed my concerns about the map to the FCC, and I look forward to the agency improving it over the coming months. Challenges to the map's accuracy can be submitted to the FCC until August, after which the agency will release a final version of the map.

On April 10, the FCC released the same wireless coverage map with more information about provider coverage. This is a very small step in the right direction but still does not capture the full picture. I wish the majority of our state had 4G LTE coverage as the map illustrates, but anyone who has traveled across Mississippi knows otherwise. Until mobile broadband can be enjoyed consistently in our rural communities, we have work to do. That begins by demanding the FCC map get it right.

EXPRESS GRAIN COMMODITY PRICES						
Crop	CBOT Month	Delivery Period	Futures Price	EGT Basis	Net Price	Change
Wheat	May 18	2018 Apr	4.62	-0.42	4.20	-0.11
Wheat	Jul 18	2018 July	4.79	-0.22	4.57	-0.10
Milo	Dec 18	2018 Aug-Sep	4.07	-0.36	3.71	-0.03
Corn	May 18	2018 Apr	3.83	0.05	3.88	-0.04
Corn	Sep 18	2018 Aug	3.98	0.05	4.03	-0.03
Soybeans Sidon	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soybeans G'wood	May 18	2018 Apr	10.42	-0.07	10.35	-0.14
Soybeans G'wood	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	10.40	-0.11	10.29	-0.11
Soybeans Minter City	Nov 18	2018 Aug-Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rice	May 18		13.055			-0.055
Rice	Sep 18		12.095			-0.080
Cotton	May 18		83.25			-0.160
Cotton	Dec 18		78.54			-0.370

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ACROSS

- 1 Avow
- 5 Secure
- 8 Her symbol is a lyre
- 13 Have feelings
- 17 Number of the most destructive hurricane
- 18 Otto I's realm: abbr.
- 19 More wan
- 20 Muscat's locale
- 21 It comes with the bread basket, these days
- 23 Hot-tempered '80s Red Sox pitcher
- 25 Unhand
- 26 Author Buchanan
- 27 Craggy peak
- 28 Paintings
- 29 "Fifty Shades" protagonist Christian
- 30 Return
- 33 Swimming hole
- 36 Wide shoe width
- 37 Unrefined mineral
- 38 Part of a stable meal
- 40 Assam silkworm
- 41 Old-fashioned cure-all
- 46 Of the mouth: prefix
- 47 House extension
- 48 Social reformer Jacob
- 49 ___ acid
- 50 Twist
- 51 Close election upshot
- 53 Dives
- 54 Catcher's padded spots
- 55 Corn covering
- 56 Rooms in a casa
- 57 Designer Herman
- 58 "A Moveable ___"
- 60 Frontier enclaves
- 61 Glittery ornament
- 64 Between Mardi Gras and Easter
- 65 "___ McKee" (1934 Joan Crawford film)
- 66 Carnera's successor
- 67 Regatta requisite
- 68 Part of NOW
- 69 Symbols of non-mixing
- 71 Peoria's st.

DOWN

- 1 ___ effort
- 2 Repulsive
- 3 Satan's work
- 72 Humble ___
- 73 Coins: abbr.
- 74 DDE's nickname
- 75 Ice formation
- 76 Inherited property
- 78 Diminish
- 80 Bully in "Calvin and Hobbes"
- 82 Will Smith bioflick
- 83 Kind of china
- 84 Scolds
- 88 "Exxon Valdez" et al.
- 92 Valvoline, e.g.
- 93 Greek porch
- 94 Ganders
- 95 Timetable abbr.
- 96 Bald eagle's kin
- 97 Skyrocket
- 98 Morley of "60 Minutes"
- 99 Co. head, generally
- 100 Homeowner's document

4 Expose

- 5 Moore-Swayze film
- 6 Sandusky's lake
- 7 Distant: prefix
- 8 Lyric poem
- 9 Like a frustrating beach vacation
- 10 ___ breve (2/2 time)
- 11 Shamus
- 12 "Messiah," e.g.
- 13 Rikki-Tikki-Tavi's enemy
- 14 Beginning Latin word
- 15 Painter-photographer Man ___
- 16 Consummate
- 22 Diamond stud spot
- 24 Dynamite philanthropist?
- 26 "___ saw Elba"
- 29 Hair helpers
- 30 Hired thugs
- 31 Mazola, for one
- 32 "Will & Grace" role for Megan
- 33 House of Lords member
- 34 Heraldic band

35 Jiffy Lube jobs

- 36 Work for Harper & Row
- 39 Marbles
- 41 Quiche part
- 42 Cry from the sty
- 43 Participated in a gymnastics meet
- 44 Thompson and Watson
- 45 Features of some fashionable jeans
- 50 Tien ___ (Asian range)
- 52 Dislodge
- 53 Spacey's "Beyond the Sea" role
- 54 "Bandit Queen" Belle
- 56 Designated driver's order
- 57 "Graf ___"
- 58 Producer's heartache
- 59 Like many a campfire tale
- 60 Contrary to fact
- 61 Gorge
- 62 Grammy winner Schifrin
- 63 ___ Stanley

Gardner

- 65 Sessions
- 66 Finish an adobe brick
- 69 City between Leesburg and Gainesville
- 70 "Noon ___" (Katherine Anne Porter novel)
- 75 Dreaded
- 77 Cossack
- 78 More inferior
- 79 Goose genus
- 80 GM model
- 81 Gold, to Juan
- 83 ___ Wellington
- 84 Droning orator, e.g.
- 85 Raced
- 86 "___ Kleine Nachtmusik"
- 87 Idditarod vehicle
- 88 WWII intelligence agcy.
- 89 "How was ___ know?"
- 90 Longest river in Chile
- 91 New Zealand bird
- 92 Apple computer

