



**Living With Children**  
By **John Rosemond**  
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**PARENTING REALITY, PART ONE:** It is all but inevitable that after rattling off a list of provocative, sociopathic stuff his or her child is doing and usually has been doing for quite some time, a parent will say, "But he's a really good kid." How's that? How is it that a child who is belligerently defiant, denigrates the parent with various libelous descriptors, refuses to be the least bit responsible around the home, and creates nearly constant uproar in the family is "really a good kid"? I have a theory.

Today's parents tend to believe in parenting determinism; that, in other words, parenting produces the person. The belief is understandable, given that the mental health community has been spreading it for over a century, ever since it was originally proposed by Sigmund

Freud, the so-called Father of Modern Psychology. It's why psychologists – no matter the nature of the presenting problem – ask, "Tell me about your childhood" as if the way a person was raised, or (more accurately) claims to have been raised, explains everything.

Given the ubiquity of that belief – which, by the way, is not corroborated by either research or a preponderance of anecdote – for a parent to admit the obvious, that her child is a "really bad kid" is to admit, in effect, that she has been a correspondingly defective parent. "But he's a really good kid" is a form of self-protective denial.

The PARENTING REALITY here is that an inability to confront the reality of a child's misbehavior translates to an inability to respond effectively, with purposeful,

unruffled authority. Under the circumstances, the child's misbehavior gets worse over time, as does the parent's confusion. And around and around they go. The likelihood of one or both parties eventually becoming diagnosed and being on psychiatric medication increases with every passing day.

PARENTING REALITY, PART TWO: Contrary to what even most psychologists believe, no one has ever conclusively proven that behavior modification – which obviously works on dogs and other animals – works with any significant degree of reliability on human beings. It is important to note that the "no one" in the preceding sentence includes B. F. Skinner, the psychology professor and researcher who first articulated the theory. Nonetheless, the notion that successful discipline is largely a matter of manipulating consequences (i.e., reward and punishment) properly is almost universally held. Thus, when parents describe a discipline problem to me, they want to know

WHAT I think they should do.

They expect me to describe a method, technique, or strategy that they haven't already thought of. I call these methods, etc., "consequence delivery systems." The PARENTING REALITY here is that more important than WHAT one does in response to a child's persistent misbehavior is the WAY in which it – whatever "it" might be – is done.

Said differently, no method, technique, strategy or consequence is going to work for long (if it works at all) unless it is delivered by a parent who is unequivocally convinced of the legitimacy of his/her authority over said child. A right attitude is more important than a right consequence. With a right attitude, a right presentation, nearly any consequence will work, and keep working.

Most parents have already discovered the truth of this. They simply refuse to accept the evidence.

*Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.*

**Happy Anniversary**

**October 12** - Cody and Emily Holland  
**October 13** - Pat and Crystal Hood  
**October 14** - Mr. and Mrs. Gregory L. Terry  
**October 15** - J. J. and Christy Pritchard

**October 16** - Eric and Andrea Adams

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

**Oct. 5 Players of the Week**

<b>H. C. Central</b>	<b>CHCS</b>
<b>Decoria Banks</b>	<b>Wykeece Johnso</b>
<b>SENIOR ATHLETE</b>	<b>JUNIOR RUNNING BACK</b>
<b>9 CARRIES FOR 158 YARDS AND 3 TOUCHDOWNS</b>	<b>150 YARDS RUSHING AND 2 TOUCHDOWNS</b>

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# Education Secretary sees online science lessons in Mississippi

Associated Press Staff Reports

Students in a poor part of the Mississippi Delta are receiving high-level science instruction aided by online lessons.

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos went to Holmes County Central High School in Lexington on Thursday to see the Advanced Placement physics class.

Students have a teacher in the classroom, and through the Global Teaching Project, they receive online lessons from instructors at universities, including Yale. DeVos says she wants school districts to try innovative approaches to teaching.

"Start new things and do things that haven't been tested and tried before, because doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting different results is just not going to work," DeVos said during her stop in Mississippi, which was part of her three-day "Rethink School" trip to four southern states.

The Global Teaching Project, which is funded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation and other philanthropic groups, has programs in 11 Mississippi districts, with five more preparing to join.

Tawanna Jackson, one of nine students in the physics class in Lexington, told the Greenwood Commonwealth that the blended approach provides rigor.

Brea Portis, a senior, said she wants to become a pediatrician. She told the Clarion Ledger that having access to the advanced physics course is setting her up to achieve that goal.



U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (pictured center) looks on during Mr. Iftikhar Azeem's physics class at Holmes County Central High School on Thursday, October 4, during her visit. DeVos is flanked by (left) Holmes County Consolidated School District Superintendent Dr. James Henderson and Dr. Elayne Anthony, chair of journalism and media studies at Jackson State University. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

and I'm pushing myself," Portis said. "I'm proud of myself. Everything I get from this class, I've earned."

Holmes Central has a D rating and the Holmes County School District as a whole has is rated F in the state's A-through-F rating system. In the district with a 45 percent poverty rate, money problems persist.

Holmes County Superintendent James Henderson said he attended the high school 33 years ago.

"Unfortunately it still looks the same," Henderson said. "The biology labs didn't work then, and I'm afraid to say, they're barely working now."

"Being the poorest county in the poorest state in these great United States of America, I say, no more, for the students of my home district," Henderson said earlier last week. "We have smart children in this county; We have been at the bottom

far too long and as the new superintendent of schools and a native, I am grateful to serve our children and to have our U.S. Secretary of Education's presence in our district.

"Ms. DeVos's presence shows that she not only cares for the urban and suburban children, but that she also cares for children in the rural schools and she's putting her time toward—and will allocate equitable funding—to ensure the academic success of students from the rural areas. Her visit is not a surprise, it's an expectation because she is the U.S. Secretary for all children in this great country," said Henderson.

DeVos' visit focused on the blended-learning AP Physics class, that is in partnership with Yale University. Last year several students enrolled in the AP Physics class with a 10% passing rate on the National AP exam.

## HOLMES COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION POLL WORKER TRAINING NOVEMBER 6, 2018

All Poll Worker Trainings will be held at 6:30 P.M. nightly for the November 7, 2018 General Election. It is mandatory that all potential Poll Workers attend training.

**REMEMBER:**

- If you are not a registered voter, you cannot work as a Poll Worker.
- If you are campaigning for a candidate, you cannot be employed as a Poll Worker.

<b>Wednesday, October 17, 2018</b>	Beat 1 Acona Beat 1 Lexington Beat 3 Coxburg Beat 3 Ebenezer Beat 3 Goodman
<b>Thursday, October 18, 2018</b>	Beat 3 Pickens Beat 4 Lexington Beat 4 Thornton Beat 4 Walden Chapel Beat 5 Cruger Beat 5 Lexington Beat 5 Tchula
<b>Monday, October 22, 2018</b>	Beat 2 Durant Beat 2 Sub-Durant Beat 2 West Beat 1 Durant
<b>Wednesday, October 24, 2018</b>	Encoder Training (Mandatory Attendance)
<b>Monday, October 29, 2018</b>	Make-Up Training

**If interested, you may attend a workshop for the Regular Poll Workers & Encoders.**

All training sessions will be at the Holmes County Circuit Court Complex located at 22549 Depot Street next door to the Lexington Multi-Purpose Building, formerly known as the Old National Guard Armory Building.

If you have questions, please call  
The Circuit Clerk's Office @ 662-834-2476.  
Submitted by Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk