

Youth Talk:
Self Esteem



"...it is not how other people perceive you, it is how you perceive yourself that matters the most in your eyes."

-T.L.J., DSCYF Client

Children in Care
Statistics

As of 6/12/2008 over 1,015 youth were in DFS custody. Of these youth:

- 736 were currently being serviced only by DFS.
- 143 were being serviced by DFS and CMH.
- 84 were being serviced by DFS and YRS.
- 52 were being serviced by all three divisions.



SOC WRAP

Through The Eyes of A Child



I remember when I was my daddy's little princess. That was a very long time ago. The abuse from my father was extremely harsh and most of it was irrational but I had to deal with it for over 10 years. I was eventually put into state custody. Both my parents lost their parental rights and I lost all my friends, my family and my own identity. I was depressed and to me, death was the only good solution.

After my 29th placement and too many times in jail to count, I finally found a place that would not let me go until I realized that nobody mattered in my life but me! I realized that in order to make my dreams come true, I needed to start with fixing one problem at a time. I

started with the problem that I had the most trouble with and that was my self-esteem and trying to get my identity back. When I felt I had completed my treatment and really found myself, I went and told my doctor that I was ready to face what I had been scared of all along—the unknown. I had never known what it was like to have a family who cares about me, to have real friends that didn't try to get me to do wrong instead of right. I knew I was ready to establish a new life. - Excerpts from "The Truancy of a Childhood," written by T.L.J., a youth that has been involved with all three service divisions.

Celebrity Chatter: Answer will be in the next issue!

Which child star said the following:

"I like normal stuff people fear—like spiders and heights. I'm frightened by the unknown, by things that are hard to figure out and get a grip on."

- A. Macaulay Culkin
- B. Haley Joel Osment
- C. Dakota Fanning
- D. Abigail Breslin

June SOC Jeopardy Answers: 1. quality; 2. informal support; 3. pilot; 4. review; 5. collaborative approach