



REDFIELD COLLEGE

Barbara Holborow talks to Redfield Parents

at the

Primary Key Parent Function

Saturday 3 June 2000

Barbara Holborow is a former children's court magistrate and is a passionate advocate for dedicated parenting. It has been said that she brings "a wise head and a warm heart to the world's toughest job: being a parent". She has dedicated the years since her resignation from the bench to setting up a national support network for families who need assistance in the child raising know-how, seeing positive intervention to help young families at risk as the most effective way of breaking ongoing cycles of delinquency and failure. Her talk focused on sound parenting in the early years of a child's life.

On real communication with children.

- ☐ Importance of a parent being at home when children arrive home after school. Consider the absurdity of an infant bonding with a day care worker instead of its mother. If necessary crèches should be established in the workplace, so that mums and babies are not separated. In an very extensive survey in North America, 90,000 children at risk of suicide referred to the fact their mothers were not at home when they came home from school.
- ☐ Don't just talk to your child, don't just listen; you must hear what your child is saying.
- ☐ "Every family watches too much TV".

Importance of Years 0-5.

- ☐ Families must be given every assistance by the state so they can stay together... but nevertheless, incompetent parents who use drugs must reform themselves or lose their infant lest they compromise their child's most formative and important years.
- ☐ 45% of adult offenders were in the juvenile justice system. Childhood bullies, unless helped to change, turn into adult thugs and adults prone to domestic violence.
- ☐ Don't make the mistake of only finding moments of "quality time" for your child... give your child lots of time. There is no substitute for the attention of mum and dad.
- ☐ Don't accept platitudes from politicians about "children are our future"; children are "now"... we must act now in the years in which they are most impressionable.
- ☐ About 85% of children entering the juvenile justice system come from broken homes.

Alcohol, drugs, violence.

- ☐ Marijuana is the worst drug, all the more insidious because people take it lightly; it puts a ‘film over the brain’, its users live in Disneyland; it causes psychological dependence; nobody who uses it with any frequency escapes permanent damage.
- ☐ Alcoholism is a bigger problem than other drugs; it causes more deaths.
- ☐ “A single violent video may not affect your child, but a diet of violent videos will.” Personal experience in court with three murders directly resulting from watching violent videos.

On teaching parenting skills.

- ☐ We all share in the responsibility to see that children are raised well.
- ☐ Every child has a right to a settled loving upbringing in his own family. Consider the tragedy of children who cannot form long lasting relationships because they have never experienced one themselves.
- ☐ You best learn how to be a mum from your mum, but so many first time mums are physically removed from their own parents.
- ☐ The aim of the *Hope for the Children Foundation* is to “mother the mothers”.