

## Children understand about deaths and suicides?

Is a child thinking about suicide? Can she really understand

considering death to their problems," Dr. Frances Wagner, extension development specialist, North Carolina State

mourning the loss of a parent may want to die of the departed. The lone-9-year-old who before his astonished and shoots himself in each apparently is seeking feelings when nobody

in the home may be a adolescent suicides. include unachievable

expectations, the loss of loved ones and the lack of love and support necessary for high self-esteem.

"Adolescent attempts at suicide are a plea for help. They do not really want to die, but want to be saved from the life they are experiencing," Dr. Wagner says.

### A CHILD'S THINKING

"While religious beliefs and symbolism can be very comforting to adults, abstract descriptions of death are very confusing to children," Dr. Frances Wagner, extension human development specialist, NCSU.

When told that a death was "God's will," children may

direct their anger at abandonment toward God. Children informed that the deceased "was so good God took her to live with Him," may wonder whether they want to be good. God may take them away too.

If Heaven is depicted as "in the sky" or "up there", logical children may resist going up in an elevator for fear of going to Heaven before their time. Or a grieving child may want an airplane ride to see the dead.

### THE FUNERAL

Should a child attend a funeral or interment? Should they be allowed to go when they are too young to understand it? Or should they not be allowed to go because they do understand death?

"In general, infants and

preschoolers should not attend the ceremonies because they may be disruptive or disturbed and confused by the weeping of the family and others. If you decide to take young children, explain in simple terms ahead of time what they should expect to happen," recommends Dr. Wagner.

School-age children will probably want to attend and would benefit by going. Children this age are typically interested in both the physical aspects and rituals of death.

### TO EAST WARD RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS

I made a modest proposal in the *Chronicle* two weeks ago. I hope most of you read it. I am more convinced than ever that we must take the initiative to change our image economically and educationally.

One way to change economically is for us to work together to make a regular investment, i.e. monthly. Together we can make a difference in our economic betterment. The new year is a good time to start. Educationally, we need to monitor the schooling of our children. Future needs in the work place demand good mathematical problem-solving skills, sound grammar and oral communication skills. Together we can make a difference. All of you have a very Merry Christmas and let's work together for a more prosperous New Year.

Your Alderman  
VIRGINIA K. NEWELL

**We Will Be Closed**  
Tuesday, Dec. 25  
and  
Wednesday, Dec. 26  
**For the Holidays**  
Deadline for  
church news:  
-- 5:30 p.m. --  
-- Friday, Dec. 21 --

## Check your chimneys for warmth and safety

head of a cold winter things are as enjoyable as a crackling fire in a

Business Bureau says that homeowners are relaxing pleasure by certain that (1) their is in sound working condition (2) the proper type of

chimney sweeps that any chimney has been used for awhile, been cleaned for years, before you start a damage may result of flammable dirt -- called creosote --

edible sweep can for cracked flue liners, structural damage, in- (from birds or an improperly work-

chimney sweeping is a often best left to ex- sweeps, homeowners the proper tools can do the correct flue brush, ple, should be round of wire, and should be larger than the flue to get the necessary action. Professional

sweeps also can use special industrial strength vacuum cleaners to suck up debris as it falls from the flue. Home vacuums are not usually designed to handle the debris and dirt.

As for buying wood for your fireplace, the BBB recommends that homeowners understand what they are purchasing. A full cord of wood, the most common measure for firewood, is defined as a tightly stacked pile of wood four feet high, four feet deep and eight feet long. Seasoned wood is that which has been cut and has had at least six to nine months to dry. Any wood cut in the last few months will probably not be ready to burn until late winter.

Some tips to remember for maintaining a safe fire:

Some tips to remember for maintaining a safe fire:

- do not use flammable liquids.
- if you use synthetic logs, follow the instructions on the wrapper.
- keep a metal or glass screen in front of your fireplace.
- don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires.
- before you go to bed or leave the house, be sure your fireplace fire is completely out.

# Save like the Dickens...



**If** you're playing Santa this year (and who isn't?), you're probably finding that your list stretches further than your money does.

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- Creighton Shirtmakers
- Dress Barn
- Factory Firsts
- Family Sox Shoppe
- Finish Line
- Hamilton Luggage and Handbags
- Hanes Mill Outlet
- Hit or Miss
- Jewelry House
- Jo Harper
- Kitchen Place
- Linens 'n Things
- Lo-Max Shoes
- Lots of Labels
- Maternity Wearhouse
- Marketplace Deli
- Mayberry's
- Newport Sportswear
- Peanut Shack
- Personalization Center
- Plumm's
- Publisher's Book Outlet
- Rack Room
- Salem Coffee & Tea Company
- Shapes Activewear Outlet
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