



APR 25 2012

Impulsive Tots at Risk for Gambling Problems Later

Self-control in preschool years may improve life outcomes in adulthood.

April 24, 2012 [RSS Feed](#) [Print](#)

HealthDay

TUESDAY, April 24 (HealthDay News) -- Preschoolers who are impulsive, restless, moody and inattentive are twice as likely as other kids to have a gambling problem in adulthood, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of Missouri, Duke University and University College London said their findings are important considering "the ever-increasing number of [gambling] temptations our world presents," such as the constant ability to gamble on the Internet.

[Read: [Justices Debating Tribal Casino Lawsuit.](#)]

In conducting the study, the researchers analyzed information on 1,037 children, aged 3 years, who participated in a New Zealand Health and Development study. After a 90-minute assessment, the children were grouped into one of five categories: under-controlled (those who were more negative, restless and had trouble controlling their emotions); inhibited; confident; reserved; or well-adjusted.

The researchers questioned 939 of the children about their gambling behavior when they reached 21 and 32 years of age. At 21 years old, 86 percent of the participants had gambled, and 13 percent of them could be considered problem or compulsive gamblers. By the age of 32, about 4 percent of the participants still had problems with gambling that interfered with their financial, personal life or career.

The study also revealed that men had gambling problems more often than women. Those with low childhood intelligence and socioeconomic status were also at greater risk for compulsive gambling. After taking these contributing factors into account, however, the study authors pointed out that impulsivity and inattentiveness as a preschooler was a significant predictor of compulsive gambling as an adult.

[Read: [Gambling Has Become America's Hot Pastime.](#)]

The study, released online in advance of publication in an upcoming print issue of *Psychological Science*, is the first to establish a link between impulsivity in children and later compulsive gambling, noted psychologist Wendy Slutske of the University of Missouri and colleagues, in a news release from the Association for Psychological Science.

The study authors added that their findings may extend beyond gambling. Boosting children's self-confidence and teaching them about patience and self-control could increase the likelihood that they will be happy and enjoy financial and academic success, they suggested. "It fits into a larger story about how self-control in early childhood is related to important life outcomes in adulthood," Slutske concluded in the news release

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Mo. Senate budget funds pay hikes, blind benefits

Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 3:51 am | [\(0\) comments.](#)

MU MENTION P. 2

The Missouri Senate signed off on a \$24 billion budget plan early Wednesday that would provide a raise to the lowest-paid state workers in the nation and spare blind residents from a potential cut to their government-funded health care plan.

Senate passage of the budget came only after a coalition of nine Republican senators agreed to drop a two-day stalling effort when they gained a variety of concessions that did relatively little to change to bottom line of the proposed spending plan for the fiscal year that starts July 1. In fact, after talking about the need for more cuts, some of the dissident Republican senators failed in an effort to strip the employee pay raise and then provided the winning margin on a vote to add money to the blind health care program.

It was unclear if the budget passed by the Senate was balanced.

"I think it's close," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

The Republican-led Legislature faces a constitutional deadline of May 11 to send a final budget to Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon. A conference committee of House and Senate negotiators could start meeting as soon as next week to reconcile the differences between the Senate budget and a version passed last month by the House.

Both chambers' versions would hold funding flat for public colleges and universities, opting against a cut recommended by Nixon, and would provide a slight increase in basic state aid for public K-12 school districts. Because those education items are the same in both versions, that funding essentially is locked in for the final version of Missouri's budget.

Nixon originally had proposed a 2 percent raise for all state employees, regardless of their income, that would not have begun until Jan. 1, 2013, which is halfway through the next fiscal year. As passed by the House, the proposed budget would have provided a 2 percent pay raise _

to begin July 1 _ for workers earning up to \$70,000 annually. That was scaled back by the Senate to apply to employees earning up to \$45,000 annually, a threshold that would cover about 82 percent of Missouri's workforce.

