

Transcribed from the Family Album Radio Program, a co-production of University of Florida IFAS Extension, the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences and of WUFT-FM. If you'd like to learn more, please visit our website at familyalbumradio.org

*Listening, learning,
and living together:
it's the science of life.*

Children's Health Impact on Family¹

Donna Davis²

While parenting most often comes with unbelievable rewards, it also generates its fair share of challenges. One of those challenges can be our children's health. In a recent study, the U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau reported that children's health problems can have dramatic impacts on family functioning.

According to the survey results, when parents of children with asthma or emotional or behavioral difficulties were asked about the degree of "burden" their child's health condition created for the family, 16.3% of the parents of children with asthma reported a great deal or a medium amount of impact on their family. Twenty-eight percent of the parents with children who experienced emotional and behavioral difficulties reported a great deal or medium impact on family life (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2005).

For families with incomes below poverty, the impact of children's health problems can be even greater. For these families, there may be financial losses, and it can also leave these parents vulnerable to losing their jobs when they have to tend to a sick child at home. Children in poor families were also twice as likely as those in higher-income families to have emotional and behavioral difficulties. There may be some

1. This document is FAR0089, one of a series of the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. First published March 2009. In the interest of time or clarity, the broadcast version of this script may have been modified. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Donna Davis, Senior Producer, Family Album Radio, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. Reviewed by Suzanna Smith, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, University of Florida.

relief, however, in knowing that among children with asthma, the impacts on families decline as the children get older. However, while it may get easier for parents with children with asthma, the study reveals that the challenges get greater for families with children with emotional and behavioral difficulties, regardless of the income (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2005).

Listening, learning, and living together: it's the science of life. "Family Album" is a co-production of University of Florida IFAS Extension, the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences and of WUFT-FM. If you'd like to learn more, please visit our Web site at <http://www.familyalbumradio.org>.

To listen to the radio broadcast:

http://www.radiosource.net/radio_stories/462.mp3

http://www.radiosource.net/radio_stories/462.wav