

CHILD WATCH

Prevent Children Having Children: Start Early

By Marian Wright Edelman

In trying to prevent teen pregnancy, which stage of a child's life is most crucial?

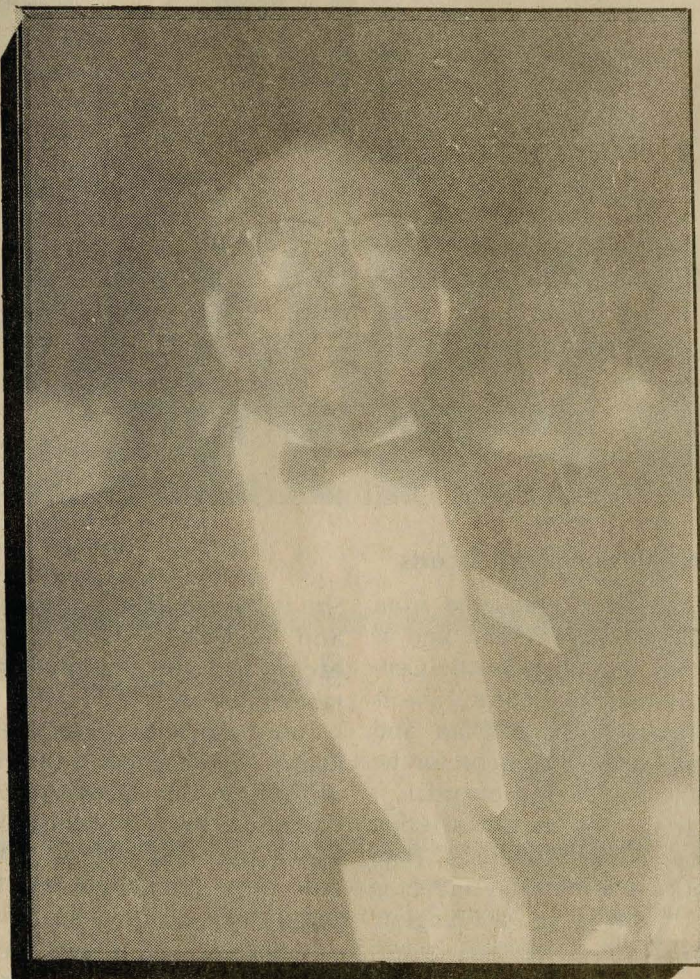
Many adults would automatically answer: the pre-teen and teen years. This is when we usually become most urgently concerned about a child's risk of too-early pregnancy and

parenthood.

But we cannot afford to wait that long. Helping a child to develop and grow in the crucial early years—birth to five—will improve that child's chance of becoming a healthy, motivated teen. And we know that such a teen has a better prospect of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood.

Ernest Moore:

An Indigenous Person



Ernest Moore

Ernest R. Moore a coal miner was born May 15, 1912 in Franklin, Washington to his parents Alfred and Annie Moore.

As a child he attended Franklin Elementary School and Black Diamond High School.

In the year of 1928, he and his brother Alfred Jr. came to Seattle and resided at the Woodson Apartments until 1933.

After the passing of his brother, he returned to Franklin and started working in the coal mines until 1940.

His father passed away, then he and his mother moved to Seattle. He was employed at the Quartermaster's Depot during World War II.

In 1952 he was employed by Seattle's Engineering Department and worked with the department until 1970 upon his retirement.

The Seattle Arts Commission, was seeking history of the Northwest and Ernest Moore joined a writing class at Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center. After writing the story of "The Coal Miner Who Came West," it was published by the Northwest Advertising Company.

The old town of Franklin is now being remembered by Green River Community College's history class. In the summer of 1986 students explored for artifacts, coins, medicine bottles and firearms.

There will be a display at Green River Community College in Auburn Thursday, Jan. 15 from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Dinner will be served from 12-1 p.m. Ernest will be guest speaker and will display pictures and prints of Franklin.

The Flu Is Here

During the past week, influenza A/Taiwan/1/86 (H1N1) was detected in a Washington resident, the first confirmation of influenza in the state this season. In King County, influenza-like illness is being reported widely.

Most of the reported illness has been seen by physicians and outpatient clinics, without requiring hospitalization.

Symptoms are generally an acute onset of high fever, bodyaches, headache, and non-productive cough. Of those reporting illness, the majority have been children and young adults, as expected with the Taiwan flu.

The public is reminded that aspirin and other aspirin-based medications should be avoided by children and young adults who experience flu-like illness because of their linkage with the dangerous, but rare, Reye's Syndrome following influenza and chickenpox. Use an aspirin

substitute for relief of fever and pain, instead. Aspirin is generally safe for adults experiencing flu symptoms.

In addition, your doctor may prescribe a drug (amantadine or Symmetrel) to protect against illness caused by the influenza A virus. This drug, in order to be effective in persons who are unvaccinated must be taken before exposure to the virus for protection, or within 24-48 hours after the onset of illness to lessen the severity of symptoms.

The best protection against influenza is previous vaccination. Both the standard and the supplemental Taiwan vaccines for high risk persons under 35 years of age are still available. Since a two week period after vaccination is required for adequate protection, your doctor may prescribe a drug during that time to protect you if you are at high risk for complications of influenza.

One important key to helping lay a firm foundation for a young child is a strong early childhood development experience. Programs that help children learn and that assist their emotional and social development pay off in later life, research tells us. A 20-year follow up study on graduates of one such program found that the children in it were more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to be supporting themselves, and less

likely to become teen parents.

The importance of aiding our children's development before they go to school is now becoming widely recognized. In a report issued in August, the National Governor's Association recommends that states provide quality programs for four-year-olds and, where possible, three-year-olds as well. In the past three years, 14 states have passed legislation that sets up or expands such programs.

Early childhood programs must be able to serve both parents and children well. Working parents need full-day services which accommodate their schedules. All children, regardless of whether they are participating in full- or part-day programs, need comprehensive and high quality services.

As the NGA report says, "The early years of a child's life are the foundation upon which all skills will be built. If there are

weaknesses in this foundation, early detection and correction are essential to future growth and learning."

Our government must make the investments in child care, Head Start and other programs for young children that can give every child this foundation. The problems will be harder and costlier to fix later on.

Mrs. Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.

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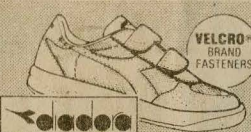
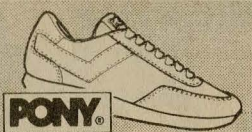
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