

Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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I receive a steady stream of missives from teachers, ex-teachers, and other folks who have insider knowledge of America's schools. They all say the same thing – classroom discipline is falling apart and has been for some time – and ask the same question: What can be done?

Public-school administrators – not all, but entirely too many – refuse to acknowledge the problem. When I bring the subject up, they dismiss it, as in, “Oh, it’s not as bad as people make it out to be” whereas every teacher I’ve spoken to in the past twenty years has told me it’s worse than the public even imagines and getting worse with every passing year.

One insider recently wrote: “Excellent teachers are giving up. They send kids to the office when they’re disruptive, and in minutes the child is back after having received a cookie or some other treat while they talked about their ‘feelings.’ Also, almost every teacher says that when they call a parent about a child’s behavior, the parent makes excuses or blames the teacher.”

That description is typical. I will simply add that not only are many good teachers leaving, but many

good students are as well. They are either moving to private schools (where a disproportionate number of public-school teachers send their kids) or being home-schooled. As a result of this exodus, the per capita rate of problem students rises. Add in the steady increase in under-disciplined children coming to kindergarten and the question becomes: What will public education look like in ten years if these trends continue?

At this point, the reader should know that I flunked fortune-telling in graduate school and had to relinquish my crystal ball and tarot cards; nonetheless, I predict that by 2030 nearly every public-school student will have a diagnosis of one sort or another. In most cases, these diagnoses will be bogus (i.e., pseudo-scientific, as in ADHD and ODD). Increasing the population of “special needs” children will not only compensate for funding shortfalls as student population declines but will also allow public schools to pretty much abandon academic and behavioral standards.

The sound the reader now hears is a mélange of screams, expletives, and general gnashing of teeth coming from the nearest

Smartphone app keeps kids safe when parents away

There are literally dozens of apps on the market designed to find and pay for a local babysitter but What To Do With The Kids® has developed an app that helps that sitter keep the kids safe and occupied when the parents aren’t there.

The SitterAdvantage™ app offers emergency help including important information about the kids and an easy way to contact the parents at any time all in the palm of their hand. SitterAdvantage is available for free on Google Play and the App Store.

SitterAdvantage was developed by Brian Presley, a former youth worker, camp program director, stay-at-home dad and the owner of the parenting website What To Do With The Kids. The app itself was created by a talented group of students from the Mobile Application Program at Ottawa’s Algonquin College.

SitterAdvantage is designed to easily enter important information about each kid including any allergies, handicaps and disabilities they may have as well as

public school, so let me be perfectly clear: In the course of my career, I’ve come to know many public-school teachers. They are, with rare exception, dedicated people. Teachers are not the problem – not for the most

nuclear workforce in our state will create hundreds of new high-tech, high-paying jobs and be yet another milestone toward making Mississippi a hub for the energy industry and the investments that go with it.”

Fisackerly noted the nuclear investments come on the heels of three other large investments by Entergy:

Entergy Mississippi’s newly-renovated \$20-million Distribution Operations Center in Jackson, the company’s intention to purchase the \$314-million Choctaw Generating Facility, a natural gas-fired power plant in French Camp subject to regulatory approval, and the company’s proposal for a \$138.4 million, 100-megawatt solar energy farm in the Mississippi Delta, also subject to regulatory approval.

In the past three years, the company has spent \$1 billion to strengthen and modernize Entergy Mississippi’s electric grid.

Along with these new jobs and investments, Entergy Mississippi will begin installing advanced electric meters, the foundation for grid modernization technologies, throughout its service territory early this year. That project should be complete in 2021.

any medications they may be taking. A photo can also be taken and becomes part of the kid’s profile which can be used if the kid goes missing. The parent’s information is also easily entered which includes: their name, address and cell phone number where they can be reached easily.

When the Emergency page is opened the “Call 911” icon appears along with each kid’s profile. With one touch the phone feature appears with 911 programmed. Once the sitter is sure there is an emergency, they select dial to call for help. This fast, two-step process is designed to eliminate the misuse and accidental dialing of emergency services which may result in a fine for the parents.

If the sitter has taken the kids to the park or shopping and an emergency happens, the “Show my Location” icon on the Emergency page uses the smartphone’s GPS to find their location so they can tell emergency services where they are.

The Emergency page also shows the parent’s address which will help eliminate

part at least. The problem consists of equal parts irresponsible parenting (not confined to any given demographic), parents who make excuses for brats they send to school (just another form of irresponsible parenting), teacher unions that have been given legal power to game the system, federal aid to education (long outlived its usefulness), and administrators who strip teachers of permission to discipline and then discipline teachers who have the temerity to do so. One example of the latter is caving in to parents who accuse teachers of hurting their children’s feelings or having “personality conflicts” with them.

Taxpayer revolt, anyone? Here’s what no one can argue: America’s children deserve better...much, much better.

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any confusion during an emergency. Following the emergency call, the parents can be contacted easily by telephone or by text. The text feature also allows the sitter to send non-emergency updates as well.

Many parents have mentioned that they have overwhelmed their sitter with a lot of directions so the Task feature allows the sitter to easily enter instructions with a description along with a start and end time if needed. A reminder can also be set so that there is little chance of an important task not being completed such as the proper bed time or when to give medication.

SitterAdvantage also features a Resource page with tips and advice for the sitter including a potential job checklist, a pre-job checklist and a location checklist for when they arrive to look af-

ter the kids.

It also features links to the games, crafts and activities found at www.whattodowiththekids.com so that they can find a great selection of fun things to do with the kids that don’t involve electronics or using a screen.

All of the information entered into SitterAdvantage is safely stored and is not transmitted. There is no third-party advertising and no in-app purchases are needed. Family information and profiles can be permanently deleted with the swipe of a finger.

SitterAdvantage is available for free on the App Store and Google Play and will make your sitter, nanny or caregiver better and helps keep the kids happy and safe when the parents are not there.

For more information visit www.whattodowiththekids.com/sitteradvantage.

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Entergy expands nuclear operations in Mississippi

Nearly 500 jobs created at nuclear plant and headquarters

The year 2019 will ring in new jobs and major investment in Mississippi as Entergy Nuclear continues to expand its operations and workforce.

Entergy Corporation has created some 170 jobs at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station since 2017, increasing its workforce to more than 820 employees. Over the next one to two years, Entergy expects to create about 70 more jobs at Grand Gulf.

At Entergy Nuclear’s Jackson-based nationwide headquarters an expansion is underway to accommodate more than 250 new jobs, as the workforce grows from 250 to about 500 employees. The expansion and addition of jobs should both be complete by the end of the year.

The headquarters building houses professionals from various technical disciplines who support Entergy’s nuclear plants. Those include five reactors in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, plus merchant plants in the northeastern United States.

“Our Nuclear Strategic Plan is a five-year business strategy to provide robust governance, oversight and

support of the fleet and to achieve excellence in all nuclear operations,” said Chris Bakken, Entergy Nuclear executive vice president. “The expansion of the headquarters building at Echelon allows our growing nuclear team to work in a single location, fostering unity, collaboration and team effectiveness.”

“As we build the utility of the future, we’re also building the workforce of the future,” said Haley Fisackerly, Entergy Mississippi president and CEO. “We’re proud to be able to bring more jobs to the state. Entergy and Entergy Nuclear’s combined workforce in Mississippi will now be more than 2,000 employees.”

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant praised the most recent news about the company’s investment in and commitment to the state.

“Entergy’s decisions to locate its nuclear headquarters in Jackson and seek the relicensing of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson continue to pay big dividends for Mississippi,” said Gov. Phil Bryant. “This expansion of the company’s