

**An Annotated Bibliography of Supplementary Readings for Instructors of English
At El Camino College: English 1A, Between Generations Topics**

Parenting Issues and Difficulties

Berkley, Tom. "On the Sidewalk: Beyond Ebonics." *Oakland Post* 29 Dec. 1996.

Ethnic News Watch (ENW). ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

Although a somewhat dated article, Berkley, nevertheless, rivets his attention of the larger social-cultural issues confronting students and educators in the Oakland School District. In doing so, he dismisses the Ebonics controversy and, instead, insists that "educated people" are those who possess the ability to mix in with the larger society and becoming viable and contributing people in this larger culture. Education in Oakland, he maintains, is not only the job of teachers and administrators, but also of parents, ministers, and businesses—the total community. He calls for the active involvement of all segments of the community in instilling respect, discipline, and participation in these young people.

Bolden, James. "Program seeks to keep black families together." *Los Angeles Sentinel*

25 Mar. 1993. *Ethnic News Watch (ENW)*. ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

Bolden cites a study in Los Angeles, 1992, in which 50, 398 cases of physical abuse on the part of foster care providers were reported to authorities. Given this horrific number of cases, authorities set aside Twenty-five per cent of the existing budget to try and keep children in the homes of their biological families. The money is earmarked to provide poor and emotionally troubled parents with the financial wherewithal to seek counseling, health care, housing, and income support.

Bowie, Rachel. "I Can't DO IT!" *Scholastic Parent & Child* 18.5 (2011): 34. *MasterFile*

Premier. Ebsco. Web. 6 Sept. 2011.

Rachel Bowie explores the inevitable occurrence in children's lives regarding "frustration" and the need for them to learn to deal with it and to control it through their parents' assistance. Her discussion spans the baby years to the 'tween years, and she offers various examples of both the frustration and the parents' helping their children to resolve this frustration. For example, for toddlers, she cites authorities who encourage the parents to verbalize their impressions for their tots, via "emotional coaching," as in the case in which a tot is unable to ride his/her tricycle initially—the parent articulates the child's feelings by saying, "Looks like your angry or worried," before the child explodes, and then helps to reassure them and to encourage them in their endeavors.

Parenting 2

Cettina, Teri. "ages + stages." *Parenting School Years* 24.11 (2010): 131. *MasterFile*

Premier. Ebsco. Web. 6 Sep. 2011.

Cettina, via a series of vignettes that dramatize a child's options in communicating with family long distance, offers some helpful hints for making telephone communication both fun and fruitful. For example, if a four to five-year old child is to communicate long distance with grandmother, the parent might provide a "talk box," a shoe box decorated and filled with pictures and other treasures to which the child may refer during the conversation. Or when a child begins to write, he/she might copy ideas on sticky notes in order to consult them during a conversation with a relative.

_____. "Beyond Belief: Raising a Spiritual Kid." *Parenting Early Years* (2011): 117.

MasterFile Premier. Ebsco. Web. 6. 2011.

Teri Cettina addresses the desire on the part of many parents who, although "unchurched" or unaffiliated with a particular religion or a particular, dogmatic belief system, want to raise their offspring with particular "spiritual values." Citing Rabbi Sasso, who nicely articulates parents concerns that their children understand that "Life is about more than 'me, 'me, 'me,'" Cettina assures these parents that they do not have to know everything in matters spiritual. They may, for example, tell children (depending on the age) that God is everywhere, not only in a church, synagogue, mosque, or Zen garden. Parents should also admit that they are not sure about everything (such as what happens after I die?) and instead engage in a dialogue with the child: "I don't know; what do you think?" Finally, parents might encourage habits of reverence and might also teach by example.

Coppa, Christine. "The Single Parent HANDBOOK." *Parenting School Years* 25.5

(2011): 76. *MasterFile Premier*. Ebsco. Web. 6. Sept. 2011.

