

COOL NEWS PEGS & ARTICLE ANGLES!

REAL-LIFE PROFESSIONAL KIDS!

Just like Anna Smudge, there are kids out there with careers so successful that they dwarf most adult's careers... There is the bestselling author, Christopher Paolini, who wrote his first hit at the age of 15. Akiane Kramarik, a Christian artist, has been featured on television and in museums since she was 10. Diver, Fu Mingxia, won the Olympic gold medal at thirteen. Gregory R. Smith was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize at age 12. Dylan Scott Pierce was a wildlife illustrator at 10. Balamurali Ambati became a full-fledged doctor at 17. Anna Paquin won an Oscar at 11. Maria Olmstead, a painter since age 4, was subject of the recent (2007) documentary 'My Kid Could Paint That'... The list goes on. No longer does that age-old question, 'What do you want to do when you grow up?' apply. Some kids are refusing to wait until puberty hits, and hopping on the career bandwagon now!

THERAPY — A NEW FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT!

Dr. Phil, Dr. Ruth, Dr. Melphi... Shrinks are everywhere these days: in the new movie Charlie Bartlett, on TV, and now in children's books. Where it was once taboo to see a shrink, now therapy is more widely accepted than ever before. Kids have their shrink appointments scheduled between soccer practice and piano lessons. Every talk show host has taken on the role of shrink as they quiz their troubled guest in front of the entire nation. Has therapy become just another form of entertainment?

LATCHKEY KIDS & WORKAHOLIC PARENTS

Like many kids nowadays, Anna Smudge is pretty much on her own while her career-oriented parents race off to their next meeting or stay late at work to make a pressing deadline. Where most people don't have the financial luxury of quitting their jobs to take care of their children full time, there is a vastly growing populace that does have the bank account but sees no reason to quit work. Can you truly have success at a career and still be a good parent?

