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# James Stanfield

THE SPECIALIST IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-TO-LIFE TRANSITION

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## Staying Focused

*"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his/her influence stops. "*  
-Henry Brooks Adams

## Featured Content: Transition Skills

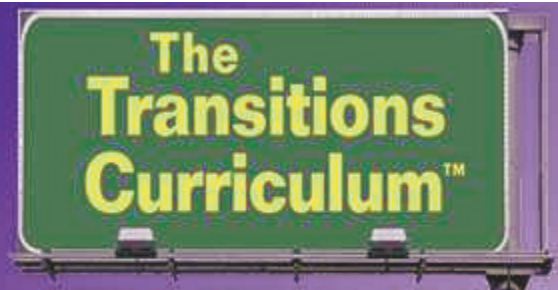


"No, son it's not a school day  
—it's a work day."

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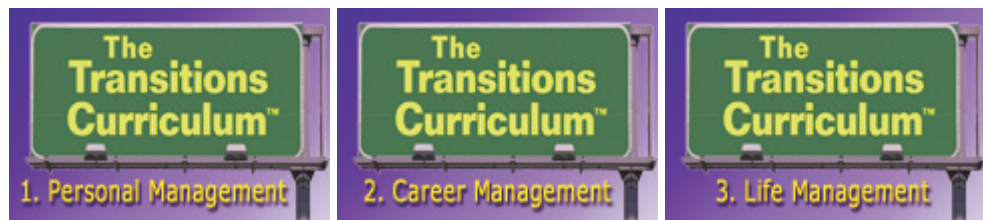
## Featured Program: Transitions Curriculum

**The Most  
Comprehensive  
Transitions Curriculum  
Ever Developed!**



**PROVEN EFFECTIVE!**

## The Transitions Curriculum Series



- **1,500 Sequenced Objectives with Real-Life Relevance**
- **300 Teacher-Developed Lessons**
- **600 Student Worksheets**
- **Core-Subject Indexed**
- **Assessment Unit Every 5 Lessons**
- **IEP Meeting Preparations Materials**

**The Transitions Curriculum** will give your students the skills they need to make a successful transition from school to work and adulthood. The post-school adjustment and success of students is one of the most important outcomes of schooling, yet the typical school curriculum often leaves the two-thirds of students who do not go on to college ill-prepared to live and work in their communities. With **The Transitions Curriculum**, you can give them this preparation and ready them to meet the demands of adult life.

### Feedback from Educators

*"The value and impact of this curriculum is immeasurable. What could be more important than supplying students with the skills and knowledge to make the transition from being a student to being a responsible working citizen!"*  
—Diane Harris

*"The Transitions Curriculum is so complete and well-organized, I have more time to spend on my teaching. "* —Alice Goodson

*"The Transitions Curriculum has increased my interest and enthusiasm for teaching exponentially. This curriculum put the fun back into teaching. "*  
—Pat Ryan

*"There are no other products out there that compare to what your company has to offer."* —Lisa Groves, Program Coordinator

*"I believe your products will be of vital help to my students as they move into the work world."* —Jeff Dolezal, High School Special Ed Teacher, Lawrence, KS

[Click here](#) or see below to find out how you can  
**SAVE \$100 ON YOUR PURCHASE!**

### Humor in the Classroom

*"A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron."*  
—Horace Mann

Teachers and entertainers have in common the need to arouse and maintain the attention of their respective audiences. They are both communicators and we consider humor as an important part of effective communication with K-12 students.

Research on humor has consistently found a strong positive relationship between teacher use of humor and student attention and interest. And with interest comes motivation and the increased likelihood of learning and retaining information.

Simply put, by making the classroom experience more comfortable and enjoyable, humor can make teaching and learning more effective.

The benefits of incorporating humor with instruction are many and should be considered whenever designing instruction. That's why this newsletter, and many of the programs we produce, are full of "instructional humor."

For example, getting your attention and holding your interest in our newsletter is more likely if we augment our content with humor. If we can make you laugh, especially out loud, the good feelings that come with that laugh (laughing triggers the release of endorphins) will likely become associated with the newsletter itself. You will also likely want to return to our site for more laughs and more endorphin highs. Eventually these endless return visits will result in an addiction to the Stanfield Newsletter and you will live for nothing else.

James Stanfield, EDD

## In the News

### Dancing May Ease Mental Disorders

*From: The Swedish Research Council - reprinted in Medical News Today*

Dance therapy can be a successful method for reaching children and adolescents with problems. This has been shown in a research project at Karlstad University and the University College of Dance in Stockholm, Sweden.

Hyperactive and unruly boys with ADHD became calmer and played better with playmates. Depressed and self-destructive teenage girls were better at setting limits, and their depression was alleviated.

For some groups in child and youth psychiatry it is difficult to find effective or sufficient treatment. These include boys with ADHD and depressed, self-destructive adolescent girls.

A research project in the province of Värmland, Sweden, shows that dance therapy is a form of treatment that can work when other more traditional treatments fail or are insufficient.

The research project was led by Professor Erna Grönlund, University College of Dance in Stockholm, and Assistant Professor Barbro Renck, Karlstad University. Renck has also worked as a specialist nurse in both child and youth psychiatry and adult psychiatry.

