## Kid Stuff: Aid: **Advice For Child Abusers**

(Editor's Note: This is another in a series of ar-ticles about children sub-mitted by the Human Development Division of the Pasquotank - Perquimans -Camden - Chowan District Health Department.)
Help For
Parents Who Hurt

Seeing a neglected or battered child is not a pleasant sight. Thinking of children who are terribly frightened of their parents is not a happy thought. But because child abuse and neglect is much more common than we might see or think in our area, we need to face it. Obviously, physically hurt children need medical help. Emotionally disturbed children may need help as well. But what about the parents who continue to hurt their kids, or even totally neglect them? How can they learn to stop the hurting?

"Parents Anonymous" is a national organization which was developed to aid abusive parents. It's members gather to deal with problems of parenting, and to learn to control their emotions at times that they might strike out at their kids. Parents have others to talk to who have similar problems at home. According to Sharon Dvorak, who is organizing the chapter of "Parents Anonymous" in Elizabeth City, parents meet others to call on when they feel like they might lose control. The members are supportive and try to help each other through the rough spots in child-raising.

Mrs. Dvorak stresses that the group is an anonymous one. Its membership is intended only for parents who feel that they have a problem with abusing or neglecting their children. In order that members may be as open as possible, no observers (such as police, social workers) are allowed to be present at meetings, according to nationally established rules.

"Parents Anonymous" meets every Thursday at 7:30 in the Elizabeth City area. Mrs. Dvorak states that transportation can be arranged if necessary, and that there is free babysitting. To find the meeting place, and if there are furhter concerns, please call Mrs. Dvorak at 335-5231. Child abuse and neglect is a vicious cycle that often runs from generation to generation - "Parents Anonymous" is a way to stop the cycle and stop the hurting.

## **Grant Received** For Multi-County **Dental Unit**

The Economics Improvement Council, Inc., has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust and \$35,000 from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., to purchase and equip a new mobile self contained dental unit.

The dental unit will operate in Washington, Tyrrell, Hyde and Dare counties to provide dental care and treatment for economically disadvantaged school aged and Head Start children in the

four county area.

EIC in conjunction with the four boards of county commissioners, in 1969 purchased the original dental unit to improve the dental health of children who would not normally have access to dental care. Since 1969, over 13,000 children have been provided services such as preventive care and education, dental screening and restoration of diseased primary and permanent teeth.

The new grant, totaling \$85,000 will provide for the purchase of the new unit. The dentist will continue to be provided from the Dental Section of the Department of Human Resources with operational funds being vided from county funds

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