

Happy Father's Day!

Kids need fathers too

With Mother's Day in May, when school is in session and children are encouraged to make cards or other keepsakes for their mothers, Father's Day, which this year is June 19, when school is not in session and children on their own, without creative encouragement, might seem a lesser event.

"Both are important, as children need both parents in their lives," said Charles A. "Chuck" Smith, K-State Research and Extension child development specialist.

In saying that, Smith said that he is talking about both biological parents.

"A child needs a relationship with his or her parents to know who he or she is," said Smith, who noted that when one parent is absent or otherwise uninvolved in a child's life, the child's life is incomplete.

For some, Smith's comments might seem to contradict previous recommendations suggesting that, in the case of an absent father, any man will do.

Research on family relationships is ongoing, said Smith, who explained that child development specialists recognize the value of the presence — and participation — of both parents in a child's life.

Each can fulfill a different role, said Smith, who noted that, although mothers fulfill many roles, the role of the caregiver typically predominates.

Fathers also have many responsibilities in a child's life, but are usually thought of as a safety net or protector, he said.

That means, if a child isn't feeling well, he or she is likely to seek the mother; if a child is scared, he or she will seek the father, Smith said.

Parents' roles will evolve as a child grows, said Smith, but the essential elements remain fairly constant. As an example, he noted that a young girl will look to a father for protection, and will count on him for a different kind of protection when she reaches adolescence and starts dating.

"Let's face it, teenage boys, who can be sexual predators, will take note of a father in the house," Smith said. At the same time, fathers also need to serve as role models for their sons, who, if sexually active, can father a child for whom they will have to be responsible.

Being a parent takes time, and while parents share the load, a child will come to appreciate and respect both for their role, Smith said. With both parents in a child's life, a child also can benefit from seeing their parents nurture their relationship and model the give-and-take essential in any successful relationship.

Time, affection help to connect

In advising parents to be involved, and stay involved in their child's life, Dr. Charles A. "Chuck" Smith encourages parents to:

- Invest time; doing so let's your child that you care.
- Show love, affection and tenderness; be gentle, kind, and thoughtful.
- Be strong, set limits, and offer guidance and discipline, and,
- Be consistent, so a child will come to know your values and principles.

While a two-parent home might seem ideal, separation and divorce are part of our culture, and we have to look at the reality of the situation. Some divorce (or separation) will be necessary, but parents need to remember they are divorcing each other and not the child, Smith said.

"It takes two to create a life, and that means it takes two to make a life for the child they have created," said Smith, who encouraged parents who are separated or divorced to work together, respectfully, to maintain their relationships with the child.

If parents remarry, develop other relationships or invite others in the family to share in the child's life, such relationships can expand the number of people in a child's life, but can't satisfy a child's curiosity about his or her own biological parent, Smith said.

In saying that, he acknowledged that there are times, when a death has occurred, when a child cannot know his or her biological parent.

Smith speaks from experience, as his father died when he was young, and noted, that while others may step in to serve as a presence in the child's life, the absence of the parent will leave a curiosity that will likely remain through his or her life.

"A child's life has three parts, and that includes his or her father, mother and self, and when all are involved, he or she can feel whole," Smith said.

Information about family relationships is available at www.ksre.ksu.edu. Smith is the author of "Raising Courageous Kids," and maintains a family-friendly Web site at: www.k-state.edu/wwparent/.

Grandpa is a dad with time to fish



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Danny Buford (far right) of Colby held the first catfish ever caught by his one-year old granddaughter Destiny Crandall (middle) of Kansas City, Mo. as her six-year-old brother Joshua Crandall watched at Villa High Park in August of 2009.

President soon to be father of teen

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama concedes he's nervous about his daughter Malia turning 13 next month, but says "I'm not anticipating complete mayhem."

In an ABC interview, Obama describes both Malia and younger sister Sasha as smart and funny and says "they're kind, they are respectful."

Asked how he would feel about Malia starting to

date, the president quipped, in a reference to the Secret Service, that "I have men with guns who surround them all the time ... and it means they never get in a car with a boy who had a beer."

Obama says he might ask Malia's date "what his GPA is" and what his intentions and career plans are. But he quickly adds that if the girls are watching the interview, "I'm just joking."

Gift ideas for Dad



On the road or off, enjoy a long-lasting MICHELIN® tire and

GET \$70

after mail-in rebate.*

Get a \$70 MasterCard® Prepaid Card via mail-in rebate when you buy any set of four new MICHELIN® brand passenger or light truck tires from June 16 through July 13, 2011, and submit a redemption form.

✓ Brakes
Free Brake Inspection
\$15 OFF Any Brake Service
#CPO0600
NOT VALID W/OTHER OFFERS | EXPIRES 7-30-11



We Employ ASE Certified Technicians

✓ Alignment
Each year or every 15,000 miles you should align your vehicle to ensure optimum handling and safety with maximum tire life.
\$10 OFF w/coupon #CPO0600
NOT VALID W/OTHER OFFERS | EXPIRES 7-30-11

T.O. Haas Since 1947 **TIRE & AUTO**
910 South Range • Colby • 462-3957 • www.tohaas.com

A New Smartphone



-the *Second-Best* Gift You Can Give Dad This Father's Day.

Sign up now and receive *Here*

➔ **3 Months FREE** on Add-a-Lines!*

➔ **3 Months Data** at HALF-PRICE!*

➔ **\$200 Cash*** When you bring us your number!

Plus, **50% OFF ALL PHONES!***
Including the latest smartphones!

~~\$99.99~~ ➔ **\$49.99***

S&T Communications LLC
755 Davis Ave, Colby
785-460-7300

Beringers
1923 S. Range, Colby
785-460-2432



NEXTECH wireless
Authorized Agent