Letter from the Editor

Selected Researched Evidence Supporting the Work of Launching Families

Abstract

Research studies have been abstracted to support action items in a Blueprint for Transforming the Lives of Children, through the childbearing and early child rearing phases of family life. The abstracts relate to childbearing. Similar abstracts related to child rearing can be found at www.aTLC.org.

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Come and join in celebrating this issue of the *Journal of Perinatal Education* (JPE), which is the last issue of the tenth year of publication. It is a special issue that does not follow the usual format. It uniquely addresses one of the goals of this journal, which is to provide evidence for evidence-based practice for its readers.

A new alliance, named the Alliance for Transforming the Lives of Children (aTLC), has spent two years and 6,000 volunteer hours constructing and agreeing upon a proclamation and a blueprint aimed comprehensively at the improvement of the cultural understanding and societal supports for childbearing and child rearing. The Alliance seeks to unite the efforts of many groups and individuals who already focus on narrower issues within this arena of childbearing and child rearing. The work of aTLC includes principles of parenting throughout the time periods of preconception, pregnancy, birth, postpartum parenting, and early childhood. These principles are incorporated into a blueprint with recommendations for actions by parents, family, and society. The action items incorporate those from both the Mother-Friendly Initiative of the Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) and from UNICEF's Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, plus a comprehensive approach to the time periods named above. The blueprint is on pages vi–xiv of this issue of JPE. The blueprint can also be found as part of a more comprehensive proclamation document at the web site of aTLC (www.atlc.org). I encourage you to check it out.

Collecting the research that links to these action items has been a service-learning project of RN students seeking a baccalaureate degree in nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Examples of some of the research literature abstracts they have written to link action items in the aTLC blueprint to evidence are featured in this JPE issue. These abstracts do *not* represent a comprehensive review of literature on any of the action items. However, when viewed as a collection, they systematically provide examples of links to the research literature on many of the tenets that are widely held among perinatal educators and care providers who espouse the Lamaze Philosophy of Birth and support a midwifery *model* of perinatal care.

Given the space limitations of this journal issue, only the childbearing time periods through birth are addressed here. Abstracted information for early child rearing and additional abstracts on child rearing will be added to the aTLC web site. If the JPE readership finds the printed version to be useful in ways beyond those served by the web site, future issues of JPE

can be devoted to continuing to publish abstracts related to the early parenting time periods. Just let me know your wishes.

We live in a time and society when many have lost sight of the profoundness of the pregnancy, birth, and early childhood experiences to impact all members of the family. Whereas the biological benefits of the *product* of breast milk are beginning to be more widely understood, the results of the *processes* of launching families breastfeeding

and family relationships are not well understood or accepted by many in the population at large. It is my hope that this issue of JPE will provide one more tool to assist the perinatal educator toward the very important work of launching families and creating a culture compassionate for children. Keep in mind that it is foundational to some of the most important work on the planet.

—Sharron S. Humenick, RN, PhD, LCCE, FAAN

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To be featured in the next issue of the Journal of Perinatal Education.