[Learn More](#)

### More US Teens are Smoking

*From: Reuters News Service - reprinted in UCSF Children's Hospital News*

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Slightly more U.S. teens are smoking cigarettes, researchers reported on Thursday in a study they say suggests efforts to stop children from smoking have stalled.

The latest analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds the percentage of high school students reporting that they have smoked cigarettes in the past month increased to 23 percent in 2005 from 21.9 percent in 2003.

The increase is the first since a steady 40 percent decline in high school smoking rates between 1997, when 36.4 percent of high school students smoked, and 2003.

"The national decline in youth smoking observed during 1997 to 2003 might have

stalled," the CDC writes in its weekly report.

There are several possible reasons, said Dr. Terry Pechachek of the CDC's Office of Smoking and Health. For one, states have not been consistently raising taxes on cigarettes, although such tax increases have been shown to reduce youth smoking.

States are also not funding educational campaigns in schools and the media like they used to, he said.

### [Learn More](#)

## **Ugly Children May Get Parental Short Shrift (ouch!)**

*From: Abridged version from The New York Times*

By NICHOLAS BAKALAR. Parents would certainly deny it, but Canadian researchers have made a startling assertion: parents take better care of pretty children than they do ugly ones.

Researchers at the University of Alberta carefully observed how parents treated their children during trips to the supermarket. They found that physical attractiveness made a big difference. The researchers noted if the parents belted their youngsters into the grocery cart seat, how often the parents' attention lapsed and the number of times the children were allowed to engage in potentially dangerous activities like standing up in the shopping cart. They also rated each child's physical attractiveness on a 10-point scale.

When it came to buckling up, pretty and ugly children were treated in starkly different ways, with seat belt use increasing in direct proportion to attractiveness. When a woman was in charge, 4 percent of the homeliest children were strapped in compared with 13.3 percent of the most attractive children. The difference was even more acute when fathers led the shopping expedition - in those cases, none of the least attractive children were secured with seat belts, while 12.5 percent of the prettiest children were.

Homely children were also more often out of sight of their parents, and they were more often allowed to wander more than 10 feet away.

Dr. Robert Sternberg, professor of psychology and education at Yale, said he saw problems in Dr. Harrell's method and conclusions, for example, not considering socioeconomic status. "Wealthier parents can feed, clothe and take care of their children better due to greater resources," Dr. Sternberg said, possibly making them more attractive.

But Dr. Harrell said the importance of physical attractiveness "cuts across social class, income and education." "Like lots of animals, we tend to parcel out our resources on the basis of value," he said.

### **Recommended Links**

[National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center](#) - A federal resource for professionals, parents, and youth working to prevent violence committed by and against young people.

[The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators](#) - A professional organization for writers and illustrators of children's books.

['Unpimp Your Auto'](#) - Hilarious series of Volkswagen commercials hosted on YouTube.com.

Miss Demeanor: Debut Edition!



Miss Demeanor

Hello! I'm the new etiquette columnist for the Stanfield Newsletter, Miss Demeanor. As you may have read in our September newsletter, Miss Conduct has moved on to fulfill new goals. I truly wish her the best and hope that I can adequately fill the demanding role she left behind.

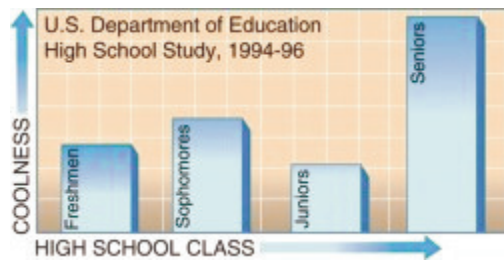
This month, I would like to focus on tact. According to Webster's Dictionary, tact is the keen sense of what to do or say in order to maintain good relations with others or avoid offense. Lately, many young people fail to exercise tact. It may appear humorous to you and those not on the receiving end of your blunt display of inconsiderateness; however, you run the risk of losing friends and associates very quickly.

If you do not have tact, you can at least think first about others and next about yourself. This will go a good way toward finding it.

Excerpts from "The Onion"

U.S. Department of Education Study Reveals Seniors Rule

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Department of Education released the results of an exhaustive three-year study of American secondary schools Monday, announcing that seniors rule.



"When we began this study, we were anticipating the worst," said Simon Brennan, a Department of Education spokesperson. "Imagine our relief, then, when the central finding of three years worth of research turned out to be that seniors just totally rule the school."

Brennan's team cited the senior class' remarkable solidarity as a primary contributor to its ruling status. "Many of the seniors indicated their intention to remain 'Friends forever,' a remarkable sentiment considering that life might take them down many diverging paths," Brennan said. "It's good to know that these young people won't slowly lose touch with one another as the long months and years grind by."

Brennan also cited the seniors' commitment to efficient communication, best summed up in the recurring slogan, "Call me this summer—you better!"

In addition to its findings regarding seniors, the government survey also took an in-depth look at high-school juniors and underclassmen.

"Our findings indicate that those in lower grades do not rule," Department of Education study coordinator Mary Greiver said. "At best, the juniors may occasionally rock."

Excerpt from [www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)

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