



The Advocate Aspect

Family Support Center and Kids First Children's Advocacy Center – June 2011
Programs of Rural Resources Community Action – a non-profit agency

Talking To Young Children

By: Ken Canfield

You can talk, but will they listen?

Researchers say that “the amount of language directed to a child [is] perhaps the strongest indicator of later intellectual and linguistic and social development.”

Sounds great. But what about real life? Sometimes we dads can get pretty monosyllabic and ineffective. We say “Don’t do that,” “Pick up your toys,” “What’s the magic word?” We don’t want to communicate, we just want cooperation. Let’s look at some ways to increase the chances that your child hears you and responds.

First, give information more than thoughts or feelings. For example, instead of saying, “I’ve told you a hundred times not to jump on the couch!” try simply, “Couches are not for jumping on.” Sometimes even a one-word statement, like, “Pajamas!” will get a better response than a drawn-out explanation about why it’s time to start getting ready for bed.

Second, children often need specifics. Saying, “Clean up your mess” is vague. Let them know exactly what you expect.

Third, mean what you say. There are some common parenting pitfalls in this category. One of them sounds like this: “Can you please help clean up your room?” It’s asking a question or offering a choice when there’s really no other option.

Or, then there’s the classic scene that you see on a regular basis at the grocery store. A dad says, “No,” to a misbehaving child, and then doesn’t follow through. Does the child stop? No way. Idle threats only teach the child to continue disobeying. Or, worse, a dad keeps repeating the same command over and over, which, first of all, insults the child’s intelligence, and teaches him to not obey until the fourth or fifth time.

Finally, accentuate the positives. Kids often just want our attention, and if they can get it for good behavior, they may not resort to bad behavior. And be specific with praise. A repeated phrase like, “Great job” is good, but over time it can lose its impact. Try, “Wow, did you put all your blocks away by yourself?” It’s more satisfying, and it could lead to more conversation.

I know these ideas are pretty basic; dad, but a few adjustments here and there could make a big difference for your child’s behavior – and in the long run, for your relationship with him.



Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 8th!

Elder Abuse Awareness Kit

National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators
National Center on Elder Abuse



Possible Indicators of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation

The following descriptions are not necessarily proof of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. But they may be clues that a problem exists, and that a report needs to be made to law enforcement or Adult Protective Services.

Physical Signs

- Injury that has not been cared for properly
- Injury that is inconsistent with explanation for its cause
- Pain from touching
- Cuts, puncture wounds, burns, bruises, welts
- Dehydration or malnutrition without illness-related cause
- Poor coloration
- Sunken eyes or cheeks
- Inappropriate administration of medication
- Soiled clothing or bed
- Frequent use of hospital or health care/doctor-shopping
- Lack of necessities such as food, water, or utilities
- Lack of personal effects, pleasant living environment, personal items
- Forced isolation

Behavioral Signs

- Fear
- Anxiety, agitation
- Anger
- Isolation, withdrawal
- Depression
- Non-responsiveness, resignation, ambivalence
- Contradictory statements, implausible stories
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Confusion or disorientation

Signs by Caregiver

- Prevents elder from speaking to or seeing visitors
- Anger, indifference, aggressive behavior toward elder
- History of substance abuse, mental illness, criminal behavior, or family violence
- Lack of affection toward elder
- Flirtation or coyness as possible indicator of inappropriate sexual relationships
- Conflicting accounts of incidents
- Withholds affection
- Talks of elder as a burden

Signs of Financial Abuse

- Frequent expensive gifts from elder to caregiver
- Elder's personal belongings, papers, credit cards missing
- Numerous unpaid bills
- A recent will when elder seems incapable of writing will
- Caregiver's name added to bank account
- Elder unaware of monthly income
- Elder signs on loan
- Frequent checks made out to "cash"
- Unusual activity in bank account
- Irregularities on tax return
- Elder unaware of reason for appointment with banker or attorney
- Caregiver's refusal to spend money on elder
- Signatures on checks or legal documents that do not resemble elder's signature

What's in your Elder Abuse Awareness Kit?

Ways You Can Help

There are many ways you can help adults who are elderly or have disabilities enhance their lives through your volunteer efforts. There are programs throughout the nation that welcome your assistance and ideas.

- Form a Home Improvement Alliance within your organization or congregation to repair home of the elderly and disabled adults. Services could include yard work, minor electrical, plumbing, and carpentry repairs, building ramps, house painting, and roof repair.
- Assist elders with pet care – taking pets to the vet, exercising dogs, helping with grooming and medications, etc.
- Deliver Meals on Wheels.
- Provide transportation.
- Initiate a project with your Sunday school class, church group or other organization to address the needs of the elderly and adults with disabilities in your community.
- Relieve a caregiver by sitting with their ill loved one; this helps the elder as well as the caregiver who may desperately need a break.
- Organize a “Caregivers” group through your church.
- Plan an education program within your group to inform people about the needs of the elderly and disabled.
- Collect holiday and birthday gifts for the elderly or disabled in your area.
- Donate blankets, non-perishable foods, pet food, and other needed items to your local food bank.
- Get to know your elderly neighbor, become personally involved and include them in your family activities.
- Recruit organizations or businesses to donate their resources to help the elderly and disabled who are in need of assistance.
- Contact Family Support Center at 684-3796 to see how you can help get the word out about elder abuse.

Happy Father's Day

A Little Boy Needs Daddy

*A little boy needs Daddy
For many, many things:
Like holding him high off the ground
Where the sunlight sings!*

*Like being the deep music
That tells him all is right
When he awakens frantic with
The terrors of the night.*

*Like being the great mountain
That rises in his heart
And shows him how he might get home
When all else falls apart.*

*Like giving him the love
That is his sea and air,
So diving deep or soaring high
He'll always find him there.*

Author – Nicholas Gordon

WELCOME!

Please help us welcome our newest volunteers...Jerrie, Mary Beth, Jeanne, Dorothy, Jan, Linda, and Gloria.

Also, we would like to thank all the trainers and staff who participated in providing our 40-Hour Pre-service volunteer training.

Training will be provided again in the Fall...if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shamra at 685-6092.



**Family Support Center &
Kids First Children's Advocacy Center
Programs of Rural Resources
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***“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world.”***
Anne Frank

Thank You for your donations!



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Teaching your son true masculinity

In the book *Season of Life*, Joe Ehrmann says there are three false ideas of masculinity: athletic ability, sexual conquest, and wealth accumulation. Instead, true masculinity is defined by two principles. One is relationships...to love and be loved by your family. The other is to live for a purpose bigger than yourself.

