

Wylie | Sachse

# Garland

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# Book offers advice for children, parents

Just in time for Christmas giving, I learned about Leslie Kuerbitz's children's book, *The Misadventures of Jennifer Penner*, written 25 years ago, it recently surfaced in Kuerbitz's files. It was inspired



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years ago, but its message is as strong and applicable today. Parents who discipline with love, set age-appropriate boundaries, and are honest and genuine can create a new generation of parents who will

model these admirable qualities to their children," Leslie writes.

She further describes the book as creating a home where it's okay to make mistakes and ask for help.

On [childhelp.org](http://childhelp.org), statistics cite that more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made annually in the United States.

In 1983, Leslie was employed by the Garland Police Department as training coordinator and received certification as a police instructor.

Through the years, she became a family assistance coordinator, and crime victim advocate, speaker and volunteer. Although she retired from the department in 2003, she continues to serve as a victim advocate and as clinical director for the Dallas area crisis response team. She also serves as an expert witness for regional civil attorneys and criminal prosecutors at the state and federal levels.

Leslie received her bachelor of arts degree in radio/television from the University of Michigan. She added her master of arts in counseling from Amber University, now Amberton University in Garland.

*Sue Watkins is a neighborsgo columnist and Garland resident.*

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by her "curious and very imaginative daughter, Jennifer."

Kuerbitz's husband, Charlie, retired from the Garland Police Department in 2007 and is a good publicist for his wife. Jennifer is now a medical doctor. After graduating from the University of Texas, she attended and graduated from Texas Tech Medical School and she is in her third year of residency in Atlanta, Ga., in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Leslie left the Garland Police Department in 2003 to devote full time to her counseling practice. Her book, published by the P3 Press in Dallas, addresses the importance of healthy families and offers resources and tips for parents and children.

Charlie e-mails that Leslie's book was originally written about their daughter and her misadventures growing up, but now includes all of the children and parents Leslie has worked with over 25 years. She has worked as a counselor, teacher and volunteer with her licensed professional counselor certification.

"This book was written 25