

Signals of **Sexual Abuse** In Children

Dear Carole,

I have two questions to ask you. First, is there any way to tell if a child is being or has been sexually abused? Second, can you really believe a child's story if they tell you that someone has been messing with them?

Dear A. N., Changes in mood, temperament or behavior may be indicators that a child is or has been abused. The following indicators suggest that sexual abuse may have occurred:

1. behavior problems that seem out of character for the

2. unusual shyness or with-drawn behavior

3. changes in tollet habits 4. if the child acts uneasy around someone

5. if the child seems preoccupied or unusually interested in sexual thoughts

6. changes in eating or sleeping habits

7. If the child talks about ideas which indicate having specific sexual knowledge

8. increase in moodiness. Generally, if two or more of these symptoms appear, seek professional help in talking with your child further. Specialists who work with children who have been sexually abused have learned that children seldom lie about being abused.

Editor's Note: Carole B. Ricks. A.C.S.W., is a marriage and family therapist with a private practice in Charlotte, N.C. If you have personal, parent-child, or marriage problems, write to:

Carole's Corner P. O. Box 37107 Charlotte, N.C. 28237

Classes At The Afro Center

The Afro-American Cultural Center located at 401 N. Myers St. is offering the following

Lap Quilting will be held in 12 sessions beginning January 11. Sessions meet each second Monday for 12 months from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Annette Brown, a noted quilt maker, will lead the sessions. Materials needed include: white bulletin board, No. four sand paper, scissors, pencils, and fabric. Students will be required to work on their quilts between classroom sessions. Tuition is \$60.

African/Caribbean Dance for Children will be held in 12 sessions, Saturdays 1 - 2 p.m. (ages 4-10 years) and 2:25 - 3:15 p.m. (ages 11-17), beginning January 16 through April 9. A recital will be held on April 10.

Noni Olaniyon, accomplished dancer and storyteller will lead the classes. Tuition is \$60 and scholarships are available to qualified applicants.

For information on registration for these courses, please call the AACC at 374-1565.

NCCU Alumni's "Pig Pickin" on

Game Night

The Charlotte Chapter of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association is hosting a "Pig Pickin" for all Chriotte area alumni, following the Johnson C. Smith University and NCCU Basketball Game, at the Excelsior Club, 921 Beatties Ford Rd, on Wednesday, January 13.

There is no admission fee. A car caravan will leave from the Excelsior at 6:45 p.m. for the Coliseum.

Plato High 1988 Class Reunion

The Plato Price High School organization will meet on Saturday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., at Moore's Sanctuary AME Zion Church, Morris Field Dr., in the Church School Department.

The agenda for the meeting is: the 1988 school reunion, update on names and addresses and location of out-of-town class

For more information, please call Earl V. Russell at 334-3521.

March Of Dimes Holds Event For And About Babies

CHARLOTTE - Expectant parents and families with small children will fill Eastland Mall on Saturday, January 23, to participate in March of Dimes

Healthy Baby Day.
This health education event is sponsored by K-97 FM and The

Leader Newspaper.

"The focus of Healthy Baby
Day is the March of Dimes idea that healthy parents are more likely to bear and raise healthy children," said March of Dimes

Coordinator Ann Houston. "We want to make area parents aware of the wealth of resources available to help them deal with concerns ranging from prenatal care to day care.

One highlight of Healthy Baby Day is Diaper Olympics, an athletic event for babies sponsored by Baby Diaper Service and Eastland Mall.

Healthy Baby Day will be the scene for demonstrations on fitness during pregnancy, infant fitness, parent/ child workouts and free makeovers by Merle Norman.

Agencies and businesses dealing with health and children will operate booths during the day, giving out free information.

Some participating booths will be: Mecklenburg County Health Department, WomanReach and the Center for Human Develop-

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Jeśus said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"

John 11:26

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