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Day Care

A Necessity For Women In Today's Working World

By GLENDA LOFTIN
Staff Writer

Wage-earning mothers within two income families and single parent heads of households are the rule rather than the exception in today's society.

Quality care, cost, location, effect on the developing child, and guilt are only some of the problems facing those in need of child care.

According to research done by the team of Dr.'s Flake-Hobson, Robinson, and Skeen, in their book, "Child Development And Relationships," in the years between 1960 and 1975, the number of employed married women with preschool children more than doubled.

As of March, 1980, almost 57 percent of mothers with children under the age of 18 worked outside the home.

By 1990 it is estimated that the number of employed mothers will reach 10.5 million, leaving only one in four married women at home as full-time homemakers and mothers.

For the majority of these women, working outside the home is an economic necessity.

The number of single parents has also increased dramatically over the years. Therefore, child care has become an important issue for most American households.

Most experts agree that parents who provide their children with quality child care while they are working need not feel guilty or worried. But, what exactly is quality child care?

According to Leslie Brigman, a mother with three children in day care, it involves several things.

"Since it is necessary that I work, I wanted to leave my children in a place as near home-like as possible. A place with a clean atmosphere.

I know they get some things at the center that they can't get at home, such as field trips, so I don't feel guilty.

Other factors I had to consider were cost and location. I live in Charlotte and work in Lincolnton, so I was fortunate to find a good day care center in Stanley."

Even if quality child care is available, some parents still suffer guilt.

Melissa Griffin, a mother from Stanley with two children in day care, has mixed feelings.

"I have lots of guilt, but I can live with it. I don't like someone else taking care of my children, but it's necessary.

I think an established routine is important for the children. Observe them. Are they happy and well adjusted? If they are listless and moody, something is wrong. I also believe group interaction after the age of two is good for children."

Griffin has definite opinions about child care nationwide.

"Business, industry or government need to provide child care. Women make up too much of the work force to have these needs ignored," she said.

According to the Department of Human Resources Division of Facility Service in Raleigh, Gaston County has 93 licensed day care centers and 47 registered homes. Costs range from \$75 to \$173 per month for one child receiving care.

Registered homes may keep as many as eight children, but no more than five of them may be pre-schoolers. It is suspected by some that many homes currently caring for children may not be registered with the state and are operating illegally.

Emphasis is on individualized learning, with children making choices of what to work with from prepared materials. The teacher's role becomes one of support, not direct instruction.

Another child care alternative established in 1964 under the Economic Opportunity Act is the Head Start Program, so called because it was designed to break the poverty cycle and give children between the ages of three and five a "head start" in life and school.

Between 1972 and 1975, Home Start, A Head Start type program was initiated in some states. It was set up in private homes by paraprofessionals, community members trained to work with parents and children.

Many parents prefer a total child development



center for their child. These centers offer transportation, health care, nutrition, including breakfast, and educational opportunities.

Rules and regulations for such a center are numerous enough to fill a notebook. Understandably, child care at such a center can be higher.

Karen Johnson, a Mount Holly mother with two children in day care, understands this.

"I know my children are in a good day care situation where they are loved and cared for," she said.

"Some parents feel that cost is a big chunk out of their paychecks. In such cases, I don't see how working is worthwhile.

"You pay for what you get, and you're getting more for your money these days -- transportation, breakfast and field trips.

"I'm a teacher, so my children are only in child care during school months. During vacation and holidays, I keep them with me, but I still pay to keep their spot open at the center."

Joey Toler of Stanley has two children in day care. He has found a child development center that meets his needs.

"What I look for when choosing a center are care givers who give special attention and kindness to each child.

The children need to be recognized as the little people they are, individual people with individual needs."

It is generally agreed that no one child care situation is best for all. But involvement by one or both parents or guardians is vital in the development of the child.

Two working mothers--Denice Talbert and Debbie Crawford--said they decided to enroll their children in day care to give them the opportunity to associate with

other children. "It's worth it to us, we had Christopher, 5, enrolled in day care when he was a year old," said Mrs. Crawford, who works full time at Allen's Flower Shop. She said she and her husband, Calvin Crawford, decided that since Christopher was an only child that he needed the close association with other children.

"They learn a lot and go to movies, the library and participate in a number of activities," said Mrs. Crawford.

Denice and Billy Talbert enrolled their daughter, Britt, 4, in day care two years ago. Mrs. Talbert, works at The Herald, said she is quite pleased with her daughter's progress and that she feels the cost of the program is worth it in dividends the child receives.

"Britt has met so many young people and is learning a lot," she said. "Parents can depend on a day care facility to be open when you need them," said Mrs. Talbert.

In Kings Mountain, day care costs range from \$40 to \$45, weekly per child. Service is available to working mothers on both first and second shifts.

Bolin Day Care, 901 Ramseur St., is owned and operated by Mrs. Barbara Bolin. The 90 children are involved in kindergarten and pre-school activities on a daily basis from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Daily visitors to the classrooms can watch busy hands engaged in artwork, finger painting, pre-school materials and enjoying games and classroom activities such as making ornaments for a Christmas tree or other holiday decorations. Breakfast, snacks and hot lunches are provided to children from infant to age 12. The facility also enrolls after-school children, many of whom attend classes at North School, located across the road from the facility. Prices range from \$40, per week per child from K-pre-school and \$45, for infants and toddlers.

Other members of the staff are Mrs. Bolin's daugh-

ter, Cindi Shyles, Gina Holmes, Marie Page, Debbie Chapman, Kelly Rikard and Christi Carroll.