Using personal experience, as well as referring to studies on the matter of being a single parent, Christine Coppa offers advice to single parents in dealing with the inevitable, painful questions coming from their offspring, regarding their status as a one-parent child. She addresses the sociological facts that 25% of all children in our country live solely with one parent and, even more stunning, that 41% of current births happen to single women. When a seven to eleven-year old offspring asks about the absent parent, she suggests that answers be clear and succinct and that they also be devoid of undue criticism or rancor toward the missing parent. When the child enters puberty, dialogue should focus on responses that are simple, factual, and "age-appropriate." In the event of a new partner entering the picture, parents should discuss the positive qualities of this "new friend."

Deas, Gerald W. "Why won't your children behave?" *New York Amsterdam News*

28 Oct. 2010. *Ethnic News Watch (ENW)*. ProQuest. Web 7 Sept. 2011.

Gerald Deas attributes the unruly behavior of some children to food additives such as sugar, coloring, and other elements. He attempts a cause and effect relationship between such food elements and inferior classroom behavior and slower learning. He specifically focuses on poorer children of lower income groups—African American, Latino, and poorer Whites. These parents must familiarize themselves with the facts regarding nutrition and then act on this knowledge.

Ellison, Katherine. "The Parent Trapped." *The New York Time* 12 Feb. 2011, Late

Edition (East Coast):ProQuest. Web. 7 Sept. 2011.

The writer shares her concern over the capacity of some parents, those who are overly stressed by children, especially children of the juvenile age, to resort to extreme violence because of an intense frustration with their progeny. Ellison wonders if there is a connection between her (and her capacity to resort to physical punishment in extreme situations) and Julie Schenecker, who confessed to killing her two children, Calyx, sixteen, and Beau, thirteen. She opines that pushing, slapping, and spanking can oftentimes get out of hand. She recommends therapy, and in individuals such as she, medication as well. Ellison insists on the need for a professional, qualified third-party to help parents deal with this issue.

Gottlieb, Lori. "How to Land Your Kid in Therapy." *The Atlantic* July/August 2011.

Web. Aug. 2011.

Both an autobiographical study of a therapist/parent overwhelmed by the idea of "ideal" child rearing as well as an examination of some of the otherwise "successful" young people who are legion in her practice, Lori Gottlieb examines the phenomenon of the pervasive "narcissistic, unhappy" young people and the correlation to their collective childhood as projects for "helicopter" parents. In Gottlieb's practice, she is often confronted by children who know that they should be "happy" (parents have told them this repeatedly) but are anything but. Parents who do too much for their offspring, who do not allow them to fail, and who do not allow their children to "problem-solve" as children are courting disaster when these same children grow up and are unable to deal with failure or who are dismayed at not being the center of attention. For instance, and incredibly, young people in their twenties will text their parents for support many times a day over such mundane issues as their bosses having scolded or reprimanded them.

Parenting 4

Gower, Myrna and Emilia Dowling. "Parenting Adult Children—invisible ties that

Bind?" *Journal of Family Therapy* 30.4 (2008): *Academic Search Premier*.

Ebsco. Web. 14 Aug. 2011.

This academic piece is the culmination of six years of research on the part of the authors. Gower and Dowling, who recorded two-hundred narratives in total, first, via a questionnaire, second through individual interviews. They maintain that the transition from childhood to adulthood is oftentimes a "western construction" or cultural issue in matters regarding independence, separation, and leaving home. They underscore the importance of respect as a crucial concept for parents in maintaining a healthy parent and adult/child relationship. Of particular note, is the example of a narrative—a deeply poignant one—taken from a mother of an adult daughter who discloses her pregnancy to her mother. The methodology in taking the narrative is particularly noteworthy.

Heckscher, Melissa. "Babies aren't for everyone, but they're a joy." *Daily Breeze*.

Saturday, 3 Sept. 2011. A2. Print.

Breeze columnist Heckscher explores the radical changes inherent in one's becoming a parent, in her case a mother to a newborn son. Aristotle tells us in *The Poetics* that human beings are imitative creatures—no more so, according to Heckscher, than in the area of imitating other parents in matters such as clothing for infants and baby strollers and also for the penchant for shopping at farmers' markets to avoid bothering others in the event of a child's "meltdown."

