

# LIFE ETC.

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## PARENTING

### Can game theory help parents?

By Leanne Italie  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Game theory, a branch of mathematics dealing with strategic thinking, has been applied to scenarios of war, business and biology. But parenting?

You bet, said writer and New York City dad of five, Paul Raeburn, who has written a book with academic Kevin Zollman noting all the ways dealing with kids might go more smoothly if only parents knew a little bit about game theory.

The book, "The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting," was published in April by Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

A conversation with Paul Raeburn:

**AP: What motivated you to take on game theory as it relates to parenting?**

Raeburn: I didn't know a whole lot about game theory but I was delighted to take a look at a new approach to parenting because as the father of five kids I've pretty much tried everything and I have what you might call a mixed record. All of my kids have turned out fine but it's been a real learning experience along the way.

Basically, without getting into the mathematics of game theory, which are beyond me, the idea is that game theory is sort of an organized way of studying strategies. As parents, it can give us confidence to do the things that we instinctively think we should do.

**AP: In parenting, does game theory rely on the notion of negotiating. Should parents be in the business of negotiating?**

Raeburn: In negotiations you have to be strategic. Our children are some of the toughest negotiators we will face. They really can stick to their positions. So the ideas of game theory that are applicable to parenting include how to better negotiate with your kids, how to be fair, how to encourage them to be fair with one another and how to encourage them to cooperate with one another.

**AP: What are some specific game theories that relate to parenting?**

Raeburn: For instance, the idea of fairness. If you're going to share a piece of cake and you want to share it fairly between your son and your daughter, one game theory technique is called, 'I cut, you pick.' So your son, who is older, takes the knife and cuts as carefully as possible into two pieces and then your daughter picks the one she wants.

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## LET'S TALK PETS

# Bring Back Brownie!



In this undated photo, a tourist bends to talk to Brownie, the town dog, near the Daytona Cab Company at the corner of Beach Street and Orange Avenue. Brownie showed up in downtown Daytona Beach one day in 1940 and was soon adopted by the city. STATE ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA, FLORIDA MEMORY

## This community needs a town dog - again



JANE DAVIS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Jane Davis writes a citizen blog for news-journalonline called "Let's Talk Pets," which you can find at [letstalkpets.blogs.news-journalonline.com](http://letstalkpets.blogs.news-journalonline.com). Her column will appear in the Life Etc. section of The Daytona Beach News-Journal twice a month. Born in rural U.K., surrounded by farm and domestic animals, she is passionate about animals and supporting local animal rescue. Jane says that the world of animal rescue is like riding a roller-coaster, with "big ups and downs; not for the faint of heart." She hopes sharing some of these stories will help even more animals. Contact her at [volusiacountypets@gmail.com](mailto:volusiacountypets@gmail.com).

One sunny day in Daytona Beach in 1940, a large, friendly, sandy colored dog suddenly appeared on the corner of



Brownie, Daytona Beach's town dog, passed away in 1954. His grave is marked by this tombstone and topiary in Riverfront Park on Beach Street. JANE DAVIS

Beach Street and Orange Avenue (where Stavro's Pizza is now located). He quickly became a permanent resident and was so well loved by the local community that when he died of in 1954, he was laid

to rest in a beautiful grave at Riverfront Park that is still there to this day.

In 1940 the Beach Street shops were the hub of activity in Daytona Beach, before the Volusia Mall, the Speedway, and when racing cars still used the beach as a track. Back then the corner where Brownie made his home was the location of the Daytona Cab Co. and owner, Ed Budgen, took a special liking to this friendly dog and started to feed him scraps of food (as did other cab drivers). They named him Brownie and eventually built him a dog house with a coin jar set outside where locals and tourists would donate towards his food and vet bills. The dog's fund grew so much that they opened a bank account for him at the Florida Bank & Trust (now the Halifax Historical Museum).

