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"REMARKS TO DAY CARE CENTER OPEN HOUSE"

APRIL 13, 1986

(APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO INTRODUCTION....)

I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN YOU HERE TODAY IN
THE OPEN HOUSE FESTIVITIES OF THE WEST CHESTER DAY CARE CENTER.

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ALTHOUGH I PLAN TO KEEP MY REMARKS BRIEF, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I'D LIKE TO
NOTEALL OF WHICH CENTER AROUND THE INVALUABLE SERVICE PROVIDED THROUGH THIS
FACILITY BY ITS LOYAL AND DEDICATED STAFFERS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO REVIEW WHAT "DAY CARE" MEANS....IT'S MOST APPARENT THAT
THE INDIVIDUALS PRESENT HERE TODAY ARE WELL AWARE OF WHAT "DAY CARE" IS ALL ABOUT. IN
FACT, THE DEFINITION OF DAY CARE CAN BE SEEN THROUGH THE SERVICES PROVIDED HERE,
EFFICIENT...COURTEOUS...CARING...EDUCATIONAL...CONCERNED...DEDICATED...
UNDERSTANDING.....

ALL OF THESE ARE THINGS VERY IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH WHAT, HOPEFULLY, IS THE MERRIMENT CALLED CHILDHOOD. WHETHER THE SOURCE OF THE CARING, CONCERN, DEDICATION OR UNDERSTANDING BE PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS OR DAY CARE TEACHERS AND STAFFERS, THE INGREDIENTS REMAIN JUST AS IMPORTANT TO THE OVERALL RECIPE OF A HEALTHY CHILD.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, THESE INGREDIENTS REPRESENT THE MOST IMPORTANT SERVICE PROVIDED BY QUALITY DAY-CARE FACILITIES. SURE, DAY-CARE FACILITIES ENABLE PARENTS TO WORK AND EARN MONEY NEEDED TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN. WITHOUT A DOUBT, DAY-CARE FACILITIES ALLOW PARENTS TO WORK WITH THE PEACE OF MIND THAT THEIR CHILDREN ARE IN SAFE, CAPABLE AND CARING HANDS.

BEYOND THESE BASICS, HOWEVER, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT FACET OF DAY-CARE OPERATION IS THAT OF PROVIDING A SUPPORTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR OUR ^{Children} YOUTH.

I SAY THIS EVEN IN WAKE OF THE MUCH-ACCEPTED THEORY THAT THE CHILDREN OF TODAY ARE MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE CHILDREN OF 10, 20 OR 30 YEARS AGO.

CERTAINLY, CHILDREN OF THE 1980s ARE GOING TO BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS OF A DECADE OR TWO AGO. I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ACCEPT THIS PREMISE....AND, IN FACT, ENJOY RELATING THE FOLLOWING STORY ABOUT A FIRST-GRADER TO SUPPORT IT.

THE STORY INVOLVES A FIRST-GRADER WHO PROVED JUST HOW "WITH IT" AND
CONTEMPORARY TODAY'S CHILDREN REALLY ARE. THE CHILD SLIPPED ON THE STAIRS AT THE
SCHOOL AND SKINNED HIS KNEE. CONCERNED, THE TEACHER QUICKLY MOVED OVER TO HELP HIM.
IN AN ATTEMPT TO COMFORT THE BOY AND HELP TAKE HIS ATTENTION FROM THE HURT, THE
TEACHER SAID, "REMEMBER, JERRY, BIG BOYS DON'T CRY." JERRY, HIS LIP PUCKERED, LOOKED
UP AND RETORTED, "I'M NOT GONNA CRY. I'M GONNA SUE!"

AS YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THIS STORY, THE CHILDREN OF TODAY ARE INDEED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN CHILDREN OF 10 OR 20 YEARS AGO. LITTLE JERRY PROVED THAT BY ADOPTING THE "I'LL SUE" ATTITUDE SO PREVALENT IN THE 1980s.

BUT REALISTICALLY, JUST HOW MUCH HAVE CHILDREN CHANGED? I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE THAT TODAY'S CHILDREN ARE, IN MANY WAYS, JUST LIKE THE CHILDREN OF YESTERYEAR.

Good news

THEY STILL HURT AND--DESPITE WHAT JERRY SAID--THEY STILL CRY....THEY STILL
NEED THE FIRM GUIDANCE OF A CARING ADULT....AND THE BOTTOM LINE REMAINS ----- CHILDREN
STILL YEARN FOR LOVE.