According to 2010 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, Missouri ranked last among all states with an average yearly salary of \$36,985 for its state employees, excluding those who work at public colleges and universities. Missouri employees have not received a general pay increase since 2009.

"We've got state employees who are basically the working poor," said Schaefer, a proponent of the proposed pay hike.

Senators voted 17-15 to defeat an amendment by Senate Majority Leader Tom Dempsey that would have eliminated the pay raise. Dempsey offered the amendment after negotiations with the nine dissident Republicans, who had targeted the pay raise as part of a list of about a dozen changes they sought. Dempsey expressed concern that state revenues _ particularly from the Missouri Lottery _ might not meet expectations and that the pay raise would come at the expense of other state services.

"I'm just trying to be realistic. You can't spend money you don't have," said Dempsey, R-St. Charles.

Despite voicing concerns that the budget was out of balance, seven of the nine senators who had stalled the budget later joined a narrow majority of colleagues in an 18-16 vote to restore funding for the blind health care benefits. The roughly \$28 million program provides health coverage to 2,858 blind people who earn too much to qualify for the state's traditional Medicaid program for the poor.

The House had voted to scrap the blind health care program and replace it with a new, significantly slimmed down version. The Senate Appropriations Committee had taken a different approach earlier this month, opting to fund the current program with \$18 million in general revenues, \$1.4 million from another source and cover the remaining gap by charging participants premiums, co-payments and deductibles.

The amendment approved Wednesday added \$8.6 million to the program, essentially restoring it to its current level.

"The blind should have their shot to be fully funded," just like the University of Missouri or state employees desiring raises, said Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, a leader among the group of Republicans that had pushed for additional budget changes.

The budget passed by the Senate also drops a proposed cut _ which had been endorsed by the Senate Appropriations Committee _ to eliminate subsidized child care for an estimated 3,860 children and reduce subsidies for an additional 2,330 children.

Also squeezed out of the budget by both the House and Senate was a proposed \$50 million expenditure of federal grants to update the computer system used by Missouri's Medicaid system. Few deny that the new system would make it easier for people to enroll, reduce the potential for fraud and allow for more effective data analysis. But the nine dissident Republicans fought to keep the money out of the budget because of a concern that it could serve as the framework for the eventual implementation of a health insurance exchange under the new federal health care law signed by President Barack Obama.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Feud jeopardizing preschool funding

BY NANCY CAMBRIA • Nancy.Cambria@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8238 | Posted: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 12:15 am | [\(2\) comments.](#)

MU MENTION P. 2

JEFFERSON CITY • A feud between key members of the Missouri Legislature and state education leaders over a single state employee is putting in jeopardy an \$11.8 million program serving 4,000 preschoolers.

The Missouri Preschool Project has been in peril since the start of the month when it was cut from the Senate's version of the budget. Negotiations are under way in the Senate to possibly restore the bulk of the program, but also move control of it out of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and into the Office of Administration.

The proposed cut is part of a brewing political dispute centered on Kathy Thornburg, a part-time assistant commissioner in the Department of Education hired in April 2010.

Critics, led by Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield, said on the Senate floor last week that Thornburg was "out of control" in her efforts to enact an early childhood education initiative that was forbidden by state lawmakers. Cunningham has repeatedly singled out Thornburg, despite the fact her actions were backed by Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro and the State Board of Education.

Specifically, Cunningham and others say Thornburg has disregarded a legislative mandate that forbids enacting a formal program to review and rate the quality of private preschools and tie that to funding.

Cunningham said Thornburg essentially did just that in a bid last fall to help the state qualify for new federal preschool funding. She said Thornburg and officials at the Department of Education also blatantly disregarded a Senate resolution last fall demanding they withdraw the grant proposal.

Officials with the Department of Education, its board and Thornburg declined to comment on the situation. But they have previously defended the department's actions.

Benefactors of the program say the political dispute and uncertainty about the future of the program is putting the needs of children and parents last.

