Authors say teaching children at home is better than school

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LAFAYETTE — Two home-schooling advocates said Friday that teaching children at home is better than sending them to a formal school system because at home they get the opportunity to explore their interests, as well as the love of their families.

Dr. Raymond Moore and his wife, Dorothy, who have written several books, are presenting a seminar from 9-9 p.m. Friday at the Holcombe.

The Moores said parents should consider home schooling as an option because children can learn better with the support and guidance from their families.

“Children need the family, not the institution,” Raymond Moore said.

Dorothy Moore said the vital ingredient in children's education is the parents, but society is encouraging the breakup of the family.

Pauline Farnsworth, assistant superintendent of Lafayette Parish schools, said the family is important to a child's education, but so is the regular opportunity to interact with others.

She said it is important for parents to provide a solid learning atmosphere for children in the first six years of their lives, whatever path they choose for their children.

The Moores said the decision is up to the families to decide when, or if, home schooling is right for the children.

They don’t think that children should start formal education until they are at least 8, 10 or 12 years old. But many people are taught at home all the way through high school, they said.

Since not all children will be taught through home schooling, an appeal needs to be made to schools to become more like home. Educators would be warm and responsive, and the school days should be shorter so children have more time to play and explore.

Dorothy Moore said national studies have shown that home schooling doesn’t hinder a child’s socialization process.

Home schooling doesn’t stunt a child's socialization because home schools are small. The report said home-schooling support groups are available.

Also, many home-schoolers form groups that have get-togethers, she said.

Sonnie said that home schooling could be the answer to on time commemoration because they don’t interact with others enough. In a formal school setting, they have the chance every day to learn to relate to others, she said.

“We provide children with a multitude of necessary elements that go beyond schooling,” she said, referring to the socialization process children receive through formal education.

Home education should begin when the child is born, said Raymond Moore. As the children get older, they should be taught to do as the kids do, to help them clean up after themselves. As time goes on, they will learn responsibilities and their interests will develop, he said.

The Moores said parents should spend time reading and learning with their children.

Raymond Moore said that children who attend formal education are expected to accomplish various feats, such as reading by a certain age, and if they don’t they are put in special education classes. Then they eventually could be thought of as failures and become juvenile delinquents, he said.

In formal education, teachers ask most of the questions and do most of the talking, so children don’t get many chances to express themselves, he said.