Humpty Dumpty Day Care on Bethlehem Church Road is also a busy place this holiday season where 22 youngsters have decorated classrooms and put up holiday decorations. The youngest child at Humpty Dumpty day care is 13 months and the oldest child is five years. Co-owners and directors Jo An Morrow and Peggy Blackburn also open the facility to after school students and to working parents daily from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at a cost of \$40, per child, \$45, for one child, if untrained, and \$62, for two children. Donna Henderson and Pam Morrow also assist in the program.

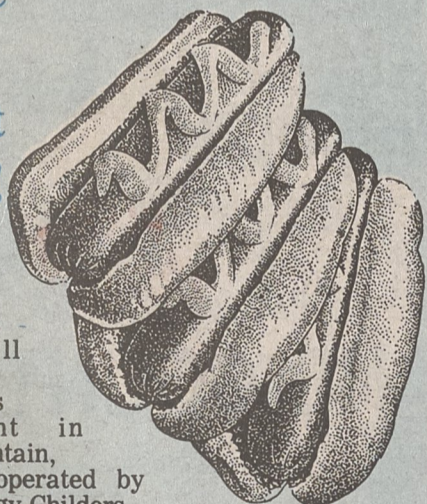
The children are making Christmas stockings, Rudolph the red-nose reindeer, snowmen and Christmas ornaments. Like other day care facilities in this area, the facility offers field trips and a wide variety of activities.

Linwood Day Care, Groves St., accommodates 17 children from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. daily and recently opened a second shift for working mothers. The facility has been owned by Charles and Karen Hardy for one year. The Hardys enrolled their first child on second shift schedule in November. Children have been busy this week decorating the classroom for Christmas and making ornaments and other holiday decorations to share with their families. The cost for day care is \$40, per week per child.

A total of 40 licenses day care centers operate in Cleveland County and 32 registered day care homes are open in Cleveland County. Child-care rates in Cleveland County range from \$152-\$170 per month for one child.

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At
First
Bite!



That's what you'll find at Peggy's Restaurant in Kings Mountain, which is operated by sisters Peggy Childers, Loretta Owens, Sherry Short and Sue Rhea.
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One of America's leading gospel music groups, The Singing Americans, will present a concert Sunday at 7 p.m., at Temple Baptist Church.
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No 'Best' Way To Rear Child

But Day Care Doesn't Come Close To Home Care

By GLENDA LOFTIN
Staff Writer

D.S. Huntington, author of "Handbook of Infant Development," tells of a sign hanging in a toy shop which illustrates the changing attitudes toward childrearing over the years. It read, 1910 -- Spank Them; 1920 -- Deprive Them; 1930 -- Ignore Them; 1940 -- Reason With Them; 1950 -- Love Them; 1960 -- Spank Them Lovingly; 1970 -- The Hell With Them!

As for the eighties, this decade has produced more questions than hard and fast answers for many American parents.

Should I remain home with my child or place it in a day care or preschool situation? If I choose day care, will my child feel neglected and unloved? If I opt to keep my child at home, will my child be deprived of early social interaction skills with other children, or will he or she lag behind their peers intellectually? Can I afford to stay at home? What is best for my child?

According to researcher Diana Baumrind, there is no such thing as the "best" way to rear children.

But, expert opinion is divided on the effects of child care outside the family during the early years.

In his study of children from birth to three years, Burton White, author of "The First Three Years of Life," concluded that children given at home care showed a more accelerated pace of development

than those in day care situations.

White admits that his position is not a popular one, but he is firm in his beliefs.

Quoted in a previous interview, White said, "The gap between what they will get in a substitute-care situation, and what we have found to be the best conditions for the best development, is just too great for me to support it (day care).

"Nothing in the way of substitute care," White said, "comes close to what families can do in the home."

White further stated that "Anyone who has used such care with their children tends to feel extremely guilty when someone suggests that's not a good thing to do."

According to White, leaving a child in the care of a grandparent or other close relative would be preferable to day care.

Author Deborah Fallows, seems to share some of White's views. According to "The Dilemma of Child-Care," an article reviewing Fallows' book, "A Mother's Work," in Psychology Today, Fallows gave up her prestigious academic post at Georgetown University "because I felt that I wasn't offering my son the kind of childhood I wanted him to have."

She argues that "quality time" is no substitute for quantity time and says, "Parents, as the unique and special people in their children's lives, need to spend as much time as possible with their children."

Sandra Scarr, chairman of the University of Virginia's psychology department and author of "Mother Care, Other Care," maintains that Burton White's preference for leaving children with relatives is impractical and unrealistic since many such relatives have their own job obligations.

In a recent interview she says, "What really matters is the quality of care they're having, not who's doing it. It used to be grandma but now it's somebody like grandma."

According to "Child Development and Relationships," there are some advantages to having mothers employed outside the home. Maternal employment can have positive modeling effects on children.

Once stable and predictable substitute care is found, employed mothers can achieve career satisfaction with an absence of excessive guilt and worry. If suitable child care is found, and warm, quality parent-child relationships are maintained, there should be no negative effects on children. The whole family can be happy.

Specifically, girls whose mothers work outside the home typically plan to work outside the home themselves. These girls tend to have higher self-esteem. Research also shows that when mothers are wage-earners, daughters and sons have less stereotyped sex role ideas than children of mothers who stay at home. Maternal employment also encourages peer interaction, independence, and responsibility -- especially for boys.