"The bottom line is we just need money for our children and families," said Stephen Zwolak, executive director of University City Children's Center. The private early childhood facility stands to lose about \$40,000 next year in funding if the cuts go through. The program enabled the center to expand by 20 students over six years and offer scholarships for parents, he said.

Lawmakers lack power to directly fire state employees, so some say they are, instead, holding the funding hostage to force state officials to fire Thornburg. The Senate Appropriations Committee has already cut nearly \$95,000 supporting her salary from next year's budget.

On Monday, Cunningham told members of the House, "the state Board of Education has slapped us across the face, and we have nowhere else to go but the money."

She said that situation could be "easily fixed by the department," noting the problem exists "a block and a half away" — a reference to Thornburg's position in the Department of Education.

Critics say Thornburg, who also earns \$70,477 a year at the University of Missouri as head of the Center for Family Policy and Research, disregarded repeated warnings from members of the Legislature by applying last year for \$60 million in Race to the Top funding through the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

RATING PRESCHOOLS

The particular grant, called the Early Learning Challenge Grant, required participating preschools to be measured and ranked through a Quality Rating System, or QRS. Under the system, higher ranking facilities typically are awarded greater funding and lower ones are given funding incentives to improve. Missouri's grant application proposed creating a "Show-Me Quality for Missouri's Children" ranking system to satisfy that requirement.

Cunningham and other lawmakers said the Missouri Legislature has repeatedly rejected bills proposing using QRS for child cares, and this defied that mandate.

Cunningham said the rating system proposed by Thornburg would be administered through Thornburg's Center for Family Policy, which has previously administered voluntary pilot QRS programs. She said that could give her unfair authority on who got the money and how it was used.

Cunningham, one of QRS' biggest critics, told the Senate such a system amounted to 'social engineering' on children, and forced a "Katny Thornburg one-size-fits-all" mentality on child-rearing in Missouri.

Carol Scott, CEO of Child Care Aware of Missouri, a longtime proponent of QRS said, "There is no one-size-fits-all approach, other than adherence to documented best-practice standards."

The dispute began last fall. In mid-September, 34 lawmakers sent a letter to Nicastro demanding her office drop its application for the federal grant, arguing the department was "knowingly circumventing the legislative process and the will of the General Assembly." The letter included

a resolution passed during last fall's special legislative session that cited "a complete disregard for the legislative process."

In response to the complaints, officials with the Department of Education sent a letter to Cunningham on Oct. 5 signed by Nicaastro and Peter Herschend, president of the Missouri State Board of Education. The letter said the state board decided it was in the best interest of Missouri's schoolchildren to submit the proposal.

"It will ensure all children — especially low-income and high-needs children — enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life," the letter said. "We know you share our passion for doing what's best to ensure the success of all of Missouri's children."

Missouri was not one of the states selected for the grant. An official with the Department of Education said it is not using any rating system in its current work.

HIGH STAKES

Early childhood advocates say the stakes in this dispute are high.

A statewide cut would fully eliminate the Missouri Preschool Project, a program designed to give 3- and 4-year-olds greater access to quality preschool slots. Altogether the cuts would eliminate 154 public school district preschool programs and 11 private licensed programs. More than half of those children are low-income. An additional 581 are special-needs children and 60 are classified as homeless, the state said in a memo released to the media.

In the St. Louis area, Bayless, Ferguson-Florissant, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Normandy, Orchard Farm, Parkway, Ritenour, Riverview Gardens and Webster Groves school districts currently receive funding through the program, as well as a handful of independent child care centers. Riverview Gardens and Webster Groves each got \$102,000 this year. Parkway, which is in Cunningham's legislative district, got \$85,000.

For the Normandy district the cut would amount to one full-time teacher and 15 slots for low-income preschoolers, said Sharon Williams, executive director of teaching and learning for the district. The district would lose 15 percent of its free preschool spots, she said.