I checked in at the Halifax Historical Museum and found out a lot more about Brownie. In fact, museum director Fayn LeVeille used to run and play with Brownie for hours as a child in Riverfront Park along with the

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## FAMILY TIME

### Stories of hope for Eating Recovery Day

GateHouse News Service

Savannah Kerr battled anorexia for 18 years before she hit rock bottom and decided that it was finally time to seek treatment.

"Suffering from an eating disorder was so hard, not just on me, but my family as well. It felt like having this dark part of my personality that controlled what I could eat and how I felt about my body," Kerr said.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of all mental illnesses; almost one person an hour dies as a direct result from the disease. While it is estimated that up to 30 million people in the United States have one of these illnesses, it remains a taboo topic.

"Eating disorders can impact anyone—men and women, young and old, and all economic classes and races. Despite the high mortality rate, there is still a stigma and many people avoid seeking treatment and are unaware of how serious and life-altering



Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of all mental illnesses; almost one person an hour dies as a direct result from the disease. METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

eating disorders can be," said Ken Weiner, founding partner and chief executive officer of Eating Recovery Center.

Eating disorders can threaten a person's health, well-being, joy, confidence and overall life, as well as that of their families and friends.

#### Talking: the first step

Despite the pervasiveness of eating disorders, many myths about eating disorders continue to persist. A common misconception is that eating disorders are caused by an

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## PARENTING

# Better mobile phone photos

By Jamie Davis Smith  
Special to The Washington Post

Ask any photographer what the best camera is and you will likely receive the same answer: The one you have with you. Fortunately, most parents always have a camera with them these days in the form of their phone. Luckily, most mobile phone cameras are very good and capable of producing print-worthy images with a few quick tweaks in the way you shoot and edit.

Julia Kelleher of Jewel Images is a family photographer who teaches mobile photography through CreativeLive. Here, she shares her top four tips for getting better pictures of your children with your camera's phone:

■ Set focus and exposure in camera. To set focus and exposure in your camera, touch the camera's screen on your main subject until a yellow box appears. This step is very fast and will make a huge difference in how your photos come out. If your child frequently looks too dark in photos, simply tapping her face on the screen before snapping your photo will brighten her up. This tip also helps ensure that your child is in focus rather than a tree in the background.

■ Turn on the Grid: In most phones' settings, there is a feature to turn on a grid with nine squares and four intersecting points, like a tic-tac-toe board with equally sized spaces. The interesting points on the grid are places where viewers' eyes tend to land. Placing your main subject at one of these points will instantly improve your photo. Photographers frequently use this compositional technique, called the Rule of Thirds, and if you keep the grid turned on you can effortlessly use it for your photos as well. Other compositional rules for taking great photos, particularly of children, can be found at [clickinmoms.com](http://clickinmoms.com).

■ Use indirect light to take a picture in a darkly lit room. Flash can create harsh shadows. If a room is dark, light the person from the side rather than using the flash. According to Kelleher, "This tip is great for when you're out at dinner with friends or family and the room is dimly lit with candles. Simply have one person hold the flash onto your subjects, and then take a picture with your [mobile phone] with the flash off."

■ Use color to impart feelings into your images. Basic familiarity with the color wheel can make a big difference in your photos. "I will often photograph children with complementary colors because it makes them seem alive and happy and very vivacious," Kelleher says. This color wheel is interactive and quickly shows complementary color combinations so, for example, you can see that if your son is wearing an orange shirt placing him in front of a blue wall or against a bright blue sky will create a vibrant image.

It's nearly impossible get a perfect photo straight out of the camera and even professional photographers

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#### THE GAME THEORIST'S GUIDE TO PARENTING

How the Science of Strategic Thinking Can Help You Deal with the Toughest Negotiators You Know—Your Kids

Paul Raeburn and Kevin Zollman



This book cover provided by Scientific American/Farrar, Straus and Giroux shows "The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting" by Paul Raeburn and Kevin Zollman. Raeburn, a father of five, and Zollman, a game theorist and academic, have teamed to show parents how the complicated mathematical theory can help with one of life's most high-stakes strategic challenges: parenting. SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN/FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX VIA AP

