

# Aunt was injured traveling in Rome



RENEE MAHLER

**Q.** My 78-year-old mother and her sister, who is 81, are traveling in Europe. My aunt fell and broke her hip in Rome. She had surgery and soon will be able to return to the United States. Will Medicare cover her stay in a nursing home even though the surgery was done in Italy?

**A.** One of the requirements for Medicare eligibility is at least a three-day hospital stay prior to admission to a nursing home. Obviously, your aunt will have met this requirement, but the tricky part is whether or not Medicare will pay when the stay is in a foreign hospital. According to my sources, the request must be presented to the regional office of the Health Care Financing Administration for evaluation. HCFA requires the following information in order to consider payment: name of the hospital, hospital location, the exact dates of the hospital stay, a copy of the hospital bill and all medical records. HCFA will then decide whether or not your aunt is eligible for Medicare benefits once she returns to this country.

Perhaps a wise thing to do is to bring your aunt home, consult with her orthopedic physician and have her hospitalized to make certain that her physical condition is as you wish it to be. If she then has a three-day-or-more hospital stay here, there would be no question as to Medicare covering her nursing home and therapy costs.

Most of us tend to underestimate the abilities and capabilities of older adults. Elizabeth Vierck, in her book "Fact Book on Aging" has given some statistics that dispell the "over the hill" myth. Here is some information for us all to think about:

- The average age of United States Supreme Court Justices is 70.
- The oldest bridegroom ever was 103. His blushing bride was only 84.
- The oldest swimmer to cross the English Channel is 68 years old.
- Thomas Edison patented his last invention at 81.
- The longest marriage on record lasted 66 years.
- The oldest person to receive a driver's license was 104.
- The oldest bowling champion won a pro event at 72.
- Norman Vincent Peale published his 34th book at 80.
- The oldest person operated on was 111. He had hip surgery.
- The oldest bride was married the day before her 100th birthday to an 80-year-old man.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging.

To leave a message for Mahler, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1869. Send your questions to her at The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

# What to do about child who bites



ALICE MCCARTHY

practice of individual and family psychotherapy.

**Q:** My 3-year-old daughter bites other children. We don't understand why. The situation has become quite intolerable. I can't get her accepted into a child-care facility. Fathers are beginning to say their kids shouldn't be allowed to play with her. Please help us to help her. We have tried methods such as time out and talking. E.K., Southfield

**A:** Biting to express anger or frustration is not uncommon in 2- and 3-year olds. Young children have difficulty identifying feelings and expressing needs verbally. Three year olds, instead of saying, "You took a long turn with the bike. It's making me mad," re-

**■ The biter needs to feel remorse about hurting someone. Emphasize the importance of using words to express feelings.**

spond physically by pushing, biting and so on.

Young children experience stress due to many kinds of events, such as the loss of a loved one or a pet, parental divorce, arrival of a baby and moving. These events arouse complicated emotions they cannot express in words, so they use behavior that is a throwback to a baby's behavior (thumb sucking, baby talk, biting and so on) to draw adult attention.

Children who suffer from continuing illnesses such as asthma, allergies or hayfever, or those who have been frequently hospitalized, can develop a low ability to handle frustration, and use actions such as biting to act out their anger.

By age 4 to 4½, most children develop a larger vocabulary that enables them to express themselves more fully, and their social

skills improve. Therefore, behavior such as biting stops.

My suggestions are: The child must continue with play groups. The adults involved need to be brought into the situation and develop an understanding attitude, so that the child is not excluded. Place the child in a small play group that is set up to provide suitable outlets for acting out aggression.

An adult must keep a close watch on the play situation to skillfully get involved before a mishap occurs. Suggest positive alternative ways to handle conflicts, such as, "Ask Josh for a turn." When biting occurs, focus on the child who was bitten, not the child who did the biting. Encourage the biter to participate in comforting the child who was bitten, perhaps even getting him or her to help put an ice pack on the other child.

Express how sad you feel when someone gets hurt. The biter needs to feel remorse about hurting someone. Emphasize the importance of using words to express feelings. Take notice when the child is behaving well and give praise for that. Invite the child to help others in various ways.

Young children thrive on adult

attention. Parents must take turns to play and plan activities together as a family. Growing up is a slow and difficult process. Children need our love and support, so give of yourself generously.

Bakke can be reached at her office at Beacon Medical Village in Southfield at (313) 342-8816.

All About Families runs every other week in The Eccentric Newspapers. Birmingham resident Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor. She is the mother of five children and grandmother to six young children. To leave a message for McCarthy, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1869, or write her at The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For a list of referral sources and references on the above column, send \$2 cash (or check or money order made out to Bridge Communications) to: All About Families, c/o Sue Willis, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Give date column appeared. Leave a daytime telephone number and indicate if you want delivery by fax or mail. The resource list is available up to 90 days after each column's publication.

## FASHION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29

Intimate apparel

Introducing Salon Z Intimates, an exclusive designer collection of lingerie, foundations, sleepwear and robes for sizes 14-24, through Saturday, Sept. 30, in Intimate Apparel, third floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Jack McConnell

Jack McConnell, hat designer, introduces customers to his fall line of hats 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Millinery Department at Hudson's at Northland in Southfield.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

Just for men

Hugo Boss Autumn '95 special-order collection with special representative 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Men's Clothing, first floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Bruno Magli Men's Footwear Autumn '95 special-order collection with special representative 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Men's Footwear, first floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Neiman Marcus

Meet designer Jack Fuller and view the fall 1995 Miha Silk collection 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with informal modeling 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Galleria at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Donna Karan Men's Trunk Show, fall 1995 collection, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Men's Clothing.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4

Scott Gregory

Trunk show with designer Andrew Marc's leather jackets and parkas, through Saturday, Oct. 7, at Scott Gregory at Applegate Square, 2999 Northwestern Hwy. at Inkster in Southfield.

THURSDAY, OCT. 5

San Carlo

Trunk show featuring San Carlo evening clothes through Saturday, Oct. 7, at Roz & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township. Representative Linda Ward in store 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 6-7.



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