Originally, the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed to reallocate all of the funding to other Department of Education programs. Parents as Teachers would have gotten the bulk of it — \$10 million. An additional \$1 million would have been used to reinstate the Missouri Scholars Program, a summer program for honors high school students at the University of Missouri. The current proposal, which has yet to reach the Senate floor, directs \$8.3 million to be moved into the Office of Administration. It is unclear where the remaining \$3.5 million would be allocated.

Early childhood advocates say Parents as Teachers is an important program, but it should not be pitted against other strong programs.

"They are setting us up against each other, and everybody is scrambling for dollars — and they are trying to build one system on the back of another system," said Zwolak of University City Children's Center.

Elizabeth Crisp of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.



MU to open food pantry

By JANESE SILVEY

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

In the future, University of Missouri students and employees won't have to stray far from campus if they need a little help putting food on the table.

A new food pantry is expected to open in the fall. Negotiations for the location are in the works, but Tiger Pantry will be within walking distance of campus, said Nick Droege, a sophomore leading the effort.

Droege, director of student services for the Missouri Students Association, got the idea after attending a Southeastern Conference student association event at the University of Arkansas, which has a campus pantry that recently received national recognition.

There are needs on campus, although it's tough to determine how prevalent hunger is among students, said Peggy Kirkpatrick, executive director of The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, which is assisting in the effort.

"We know we're feeding quite a few of them at our central pantry," she said. "We know there is a need, not just with individual students, but also among married students and foreign students who have enough to cover books and tuition and rooming but have little to eat."

University employees also would have access to Tiger Pantry, Droege said. Like most pantries, the campus pantry will not require proof of income.

"It's hard to determine whether someone is in need," he said, pointing to students affected by last year's tornado in Joplin or a student who has lost a parent. "Those things don't show up on paper."

Droege expects to write grant proposals that will help stock the shelves, although he said he is not worried about having enough food. MU organizations are typically successful when holding food drives, he said.

Droege stressed, though, that any food drive coordinated for Tiger Pantry will be a new effort, and food now collected through annual drives to benefit other local pantries won't be redirected.

"We want to make sure nothing we do takes away from anything" the food bank receives, he said.

But having a pantry closer to campus might help reach more people, Droege said.

"I think it really comes down to accessibility," he said. "I'm sure there are Mizzou students and staff who use pantries that are partners of the Central Missouri food bank, and I anticipate they probably still will. But having something on campus makes it so much more accessible for students who do need this and aren't seeking help."

Droege and fellow student coordinator senior Kiara Goodwin have been working on plans for the campus pantry since February. Droege said the operation will be flexible in the beginning to allow for any kinks to be worked out. In addition to Kirkpatrick, several university administrators, including Anne Deaton, wife of Chancellor Brady Deaton, are advising the students.

A team of student coordinators will lead the pantry initially. Droege is sifting through 200 applicants for six coordinator slots. He will serve as director next year. After that, he envisions advising the student coordinators his senior year to make sure the pantry continues after he graduates.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou looks ahead to SEC football debut

BY VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Wednesday, April 25, 2012 12:25 am | [\(0\) comments.](#)

Gary Pinkel described Mizzou's inaugural Southeastern Conference football game with Georgia on Sept. 8 at Faurot Field a "mammoth" event and said fans "are talking about it already; rarely do they ever do that."

Pinkel's words were delivered during the SEC's spring football coaches teleconference on Tuesday in what was essentially Mizzou's first public event with its new SEC brethren as the impending move from the Big 12 becomes official July 1.

The significance of the game to Mizzou isn't lost on Georgia coach Mark Richt, whose team is the defending SEC East champion.

With the event no longer on a vague horizon, Richt said he understood it will be an historic moment for Mizzou and thus "a great challenge for us from a psychological point of view."

Richt went on to ladle out praise over Mizzou, then casually mentioned, "But we'll be excited about it, too."

Four different SEC teams have combined to win the last six national titles, and the conference is widely regarded as the nation's thorniest, leaving some skeptical about how MU will fare there.

As the "new kid on the block," along with Texas A&M, Pinkel acknowledged that MU has to earn its laurels.

