



KIDS ARE LIKE HELIUM BALLOONS. WHEN HELIUM BALLOONS ARE RELEASED INTO THE SKY, IN SECONDS THE BALLOONS SCATTER ALL OVER, SOME OF THEM RISING HUNDREDS OF FEET OVERHEAD AND OTHERS CRUISING TOWARD THE HORIZON. A FEW BALLOONS STRUGGLE TO CLEAR THE OTHER BRANCHES OF THE TREES WHILE THE SHOW-OFFS BECOME MERE PINPOINTS OF COLOR ON THEIR JOURNEYS ACROSS THE SKY.

HOW SYMBOLIC OF CHILDREN. LET'S FACE IT – SOME BOYS AND GIRLS SEEM TO BE BORN WITH MORE HELIUM THAN OTHERS. THEY CATCH ALL THE RIGHT BREEZES, AND THEY SOAR EFFORTLESSLY TO THE HEIGHTS. OTHERS, HOWEVER, WOBBLE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO THE TREES. THEIR FRANTIC FOLKS RUN ALONG UNDERNEATH HUFFING AND PUFFING TO KEEP THEM AIRBORNE. IT IS AN EXHAUSTING EXPERIENCE.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT SPECIFICALLY TO THE PARENTS OF THOSE LOW-FLYING KIDS: SOMETIMES THE CHILD WHO HAS THE GREATEST TROUBLE GETTING OFF THE GROUND EVENTUALLY SOARS TO THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS. WE URGE YOU AS PARENTS TO BE PATIENT; DON'T JUDGE TOO QUICKLY WHAT TYPE OF PERSON YOUR CHILD WILL BECOME.

FROM FOCUS ON THE FAMILY BULLETIN – JUNE 1999 – BY DR. JAMES DOBSON