

(Family cont'd.)

One study tracked 57 families for five years and reported that on a typical weekday, fathers spent about half an hour with their five-year-olds. In the same families, mothers, regardless of their employment status, spent about two-and-a half hours with the same children.

Divorced Children Suffer from "Father Hunger"

In an article for the Wall Street Journal, family psychiatrist Dr. Alfred Messer points out that many children are suffering from what he calls "father hunger", or lack of a male parental figure.

According to Messer, the problem is even more severe for children of divorced parents. "Staying together for the children's sake has lately been described as one of the worst reasons for prolonging a marriage," wrote Messer. "But when divorce threatens to break up a small boy's emotional development, the parents might put aside their differences to provide their child with a critical need - a father."

Open Affection Makes for Healthy Home Life

In light of the increasingly publicized sexual violent crimes against children, psychologists are voicing concern that adults, fearful of being misunderstood, will refrain from showing affection to children.

In a New York Times News Service article, psychologists stressed the danger of a lack of healthy affection in the home. "You can give children all the food and proper diet they need, and clothe them properly and give them the right kind of housing, but if you don't give them physical attention they don't thrive," said Dr. Blair Justice, a psychology professor at the University of Texas.

According to Dr. Carol Tomlinson-Keason, chairman of the University of California Riverside Human Development Program, "Hugging and kissing and supporting are always appropriate. What isn't appropriate are things that begin to cross the line and become more overtly sexual," she added.

I think that these news articles are a reflection of the times and could have a great deal of meaning for all of us. My hopes for us, this coming season, are to have a successful year with our operations at our places of work; but more importantly, I hope for success within our family life's in this current year and for years to come.



"Summer's Show"

As June ushers in Summer,
The pressure of the Season grows.
Walking the high wire is the Act,
Tending the needs keeps You on Your Toes.
Keep the Spray Wagon full of ammunition,
The Irrigation System ready to go.
If you find time to feel down hearted,
Reflect on last Winter's ice and snow.
Let positive mental attitude assist You,
And Enjoy the production of Summer's Show.

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