

Program hopes to help parents

9/25/2009

■ Speakers at University for Parents will offer advice and techniques for difficult situations.

By JOHN MARKON
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Dr. George Posner usually doesn't get called in to solve small problems.

His company, Educational Consulting Services, offers its services to parents across the country who are at the "absolute end of their rope" in dealing with their children.

"We see them after they've engaged the usual resources — schools, churches, family doctors," said Posner, who's also written three textbooks on providing guidance and instruction for children and young adults.

Posner's company has offices in Salt Lake City and New York, but he'll be offering his expertise in Idaho Falls today and Saturday at University for Parents, a program being held at the Civic Auditorium.

Posner is one of the featured

If you go

University for Parents is being offered today and Saturday at the Idaho Falls Civic Auditorium. Lectures run from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are available for two days, one day or for an individual lecture.

For additional information and ticket prices, call 522-5545. A schedule of lecture times and topics can be found at www.university4parents.org.

speakers at the event, which is sponsored by Help Inc. and is intended to help "every parent who wants to be a more successful mother or father."

Also on the bill are Dr. Foster Cline, co-author of the "Parenting with Love and Logic" book series, and Richard and Linda Eyre, writers, lecturers and parents of nine children.

"It's very unusual to have so many specialists on a single program," Posner said. "I do quite a few presentations, and I think this

will be the first one of this kind I've done."

When he's making a presentation in front of a large crowd, Posner doesn't attempt instant analyses or deal in too many specifics.

"You need to know an awful lot about an individual situation to offer meaningful advice," he said. "I don't do what you might see on 'Dr. Phil' ... which is entertainment rather than therapeutic psychiatry."

What parents can expect to hear from Posner are recommendations and techniques for confronting difficult situations.

"You're dealing not only with the child, but with the parents who've placed a high priority — maybe the highest priority — on child-rearing and feel frustrated and perhaps ashamed because they've failed," he said.

Posner has a particular sensitivity for problems encountered by parents of adopted children.

"Adopted children are less than 2 percent of all children," he said, "but they represent a minimum of 20 percent of cases referred to companies like mine. Some surveys put the total as high as 50 percent."