

FOCUS ON FAMILY

Boys come in all shapes, sizes and temperaments

QUESTION: We have a 9-year-old boy who is quiet, careful, thoughtful and very, very shy. Does that mean he is not "all boy"? Should we be trying to change him, to make him more assertive and aggressive?



Dr. James Dobson

DR. DOBSON: The wonderful thing about the way human beings are designed is their marvelous variability and complexity. We are all different and unique. My previous discussions of aggressive, risk-taking boys represent an effort to characterize young males, showing what is typical and how they are different from their sisters. However, they also differ from one another on a thousand traits.

I remember taking my 10-year-old son and his friend on a skiing trip one day. As we rode the gondola to the top of the mountain, I prepared to take a picture of the two boys with the beautiful landscape visible behind them. Ryan, my son, was smiling and clowning for the camera, while Ricky was just sitting quietly. Ryan then asked Ricky to wave and goof off like he was doing. Ricky replied solemnly, "I'm not that kind of person." It was true. The two boys were at opposite ends of the continuum in their personalities. I still have that picture of the two kids — one going crazy and the other appearing bored half to death. Each of them was "all boy."

Your son is certainly not alone in his characteristic shyness. According to the New York Longitudinal Study, approximately 15 percent of babies are somewhat quiet and passive in the nursery. That feature of their temperaments tends to be

persistent throughout childhood and beyond. They may be very spontaneous or funny when they are comfortable at home. When they are with strangers, however, their tongues are thrust into their cheeks and they don't know what to say. Some kids are like this because they have been hurt or rejected in the past. The more likely explanation is that they were born that way. Some parents are embarrassed by the introversion of their children and try to change them. It is a fool's errand. No amount of goading or pushing by their parents will make them outgoing, flamboyant and confident.

My advice to you is to go with the flow. Accept your child just the way he is made. Then look for those special qualities that give your boy individuality and potential. Nurture him. Cultivate him. And then give him time to develop into his own unique person-

ality like no other human being on Earth.

QUESTION: Our pediatrician told us he believes our son may have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Can you tell us what is known about this problem?

DR. DOBSON: ADD, or attention deficit disorder, appears to be an inherited neurological syndrome that affects approximately 5 percent of children in the United States. It refers to individuals who are easily distracted, have a low tolerance for boredom or frustration, and tend to be impulsive and flighty. Some of them are also hyperactive, and hence they are said to have ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

These children have a pattern of behavior that sets them up for failure in school and conflict with their parents. They have difficulty finishing tasks, remembering details, focusing on a book

or assignment, or even remaining seated for more than a few minutes. Some appear to be driven from within as they race wildly from one thing to another. They are often very bright and creative, yet they're seen as lazy, disruptive and terribly disorganized.

ADD and ADHD children often suffer from low self-esteem because they have been berated as goof-offs and anarchists who refuse to follow the rules. They some-

times have few friends because they can drive everyone crazy — even those their own age.

Dr. Dobson is founder and chairman of the board of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO. 80903; or www.family.org. Questions and answers are excerpted from "The Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide," published by Tyndale House.

GRANDPARENTING: A FAMILY FORUM

When to stand firm, and say no



Dee & Tom Hardie

Internet, we reached a real live young lady via a toll-free number, but she was stationed in India and we couldn't understand her "English" accent, or that of her supervisor. But maybe that was our fault, due to geriatrics and modern science.

The moral of the story: Uprise is a great idea, but polish up your computer skills before trying to sign on.

GRAND REMARKS OF THE WEEK

Dear Dee and Tom: I'm still laughing at these two remarks. Palmer, my grandson, then 5, and I were planning a picnic, and we both made a wanted list and together visited our grocery store to buy provisions. We were at the checkout counter when I discovered we had forgotten to buy everything. I said, "Palmer, Grammy forgot the roast beef!"

Palmer, not cracking a smile, answered, as if con- soling me, "That's OK, Grammy, I know you have short-term memory loss!"

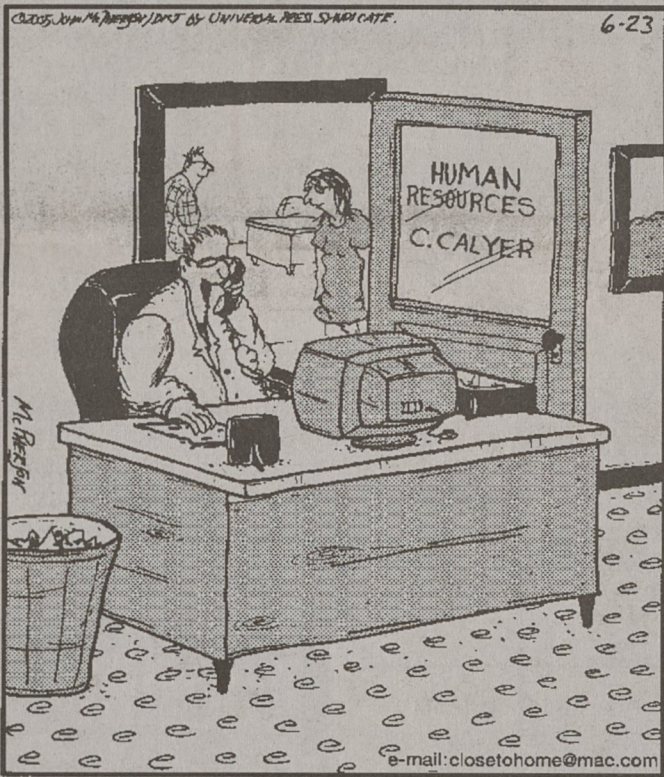
That same weekend he was misbehaving, and I said gently, "Palmer, you know better than to do that." And he answered, "But I'm not 6 years old yet!" He was pre- tending that when 6 he

would know better, and not misbehave. — Jane Richards, Hampstead, MD. Our new friend, a youthful 59, with three children and three grands, is a bookkeeper for a local horse vet.

