

Schools

Joined in Education 2015

The Big Disconnect — Technology and Family Relationships



Catherine Steiner Adair

JIE 2015 will address a very exciting and relevant topic for today's families. Catherine Steiner Adair, author of *The Big Disconnect: Protecting Childhood and Family Relationships in the Digital Age* will be in Charlotte on February 3 and 4 to address the challenge of navigating the terrain of both accepting technology and the incredible learning opportunities that it affords, but similarly, recognizing the missed socialization interactions and mixed messages that excessive screen time creates in individuals and families. Adair looks at children and

the amount of screen time that children have from the age of toddlers until they become adults, and how that affects their socialization skills and their communication habits. She also looks at the influences that parents play in the dynamics as adults spend more time on email, on tablets and other forms of mobile technology.

As the school year begins, already there were significant pieces in the *Washington Post* and on NPR addressing the digital conundrum we are in. Adair addresses how as parents we must embrace technology and all of the advantages it affords us, but also how we must be judicious and responsible in our usage—children and parents. Links to these stories can

be found on the Joined In Education website @joinedineducation.org.

Now in its fourth year, this two-day educational symposium is not only a fund-raiser for Charlotte Jewish Day School, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, and The Jewish Preschool on Sardis, it is an event that parents and child care professionals look to as a very valuable and well respected resource for quality programming. The event and all workshops are open to the greater Charlotte community. Tickets are \$36 each and can be ordered @www.joinedineducation.org.

For more information www.joinedineducation.org or call 704-366-4558. ✪



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Blessings in a Backpack Day

Mayor Clodfelter of Charlotte was one of many mayors across the country who took part in National Blessings in a Backpack Day at Huntingtowne Farms Elementary, Temple Israel's partner school. The mayor, along with volunteers from Temple Israel as well as outside the Jewish community stuffed backpacks of food which go home with homeless and at-risk children every Friday. The mayor did so as part of a nationwide effort to combat childhood hunger.

Every weekend, children across the country go hungry. While fed during the school week by the Federal Free and Reduced Price Meal Program, these students have little or no means of obtaining food on the weekends. At Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School, 84% of the students qualify for this program. Blessings in a Backpack is a 501(c)3 organization that provides food for more than 65,000 of these elementary school children across 45 different states on weekends during the

school year, filling a significant hunger gap for these children. Tracy and Larry Brown, members of Temple Israel, decided to "adopt" Huntingtowne Farms Elementary as a Blessings in a Backpack school in 2012 and asked the temple to assist in collecting food and procuring volunteers to stuff the backpacks.

The United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution in June declaring Thursday, September 18, "Blessings in a Backpack Day." Mayor Clodfelter is one mayor who took part in this initiative across the country. ✪



Principal Carolyn Rodd, Mayor Clodfelter, Tracy Brown, and three students from Huntingtowne Farms Elementary School.

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