

Mother's Day always grand

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are living with and raising grandchildren in households that do not include either of the grandchild's parents continues to rise, it is imperative that we increase our understanding of the effects that this experience has on their psychological wellbeing," the authors wrote.

In 2000, 6.3 percent of children in the United States were reported to be living with a grandparent, and 8.6 percent of all households in the United States featured

grandparent caregivers. According to Pruchno, 9.2 percent of black children and 2.3 percent of white children in the U.S. are being raised by a grandmother. The study found "quality of relationship with [the] grandchild's parents is significantly related to care-giving satisfaction for the white grandmothers, but this relationship is not significant for the black grandmothers." Family dynamics and the relationship with the grandchild's parents may be important in understanding

the care-giving experiences of white grandmothers, according to the authors.

Anthony said, "Ebony made it very easy" to switch back into mommy mode. "I was very high energy and a lot of my friends would say I'm still high energy," Anthony said. "Ebony just blended in very well with my lifestyle."

And it didn't hurt that Ebony was the type of child who always made mommy proud.

"I never wanted to do anything that would embarrass

my grandmother," Moore-Roach said. "Even as a student at Winston-Salem State, I said I wanted to be like my grandmother when I grew up."

Today, Moore-Roach and Anthony both have a great relationship with Moore-Roach's biological mother. But the two of them still share a bond that is beyond the traditional grandmother/granddaughter relationship. They're more than family, they are best friends.

Parenting improvement is seminar goal

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Russell's son, finds motivation in his father, and is grateful to having a strong father figure. "I think the workshop is going to be good," the younger Alexander said. "My dad has impacted me a lot in my life."

Fred Crowe, a deacon at Galilee Christian Church, told the audience about how he was a burden to his moth-

er because there was no father figure around. Crowe said his father left when he was 5 and didn't see him again until he was 18.

"I was never a bad kid," said Crowe, who spent nine years in jail for several offenses, including robbery and drug-related charges. "I just got involved with the wrong crowd because I wanted things like money, and (Air

Jordans, I did not know how to give love or express myself."

Participants were advised on what they can do to be better parents by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Parent Advocate Group representatives. Although the role of parent advocates is different at each school their goal is the same. They are liaisons between schools and parents

and help rectify problems.

"It's different things for different mothers. I am the extended mother and father," said advocate Angela Grant.

The Children in Crisis Network will also have another workshop one week before school to discuss how the parents are prepared to go into the academic year as fathers and mothers.

Sunglasses can make summer look much cooler

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How can something as small as a pair of sunglasses change a look—or even have trends of its own?

Color on the face, for one, can be a huge transformation. Red frames versus black frames, even if they're the same shape, can look entirely different.

"They're jewelry for the face," says fashion designer James Mischka, who, with partner Mark Badgley, launched the first Badgley Mischka sunglasses collection this season. The company most recognized for its eveningwear also introduced optic glasses.

"We're known for our ornamentation and embellishment. We're applying those principles to the frames. We used modern technology but the glasses have the old-school feeling of Swarovski crystals, laser-cut lace inlays on frames, pearls. There's even one with feathers inlaid in the plastic—that was a technological challenge,"

Mischka says with a laugh.

Other eye-catching details on sunglasses this summer could be rimless frames, metal studs, an interesting "lining" on the arms' interior or a pattern on the arms' exterior, notes Peggy Fries, senior marketing manager for Luxottica, the manufacturer of glasses for licensees Donna Karan, Ray-Ban, Dolce & Gabbana, and its own brand Vogue.

When it comes to this season's shades, buzz words include "geek chic" and "retro," says Fries.

"White is everywhere in eyewear" Fries says, thanks to the popularity of plastic frames. The plastic trend also will lead to the Ray-Ban Wayfarer, first popularized by Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and later Tom Cruise in "Risky Business," to being very hot, she predicts. Another look Cruise helped make famous—the Aviators he wore in "Top Gun"—is enjoying a revival. The traditionally metallic

glasses, which were first introduced in 1937, are additionally being offered in plastic frames and with more square-shaped lenses.

On other styles, there'll be more careful, subtle and sophisticated use of embellishment, Fries says. Instead of all-over glitzy beading or logos, look for purposeful placement of studs and crystals.

The market is a lot more willing to experiment, she notes, probably because they see more options without going into a store to do their research: Sunglasses now make frequent appearances on fashion runways and in paparazzi photos of celebrities.

"People have more than one pair of sunglasses now. People are shopping for it as an accessory, not a necessity," Fries says.

Technology has done a lot to expand sunglass offerings, ranging from embedded MP3 players and sunglass mobile phone hybrids to high-perfor-

mance lenses, says Brent Martin, president of Ryders sunglasses, which is geared toward the sports enthusiast.

Polarization, which is a filter that absorbs reflective glare, has been around a long time, Martin says, but now it can be injected directly into the lens instead of being added to it. That makes for a higher quality, optically clear lens, he says.

Also, photochromic lenses have gone high tech. Photochromic lenses change the visible light transmission when light gets more or less intense, explains Martin, also a board member of the Sunglass Association of America, a nonprofit industry advocacy group.

These lenses can now be made of polycarbonate, which is shatterproof—an especially important feature on sport sunglasses.

"You can do a polarized, photochromic polycarbonate. That's the ultimate for some customers," he says.

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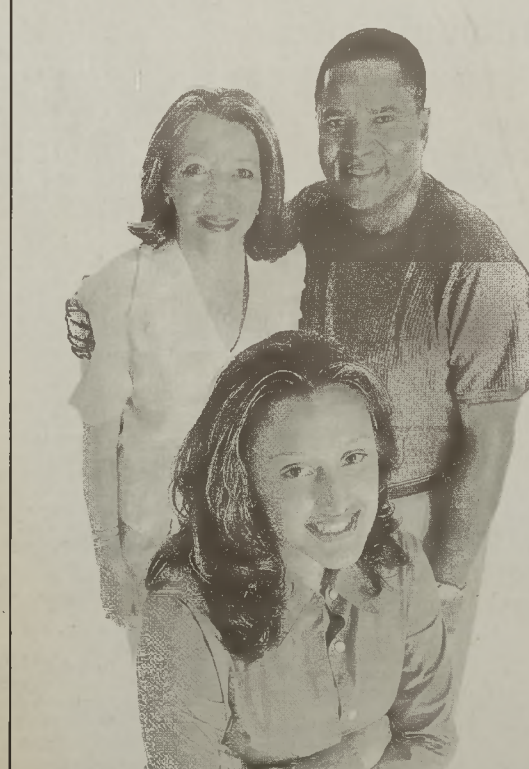
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