Dee and Tom, married

more than 50 years, have eight grandchildren. They welcome questions, suggestions and Grand Remarks of the Week. Send to P.O. Box 34, Butler, MD 21023. Or e-mail them at grandparenting(at)aol.com.

CLOSE TO HOME



"Well, Susan, if you're feeling horribly ill, by all means stay home from work. I'm curious, however, why my caller I.D. says you're calling from the Tiki Resort in Maui."

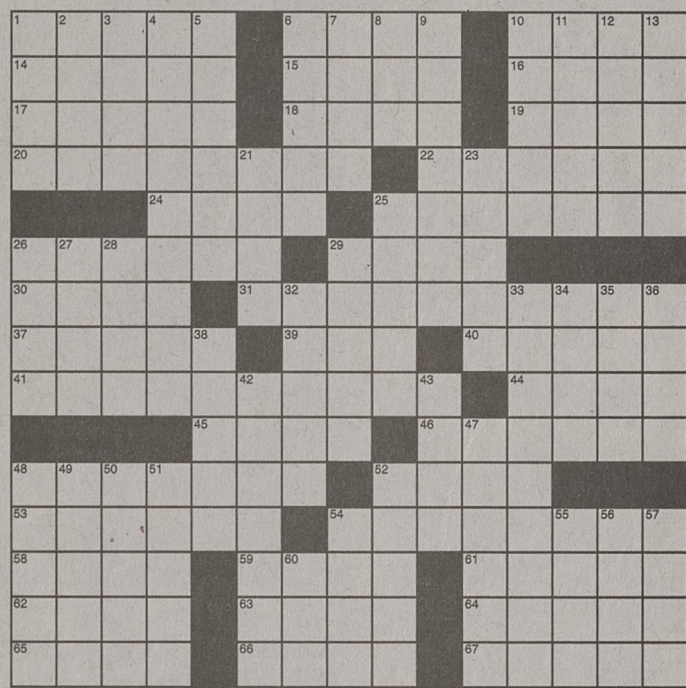
POOCH CAFE



STONE SOUP



This Week's Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Fissile rock composed of layers.
 6. _ Dusat, Monica Warner on Facts of Life.
 10. _ Biondi, U.S. Olympic gold medal swimmer.
 14. Buddhist monks of Tibet or Mongolia.
 15. Hint .
 16. _ vera, used to treat burns.
 17. Broad upper portion of either hip bone.
 18. Rotating pieces in mechanical linkage.
 19. _ Hall, queen of vanity entertainment.
 20. Violent windstorms.
 22. Father of the Cyclopes and Titans.
 24. Strong cart without sides.
 25. Relating to Thailand.
 26. Jared _ , American historian and editor.
 29. Acronym for the American Telephone and Telegraph Foundation.
 30. Acronym for Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection.
 31. Arresting hemorrhages.
 37. Narrow ridge of sand formed by a stream flowing beneath a stagnant glacier.
 39. Soft food for infants.
 40. To emit rays of light.
 41. People who expect the worse.
 44. To repair defects.
 45. Plant pouches containing fluid.
 46. Brightly colored marine fishes, having spiny fins, thick lips and powerful jaws.
 48. Openings forming a holder.
 52. Of two or more colors in patches.
 53. To apply oil to as a sacred rite.
 54. Warned; directed.
 58. Jenny _ , the Swedish Nightingale.
 59. German automotive industrialist who experimented with rocket propulsion.
 61. To lower in rank or prestige.
 62. Null and _ .
 63. Spanish word for "ciao."
 64. French city north of Lyon on the Saone River.
 65. Action or process.
 66. Garment worn by Scottish Highlanders.
 67. Paradises.
- #### Down
1. Long, narrow cut or opening.
 2. Angels headdress.
 3. Variant of emir.
 4. Places where clothes are washed and ironed.
 5. Glacier in Ymer Bay, Russia.
 6. Elijah _ , inventor of the ironing board.
 7. Expression of concern.
 8. Alcoholic beverage distilled from a fermented cane product.
 9. Crafty, intriguing people.
 10. Female head of a household.
 11. By oneself.
 12. Receptacle of a flower.
 13. To disentangle by combing or carding.
 21. To break by striking.
 23. Timber fastened together for floating on water.
 25. Archaic past tense of stop.
 26. To penetrate slowly.
 27. To present for consideration.
 28. Havens of safety.
 29. To collect.
 32. Long narrative poems recounting the deeds of legendary heroes.
 33. Indian city north of Bombay.
 34. Moral or legal obligations.
 35. Small lodging establishments.
 36. To grant typically by treaty.
 38. To have gotten up.
 42. Digging tool with features of an adze and an ax.
 43. Quantity drunk at one time.
 47. To assign a new name to.
 48. Unctuous adhesive substance applied to wounds.
 49. Asian herb of the lily family with pungent, edible bulbs.
 50. Like a cone.
 51. _ International, the largest manufacturer of fire fighting equipment in the world.
 52. Piece guiding a tool or machine part.
 54. Decorative stamp.
 55. To add a small amount of liquor to.
 56. Hippotion _ , Common Striped Hawkmoth.
 57. Small, usually squalid dwellings.
 60. 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.

See inside this week's paper for answers.

Carolina Country Barbecue

All You Can Eat
BBQ After 2:00
\$5.61



Located in The Diner
at I-85 and
Dixon School Road

704-730-1882



WE DELIVER TO BUSINESSES

TAKE OUT AND
CATERING AVAILABLE

All Day Every Day
Small Pork Plate
\$3.99