But he noted Mizzou has fared well the last few years in the plenty-rugged Big 12.

"Certainly, our players have a lot of great pride in who they are," he said. "They hear it a lot, 'Can you survive in the SEC?' And that's OK that it bothers them. ... But bottom line, you've got to earn respect and that's what we're going to try and do."

To hear Richt and others tell it, Mizzou already has a fair measure — including a style largely foreign to SEC schools.

Within a league known for its nasty defense — the SEC had four of the nation's top five teams in total defense in 2011 — MU's spread offense is an anomaly.

"It's a different animal. ... From a formation adjustment standpoint, it's going to be an adjustment for our league," said Florida coach Will Muschamp, formerly the defensive coordinator at Texas, noting that MU's style can create matchup issues. "You've got to make some plays in space versus these guys. ... They make you declare because of spreading the field."

Said Auburn coach Gene Chizik, formerly of Texas and Iowa State: "They (Missouri and A&M) are going to bring a different dimension in some ways to this league" as teams that play differently from what "most of this league chooses to do offensively."

Not that the SEC never has seen anything similar.

"It's not going to be something that's completely different," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "(But) it (will be) a challenge for all of us to look at the things they do technically."

Richt said Mizzou "may spread out a little bit more," but it won't be "anything that no one's ever seen before."

As opposed to Georgia playing at Mizzou for the first time. The schools have met only once, in the 1960 Orange Bowl, which Georgia won 14-0.

The moment also will be significant for the SEC, which has its first new members since Arkansas and South Carolina joined the league in 1991, but all the more so for Mizzou.

"This is the beginning of the new era for Mizzou football forever," Pinkel said, adding, "To say it's just a normal game ... it's not."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Tipsheet: Winning trumps ethics in SEC football

BY JEFF GORDON | Posted: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 6:35 am | (6) comments.

Then-Michigan State coach John L. Smith speaks to reporters at a news conference in 2006. Arkansas has hired Smith as interim coach to replace Bobby Petrino. (AP Photo)

SEC football is all about the winning. If Missouri fans need any more verification, they should consider the machinations in Arkansas.

The Razorbacks could have played one season with an interim coach from their staff, then hired a long-term replacement for the disgraced **Bobby Petrino**.

But Arkansas has special potential this season. It has enough talent to play for the conference title. Therefore it has the potential to play for the BCS crown as well.

So the Razorbacks hired **John L. Smith** back from Weber State to coach the 2012 season. Smith served as an assistant at Arkansas before departing to become head coach at his alma mater after the 2011 season.

He returned to Fayetteville without coaching a game at Weber State.

Why would he do this? Arkansas offered Smith one season on the big stage and an opportunity to ride back into big-time coaching.

Why would Arkansas replace one job jumper with another? SEC football is big business, so professional ethics are a secondary concern.

Here is some of the reaction spawned by the Smith hiring:

Pat Forde, Yahoo! Sports: "We're not even to May yet, but Arkansas athletic director **Jeff Long** gets the early vote for Administrator of the Year in college football. Long did the right thing – even though it was the hard thing – when he fired super-successful coach Bobby Petrino. Long handled that difficult duty with enough fortitude and passion that it turned fan disappointment and anger into pride in the institution. Big-money donations immediately flowed in after Long deposed his duplicitous coach. Now Long has backed that up with a smart hire in John L. Smith as Petrino's short-term replacement. Not a sexy hire, but a smart one. The Arkansas fans wildly wishing for one of the Usual Untouchable Suspects – **Jon Gruden, Steve Mariucci**, the ghost of

Bear Bryant – may not love it. The Arkansas fans wildly wishing for one of the Unusual Suspects – **Sean Payton** or a current head coach at a powerhouse program – will be disappointed. But the Arkansas fans who want what's best for both a very talented 2012 team and the future will indeed be happy with John L. He's the best available man for the job.”

