

ON PARENTING

from Sam's 'Think Again' column



Every human being, especially a child, needs to be recognized as a unique individual.

Parents have a sacred duty to understand the 'specialness' of their offspring and to do all in their power to help the child to accept himself or herself and make the most of the special gifts each has been given.

The dynamics of difference within the family can be a source of tumult or cohesion depending on the ability of the family to celebrate the uniqueness of each family member.

Understanding, acceptance and the celebration of uniqueness can be enhanced by a managed system or individual recognition within the family and not left to accident.

Every parent wants what is best for their child, what will allow them to be happy and successful. Much pressure is placed upon the 21st century parent to see that their child matches the models of success that are represented by standardized testing and traditional models of accomplishment.

Parents often find themselves attempting to squeeze their special, unique offspring into a box made for another kind of child. This 'squeeze-play' is frustrating and demoralizing to the parent and often damaging to the child.

In my work in Human Identification Technology™ I have had the chance to help

hundreds of parents employ an intra-family system for pinpointing and naming the special qualities of all the family members, parents included. Once the family begins talking in exact ways about what is unique about each member, the celebration of the difference begins.

It works like this: rather than each member having a subconscious awareness that Billy is 'the quiet one', games are played in which everyone comes to an agreement about just how that particular characteristic of Billy's will be talked about. The games themselves allow Billy to accept his nature and other members of the family to express exactly how that quality of Billy's reads to them. Of course, Billy has other major traits that make up his unique humanness and words and phrases are chosen for the gamut of Billy's character. The same applies to the rest of the family and soon everyone can talk about the characters of the others, they have names for what they love in one another.

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