_____. "Learning to be parents is a lifetime career." *Daily Breeze*. Saturday, 20 Aug.

2011. A2. Print.

In yet another rumination on the drastic changes in the lives of parents occasioned by the birth of a child, Melissa Heckscher dramatizes the plight of many new parents: How do we raise a healthy, normal child, given the fact that the newborn does not come with a user's manual? In seeking the answer to this query, she turns to a "certified parent coach," Melody Creighton, who is a retired South Bay teacher and a holder of the "parent coach certificate," which is granted Seattle Pacific University. The program is a one year course of study taken at the Parent Coaching Institute. As a coach, Creighton speaks to the parent via phone or in person (the latter option for Heckscher and her husband). Creighton is the parents' advocate because they are the ones burdened by expectations regarding good parenting. After observing the couple's interaction with their twenty month old son, the coach offers two chestnuts of wisdom to the couple: You are doing fine, though perhaps trying too hard; you need more date nights.

_____. "A primer for you new South Bay moms." *Daily Breeze*. Saturday, 9 Jul. 2011.

A2. Print.

Melissa Heckscher once again considers the role of being a new parent, particularly one who populates the South Bay, as many new parents seem to do. She juxtaposes her past as a single woman who somewhat narcissistically focused on her appearance and on the latest fashion trends. Currently, however, as a mother, she declares that that past is long gone—the last thing she worries about is her appearance and is, in fact, happy to be dowdy, given her status as a new mother.

Huget, Jennifer LaRue. "The kid who eats like a man (or two)." *The Washington Post*.

14 Jul. 2011. *ProQuest National Newspapers Core*. ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

How does a parent feed a ravenous teenage son without going broke or having him grow to the size of the *Goodyear Blimp*? Jennifer Huget provides the answer to this dilemma by focusing on nutrition. Her son, Charles, for instance, is fourteen years old and is five feet-ten inches and constantly consumes food. She emphasizes the fact that "normal" active boys such as her son can require 2, 800 to 4,000 calories a day. Huget suggests that parents keep saturated fats to a minimum and that they further eschew junk food as part of their children's regular diet. Instead, parents might leave a box of "healthy stuff" in the refrigerator for kids to snack on. The contents of these food boxes might contain such food items as low fat string cheese, fruits, sliced carrots, or some fruit. Parents also should teach their sons "normal cooking" skills and provide them with healthy foods, such as eggs, to prepare.

Marcus, Ruth. "Playing House," *The Washington Post*. 22 July 2011. *ProQuest National*

Newspaper Core. ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

Columnist Ruth Marcus assesses the motives some parents have for buying their offspring playhouses ranging in price from fifty-two thousand dollars to over two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars. She opines that there is an obvious "disconnect" between the "sucky" current economy and the "luxury playhouse crowd. Many adults today are losing their homes to foreclosure; their houses may not even be worth the fifty-two thousand dollars parents spend in splurging on their child's ideal playhouse. She further argues that spending money on offspring does not equate to "good parenting" and that, in fact, children need sometimes to hear "No!"

Parenting 6

McHugh, Clare. "Home Truths Marching On: No play dates, no sleepovers, no TV.

Then a 13-year old rebels." *Wall Street Journal* (Online) 11 Jan. 2011. *ProQuest*

National Newspaper Core. ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

In this article, Clare McHugh offers an interesting insight involving parents and their offspring, particularly children of the teenage years when she opines that "We hector our teenage offspring in a way we would never do with friends or colleagues." Of particular note in this discussion is the infamous case of Amy Chua, who maintains that she merely raised her daughters in the traditional Asian manner. Eventually, however, Chua's eldest daughter rebels against her Spartan upbringing and, given the fact that she is being raised in the western culture, she is eventually granted much greater latitude by her mother who knows that this method of child rearing is no longer feasible.