TODAY'S CHILD, FOR THE MOST PART, IS NO MORE MISCHIEVOUS THAN THE CHILD OF
DAYS GONE BY. IN FACT, A CHILD SPECIALIST OF TODAY MIGHT SHARE THE SAME ADVICE ONCE
PUT FORWARD FROM A KEEN GRANDMOTHER OF 30 YEARS AGO.

ONE STORY GOES LIKE THIS....A CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST--AFTER REVIEWING A PARTICULARLY ACTIVE AND SOMETIMES BOTHERSOME CHILD-- MET WITH THE BOY'S MOTHER AND OFFERED THIS ADVICE...."MAAM...MY ADVICE IS THAT YOU MUST HANDLE THIS CHILD CAREFULLY, ALWAYS REMEMBERING THAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH A SENSITIVE, HIGH-STRUNG LITTLE STINKER!"

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE 1980s, BUT PROBABLY NOT TOO FAR OFF THE SAME THEME SOUNDED BY A GRANDPARENT 30 YEARS AGO.

THUS, MY MESSAGE HERE TODAY IS QUITE SIMPLE: DESPITE THE MANY CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETY, CHILDREN BASICALLY REMAIN THE SAME.

ACCORDINGLY, THEY NEED THE SAME GUIDANCE, SUPERVISION, CARING AND LOVE THAT SEEMED SO APPROPRIATE YEARS AGO. AND AS A DAY-CARE FACILITY, YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR FOSTERING THIS TYPE OF ATMOSPHERE SO VALUABLE TO THE WELL BEING OF TODAY'S CHILDREN.

SIMILARLY, PARENTS, WHO REALIZE THAT QUALITY DAY-CARE FACILITIES PROVIDE A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHILE THEY ARE AT WORK, DESERVE CREDIT FOR THE STEPS THEY HAVE TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THEIR CHILDREN.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT A FIRM FOUNDATION OF VALUES IS BUILT DURING THE CHILDHOOD YEARS.....FOR AS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ONCE SAID, "WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH, BUT WE CAN BUILD OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE."

THAT'S WHAT THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFFERS OF THE WEST CHESTER DAY CARE CENTER ARE DOING----BUILDING A FOUNDATION ON WHICH OUR YOUTH WILL BE ABLE TO TACKLE THE CHALLENGES BEFORE THEM.

YOUR ROLE IS THAT IMPORTANT....AND YOU ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING TRACK RECORD AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FUTURES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEDICATED DAY-CARE STAFFERS

available to all

AREN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH....FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT MORE THAN A FEW PARENTS HAVE

DIFFICULTY MEETING THE EXPENSES OF QUALITY DAY-CARE SERVICES.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS PROBLEM, I'VE INTRODUCED HOUSE BILL 905 WHICH WOULD

EXEMPT CHILD-CARE EXPENSES FROM THE STATE INCOME TAX.

MY PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE AN "ACROSS-THE-BOARD" CHILD-CARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS REGARDLESS OF INCOME. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT SUCH A DEDUCTION WOULD BE FAR-REACHING IN THAT IT WOULD BENEFIT ALL PARENTS OR GUARDIANS FACED WITH THE COSTS OF CHILD CARE NECESSITATED BY WORK.

MOREOVER, I'M CONVINCED THAT THE DEDUCTION WOULD BENEFIT CHILDREN. WITHOUT A DOUBT, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS WHO NOW MIGHT BE INCLINED TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN UNATTENDED OR IN "SUB-PAR" CONDITIONS--SO-TO-SPEAK--WOULD SEEK OUT QUALITY CHILD-CARE SERVICES BECAUSE THE DEDUCTION WOULD LIFT THE FINANCIAL BURDEN.

HOUSE BILL 905 HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND IS
CURRENTLY BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK
WITH MY COLLEAGUES FOR ITS PASSAGE.....MEANWHILE, PLEASE KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK! THE
EXAMPLE YOU'VE SET HERE IS ONE OF WHICH EACH OF YOU CAN BE MOST PROUD.

THANK YOU...

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Child Abuse - \$5 surcharge on marriage license + divorce proceedings

Act 33 - Criminal history check for child care employees.

" 34 - school employees.

" 14 - use of video taped disposition involving a child victim

Children's Commission -

Act. 66 - Child support enforcement award.

999 - Hatch Day -

public day care program utilizing Commonwealth property.

Act. 14 - immediate investigation of all reports on missing children