

Rejection Hit In Forum On Child Needs

"Even the best attention to physical needs does not suffice to produce good mental health if adverse attitudes hit a child at an early age," Dr. James H. Russell, professor of clinical psychology at Rollins College, told his audience in last night's Family Council Series forum in the Howard Junior High School auditorium.

"In our culture," he continued, "the most common types of noxious parental attitudes are those of parental rejection and parental overprotection. The rejection often takes the form of an impossible perfectionism in the parent which causes a child through constant frustration to lose confidence in himself.

"Perfectionism and overprotection are poor substitutes for real, genuine natural maternal affection," Dr. Russell declared. "They indicate emotional defects in the mother and create profound emotional defects in the child." He stressed the importance of the three A's, "affection, acceptance and approval" in relations of parents with children.

School-Home Link Traced
Walter Reed, principal of Concord Park Elementary School, is seconded Dr. Russell's views and declared "school behavior is directly related to home life." He pointed out that school problems are due mainly to failure of parents to satisfy basic needs of the child.

"Our task in guiding our children's reading is to maintain our own standards of value, yet respect their standards and present interests and wait patiently for them to grow in their reading tastes," said Miss Clara E. Wendel, director of the Albertson Public Library and third member of the panel.

Discussing the problem of getting children to read good books, yet not coercing or actively censoring them, Miss Wendel defined the task as "not to make children read but to let them read, to help them find what will truly serve their needs and interests." She suggested reading out loud at home as one cogent way of influencing the reading habits of one's children.

Reading Shapes Thinking
Miss Wendel pointed out that reading plays a large part in shaping the thinking of children, in forming their character, their standards, their ideals and aspirations.

Judge Mattie Farmer, Orange County Juvenile Court Judge, scheduled as fourth member of the panel, was unable to be present due to illness. Winston Henderson, assistant library director, acted as moderator.

The Family Council Series, a group of seven film forums, takes up a different phase of family relations each program. It is sponsored by the Albertson Public Library as an adult education program.

A film on the grade-school child obtained from the Florida P-TA Film Library at the University of Florida and a question-and-answer period for the audience completed last night's forum.

Next program in the series is scheduled for March 27 and is entitled How to Tell Teenagers.

Better Family Relations

THE ALBERTSON PUBLIC LIBRARY is sponsoring a worthy community project on the subject of family relations.

It deals with what you should know before you marry to the time you become a grandparent.

Your presence and participation in the forums would tend to show how this city might benefit from the establishment of a family counseling service.

You are cordially invited and urged to attend the next session which will be held in the Howard Junior High School Auditorium Thursday, March 12 at 8 p.m.

The subject will be "Making the Grade with Grade Schoolers."

There will be a showing of an educational movie "Angry Boy" an excellent film of a grade school boy. Mr. Winston R. Henderson, librarian, will act as moderator of a panel to be composed of Judge Mattie Farmer of the Juvenile Court, Mr. Walter Reed, principal of Concord Park Elementary School, Dr. James R. Russell, professor of Psychology at Rollins College and Clinical Psychologist at the Orange County Health Department Child Guidance Clinic, and one other person to be announced.

The audience participates through asking questions. While these usually are in writing anyone wishing may talk from the floor. The contributions from the panel members and the reaction of the audience bring out many interesting, useful and valuable points in the field of family relations.

This community project in adult education is developing through a series of seven film forums. Each one considers a particular area of the family relations field.

There is not a cent of admission. The price you pay will be the time, interest and sincerity you spend toward achieving better family relations for yourself and others of your family.

The project is endorsed by the Orange County Ministerial Assn., P-TA and Medical Society. Expenses are paid jointly by the Albertson Public Library and Friends Of The Library.

It is hoped to make this an annual event in Orlando of importance and interest. Those who planned it hope there will be enough public enthusiasm generated to lead to establishing a permanent family counseling bureau such as Miami now has and Jacksonville is considering.

Teenage Talk Set Tonight

How to Tell Teenagers will be the title of the Family Council Series film forum scheduled for 8 p.m. today in Howard Junior High School auditorium on E. Robinson Ave.

The series of forums dealing with family relations is sponsored by the Albertson Public Library and the Friends of the Library in the interest of promoting better home-life and marital relations.

Tonight's lecture is fifth in a series of seven, all of which are free to the public but restricted to adults.

The film to be shown is entitled Preface to a Life. Members of the forum panel for this week's program include Mrs. H. D. Melrose, a mother and former teacher, the Rev. Kenneth Rogers, pastor of the Winter Park Methodist Church, and Dr. Rodman Shippen, psychiatrist and director of the Orange County Health Dept.'s Child Guidance Clinic. Winston R. Henderson, assistant library director, will be moderator.

Group Hears Panel Talks

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ORLANDO EVENING STAR

Give a teenager freedom of expression. This was the decision reached last night at the family council series sponsored by the Albertson Public Library. A sizable crowd of teachers and parents were on hand for the fifth program in the series. A mother, a minister and a psychiatrist made up the discussion panel. Dr. Rodman Shippen, psychiatrist and director of the Orange County Health Dept. Child Guidance Clinic, said the most important thing to do for a child's welfare is to give him freedom of expression. They should be allowed to select their own clothes and make other decisions even if they make a few mistakes, he said. Last night's discussion centered around problems of the adolescent child.