Moilanen, Renee. "Happily ever after means no glass slippers." *Daily Breeze*. Saturday,

2 Jul. 2011. A2. Print.

As was the case with one of Melissa Heckscher's article, Renee Moilanen offers a humorous view of motherhood in terms of the abandonment of "style" in matters of dress. Specifically, she takes the reader on a futile shopping trip for shoes—realizing that her feet have morphed into "mothers' feet" and that anything stylish is out of the question. Finally, she settles for ballet flats and flip-flops realizing that her stylish days are long past.

_____. "Help obese children's parents weigh costs." *Daily Breeze*. Saturday, 30 July

2011. A2. Print.

In a more serious probing of a topic than the one above, Moilanen discusses the controversy of a proposal in Boston to take obese children from their parents who allow them to over eat, resulting in serious health risks for the present and for the future. The idea being proposed is that this overfeeding is tantamount to other forms of parental abuse, wherein the state is legally able to intercede and to remove children from the homes of the biological parents. Ultimately, Moilanen, who is very conscientious about her two-year old son's diet, disagrees with the proposal above. She opts, instead, for the education of these parents who may very well be in the dark about the very grave physical and psychological health risks that they are exposing their children to by not offering them proper nutrition and an proper, healthy, balanced diet.

Parenting 7

Olvera, Joe. "Parents of Chicano children foment the cultural confusion." *El Latino*

Nov. 1997. *Ethnic News Watch (ENW)*. ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

In an absolutely horrific "translation" from Spanish to English, Joe Olvera examines the delicate balance required by Chicano parents to help their children to acculturate to the American experience while maintaining both a knowledge of and an appreciation for their Hispanic cultural background. This piece might be useful in demonstrating to the students the fine art of proper translation, wherein both accuracy and idiom must be carefully rendered. The organization or the individual that translated this essay should be hailed before a court of law!

"The paper for the parents of obese children." *La Opinion* 26 Aug. 2005. *Ethnic News*

Watch (ENW). ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

In yet another abysmal translation (see my note above) this editorial profiles the very real dangers confronting the growing number of Hispanic children suffering from obesity and running the concomitant risks associated with this condition. Among these concerns is the skyrocketing number of children who suffer from type-two diabetes, which is associated with poor nutrition and equally poor eating habits. The advice from the writer is to make sure that children are physically active and that their parents carefully track their children's diet by making sure that they eat properly.

"Review—The Tiger Mother Talks Back—Amy Chua responds to readers' questions

about happiness, relationships, and tips for teaching toddlers." *The Wall Street*

Journal 15 Jan. 2011. *ProQuest National Newspapers Core*. ProQuest. Web.

7 Sep. 2011.

In a somewhat more modified stance from her previous one regarding child rearing, Amy Chua details more carefully and more sensitively the philosophy underscoring her stringent parenting of her two daughters. Expectations of children, she asserts, must be balanced with parental involvement, love, and understanding. She explains that she had in mind only the mission of having her daughters achieve their best or, to cite the Marine Corp motto, to become "the best that they can be." Chua offers as her example of this philosophy her younger sister who suffers from Down syndrome but who has, nevertheless, achieved a good deal of independence, thanks to their mother's "Asian" child rearing. She opines that she would fundamentally pursue her "infamous" parenting regimen all over again, save with some small concessions and compromises.

Parenting 8

Sainz, Pablo Jaime. "Parents set the example for their children with education."

La Prensa San Diego 24 Nov. 2010. *Ethnic NewsWatch (ENW)*. ProQuest.

Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

Sainz interviews Latino parents who both participated in and graduated from a San Diego based program that emphasizes parental involvement and academic training in order to promote the idea of higher education for Latino children. Arturo Guzman, one of thirty-four Latino parents who completed the parenting education class offered by the "Parent Institute for Quality Education" (PIQE) at Sweetwater High School, lauds the program, maintaining that he is now in a position both to advise his offspring regarding the necessity of higher education and to help them with their actual schoolwork. Sainz also dramatizes the tenacity of these parents inasmuch as they must attend class either during the day or after work.