Stewart Mandel, *SI.com*: “Long presumably put out feelers to non-interim candidates and realized he wasn't going to land a desirable permanent coach in the middle of April. The press release announcing Smith's hire says as much in the last paragraph. The options on the current staff were equally uninspiring: The two coordinators (**Paul Petrino** and **Paul Haynes**) and the current interim coach (**Taver Johnson**) just arrived this offseason. None of the current assistants are more qualified than a guy with 18 years' head coaching experience. Had Smith never left for Weber State, his appointment would have been an anticlimactic no-brainer. The more puzzling element and the biggest source of fascination is why Smith would give up considerable job security and burn bridges at his alma mater to accept a job that comes with a 10-month expiration date. The eccentric, adventure-seeking Smith -- he's run with the bulls in Spain, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, skydived and trained with Marines -- always seemed like a more natural fit at a low-profile Western outpost like Weber State, but he ditched that gig quicker than Petrino did the Falcons.”

Gene Wojciechowski, *ESPN.com*: “My favorite moment of the John L. Smith era at Weber State -- all 4½ months of it -- was the crock pot full of alma mater nonsense he served during his introductory news conference. It was passionate. It was poignant. And as it turned out, it was crap. ‘No. 1, I've always had a place in my heart for Weber State,’ said Smith that December day in Ogden, Utah. ‘You do that naturally. That's your school, that's where you graduated from, so that fondness, that love is always with you. And again, to come back to run your own program as a head coach again is crucial for me. This hopefully can serve as an opportunity for me to give back something to the university.’ Smith gave something back to Weber State. It's called a kick to the groin.”

Gregg Doyel, *CBSSports.com*: “This is who Arkansas picked to replace the indecent Petrino: It picked a guy who didn't have the decency to coach a single game after being hired by his alma mater. Jeff Long, the Arkansas athletics director, might be the single worst judge of character I've ever seen. I mean, this is the guy who hired Petrino from Atlanta in the middle of Petrino's first season as the Falcons head coach. And then to replace Petrino, Long first wanted the Seahawks' **Pete Carroll**, who left Southern California months before the NCAA could hammer USC with the harshest football sanctions since SMU got the death penalty in the 1980s. At this point, I'm surprised Long didn't take the advice of every Twitter smartass out there and make Sean Payton the interim coach. It's not like Payton had anything else to do this fall, suspended as he is from coaching the New Orleans Saints.”

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE

Questions to ponder while the Cardinals reconsider some of their “small ball” offensive strategies:

How many NFL prospects are dreading the possibility of being drafted to serve in Cleveland?

What kind of friend would drag his NFL buddies into a fake fashion photoshoot?

What was the greatest era of Nets basketball in New Jersey?

Are **Cal Ripken Jr.** and the **Energizer Bunny** the new humanitarian odd couple in our country?

SAINTS NO MORE

ESPN is just piling on now. With the Saints reeling from “Bountygate” and the year-long suspension of Payton, New Orleans is now dealing with allegations that it bugged the visitor’s coaching box.

From ESPN.com:

*The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Louisiana was told Friday that New Orleans Saints general manager **Mickey Loomis** had an electronic device in his Superdome suite that had been secretly re-wired to enable him to eavesdrop on visiting coaching staffs for nearly three NFL seasons, 'Outside the Lines' has learned.*

Sources familiar with Saints game-day operations told 'Outside the Lines' that Loomis, who faces an eight-game suspension from the NFL for his role in the recent bounty scandal, had the ability to secretly listen for most of the 2002 season, his first as general manager of the Saints, and all of the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The sources spoke with 'Outside the Lines' under the condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisals from members of the Saints organization.

Loomis is angrily denying the allegations, of course, but Tipsheet senses that this story won’t go away any time soon.

MEGAPHONE

“I’m not going to the Nets game (Monday night) and my message to the Nets is ‘goodbye.’ They want to leave here and go to Brooklyn? Good riddance.”

New Jersey governor **Chris Christie**, to The Associated Press.