The Brain Scan

By: Colleen Sonntag

An article by Rob Stein of the Washington Post wrote. "Scientists have developed a scan that can measure the maturity of the brain, an advance that someday might be useful for testing whether children are maturing normally and for gauging whether teenagers are grown-up enough to be treated as adults." Really? A scan should be used to determine if a teenager is grown up enough to be treated as an adult?

How about teaching them, at the very least, responsibility, compassion, love, the golden rule, right from wrong and a little hard work never hurt anyone. Isn't that what everyone learns (or are supposed to learn) as they are growing up? We need to get back to the basics of raising our children in this technologically advanced world.

The study was US federally funded, done with 238 volunteers aged 7 - 30, scanning more than 12,000 connections. Important and useful information could be the ability to identify children whose brains are developing poorly, or who might be at risk for autism, schizophrenia, and other problems. Knowing this information might help us to reverse, or at least reduce the future impact of these problems.

Brain scans used to diagnose, and then hopefully remedy medical maladies is a giant leap forward, but I don't believe anything short of good old fashioned family raising values should be used to determine if a child is ready to be treated as an adult. After all, how will one mature, if they are not given the opportunity? We all started from ground zero and learned first through our own family.

And that brings me to another article, TheFamilyStructure.