Silva, Cristina. "Child welfare survey examines recession." *Daily Breeze*. Wednesday,

17 Aug. 2011. A13. Print.

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, poverty increased in thirty-eight states from 2000 to 2009. The total figure of poor people soared to 14.7 million in 2009, a 2.5 million increase from 2000. More specifically, Nevada has the highest unemployment and underemployment rate of all of the states, and a full of 34% of Nevada's children were living in homes during 2009 with parents either unemployed or not working full time. The result of this dismal employment percentage for children is that they are impacted academically, socially, and economically, via a wide spread school drop-out rate.

Solelm, May-Britt and Knut-Andreas Christophersen. "A Norwegian validity study of

Parenting stress measured by the Nijmegen Child-Rearing Situation Questionnaire

section one." *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences* 24.1 (2010): 183-193.

Academic Search Premier. Ebsco. Web. 6 Sept. 2011.

In a useful model of an "academic" paper for students—particularly those interested in social science—the writers undertook a study to determine both the causes of parental stress and the consequences of this stress on the family. Two groups of boys ranging in age from six years old to twelve were the subject of this study. The objective was to measure stress via both a questionnaire and a follow-up, personal interview. The groups of parents were broken up into two categories, a clinical group comprised of sixty-four parents, and a comparison group numbering one hundred and twenty-eight parents. Not

Surprisingly, the clinical group demonstrated the most stress inasmuch as they were the group with children suffering from ADHD. Another result was the determination that this instrument was not valid for the so-called normal population. The paper also offers a number of graphs and charts to demonstrate the more scientific element of the study.

Tseng, Daniel. "Opening a Closed Asian Door." *Asianweek* 29 Jan. 1993. *Ethnic News Watch (ENW)*. ProQuest. 7 Sep. 2011.

The writer concentrates his discussion on an Orange County organization founded for supporting Vietnamese gay men and their families. Because of the homosexual taboo so prevalent in this culture, both gays and their families need a forum where they can discuss their particular situation in the community. Approximately five hundred to six hundred people are active members. The meetings are conducted in Vietnamese, inasmuch as most of the parents are non-English speakers. Chief among the most pressing issues is the risk of the HIV virus and the concomitant need for education regarding this matter.

Villano, Matt. "Baby GaGa: Teaching your baby to Learn, and Love, Language may Just be the most fun you'll have as a parent." *Baby Talk* 76.1 (2011): 46.

MasterFile Premier. Ebsco. Web. 6 Sep. 2011.

Virtually every parent concerns himself/herself with the issue of language—precisely, the sensitive issue of the "appropriate time" for his/her offspring to begin speaking. Matt Villano cites pediatrician Larry Gray, M.D. regarding the best way to encourage children to speak. Gray discusses the four steps to language learning: "Conversation starters," talk to them often; "total exposure," the more words spoken to the infants the better; "make conversation," allow for some type of response from the child; "success equals party time," clap, cheer, and generally celebrate any utterance from the child.

"Without Change, new economy bleak for Blacks." *Philadelphia Tribune* 8 Mar. 1994.

Ethnic News Watch (ENW). ProQuest. Web. 7 Sep. 2011.

The article, though dated, deals with some highly disturbing trends and sobering statistics with members of minority groups—specifically Blacks and Hispanics, who, according to the article, suffer inordinately from a high unemployment rate and a disintegrating family structure. Only about fifty percent of the children from these groups live with both biological parents, and about forty percent of Black and Hispanic youth in the eighteen year old to twenty-four year old group have a child or children of their own. These factors result in this group's being paid less and having less marketable skills.

Yen, Hope. "Grandparents playing a bigger role in child-rearing." *Daily Breeze*.

Friday, 26 Aug. 2011. A11. Print.

In the United States today, grandparents are much more actively involved in both the lives and the day-to-day activities of their children and of their grandchildren, according to writer Hope Yen. One reason for this phenomenon is the Baby Boomer generation, those individuals born between 1946 and 1964, who number approximately seventy-eight million members. Grandparents often function as the family safety net by baby-sitting, taking grand children to Doctor's appointments, and shopping activities, and, of course, helping their families out financially—especially for these times with our bleak economy.