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THE MUNCIE STAR, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1989

AAA

Indiana

School Program Bringing Families Closer Together

By ELSON FITTS

KNIGHTSTOWN, Ind. — The "At-Risk" program now in place at the Charles A. Beard and South Henry schools is changing how parents and teachers see each other. This is the report from some parents who just completed five one-day "effective parenting" sessions at the Knightstown Elementary School.

The program, part of former Gov. Robert Orr's Five education package, provides grants for school corporations to help children who are in danger of being retained in a grade or of dropping out of school.

School corporations may set up their programs to focus on specific problems. Charles A. Beard and South Henry schools chose to pool their grant funds to focus on sharpening skills of parents who have elementary school students.

Kevin Knott, from the Dunn Center in Indianapolis, conducted the sessions, using the handbook "STEP — Strategic Training for Effective Parenting."

"The handbook sets principles for parents relating to children. Knott said feedback was helpful because it was effective listening, which deals with communicating with your child — listening to what kinds of responses they have understanding feedback, opening up communication."

The group of about 10 parents mostly women, also learned about "setting appropriate messages to their children. Knott said as well as talking to your child instead of down to your child."

Building a child's confidence and self-esteem also were important parts of the classes. Knott said, "One of the difficulties expressed by parents" was that they didn't know how to cope with their

child's actions. "Other people were telling them, 'You're kids the way they are because of what you have done as a parent, or have not done.'"

Basically said Knott, "parents want their kids to succeed in their school work. That's very understandable for parents, because they want that for their children's future."

Some parents Crawley said, "do not have the skills to get out of work. They are stuck in a certain point responsible for things your kids do."

At the beginning of the 5-week program, Knott said, "It seemed like parents were kind of skeptical that some of the techniques we talked about could be helpful. They said, 'You're kidding us.'"

By the end of the program, Knott said, "I think they are really starting to use what we've taught them. They're really starting to use what we've taught them."

Knott said he had a list of 100 families who had participated in the program. He said he would be following up with these families to see how they are doing.

kind of problems with their kids," said Knott. "I think we got that kind of response from a lot of the parents."

Parents who have other people tell you the same things that you're doing to your kids, Knott said, "it seems like it's a little bit easier to deal with."

Another mother, who asked that her name not be used, also endorsed the program. "I think it's a very effective program," she said. "I just thought it was a matter of consistency. It seems like, be consistent with your

children all the time. "I'd done some communication levels a lot. It's helped tremendously with my son and I highly recommend it to any parent."

Children of some of the parents who participated in the program attended the final session Tuesday night.

Crawley said one student said "Mom's changed. They're nice, not mad at us as usual."

Another student, Crawley said, commented that she thought it was good that some want to make it work. Mom's trying as much as she can, and it's up to us now."

"I thought that really moved the program," she said. "I thought that really moved the program."

Henry County Record

DEEDS
Betsy Clark Memorial Baptist Church, 198 South Main St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. To Betsy Clark Memorial Baptist Church, 198 South Main St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. \$100.00. Recorded 3/19/89. Book 11, Page 101.

WARRANTS
David M. Smith, 108 N. 18th St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. \$100.00. Recorded 3/19/89. Book 11, Page 102.

Randolph County Record

DEEDS
Paul M. Kinsinger and Paula J. Kinsinger to David M. Kinsinger and Linda S. Kinsinger, 108 N. 18th St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. \$100.00. Recorded 3/19/89. Book 11, Page 103.

WARRANTS
David M. Smith, 108 N. 18th St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. \$100.00. Recorded 3/19/89. Book 11, Page 104.

WARRANTS
David M. Smith, 108 N. 18th St., New Castle, Ind. 47332. \$100.00. Recorded 3/19/89. Book 11, Page 105.

DePauw Student Named Queen of 500 Festival

Jasper County, Merrillville and Indiana State Police investigators from the Lafayette post wrap bits of information daily on the two slayings and compare notes on similar robbery-slayings that have occurred elsewhere.

Man Held on Reckless Homicide Charge

LAUREL, Ind. — A Franklin County woman was killed after a handgun with which her husband allegedly was playing recklessly was fired during a fight with her.

East Central Indiana Today

Merrillville
8:30 a.m. — Randolph County commissioners, courthouse.

Police Seek Clues in Motel Murders

DECATUR, Ind. (AP) — State Merrillville Police Chief Jerry McCrory says detectives are now working on leads, but they have a long way to go to solve the slayings of two women in a motel in Indiana last month.

McCrory said he was in the motel with his wife and three children on the night of the slayings. He said he saw a man enter the motel room and talk to the women.

The slayings occurred on March 12 and 13 in the 1100 block of U.S. 50 in Merrillville. The body of one woman was found on the night of the slaying, and the body of the other woman was found the next day.

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