

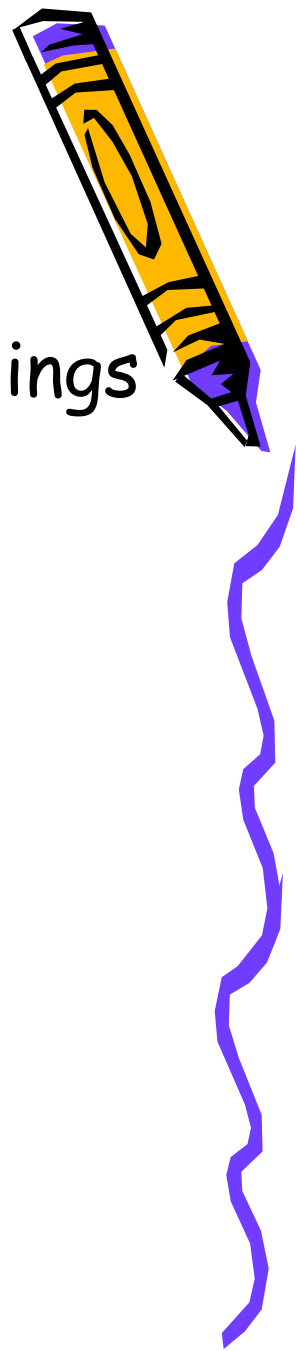


How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk

Tools for Success
~ The Bear Creek School ~



Based on the book
by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish

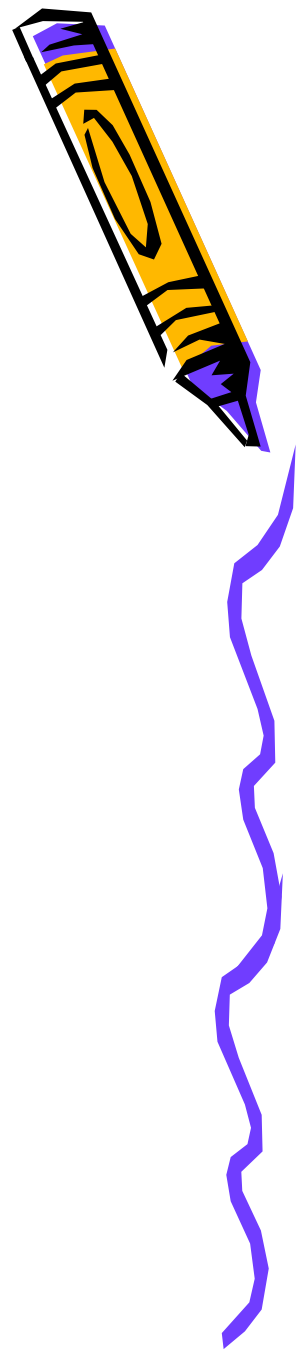


- 1. Helping Children Deal with Their Feelings
- 2. Engaging a Child's Cooperation
- 3. Encouraging Autonomy
- 4. Praise

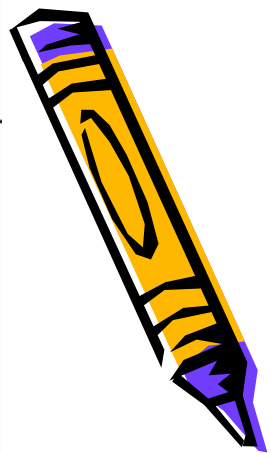
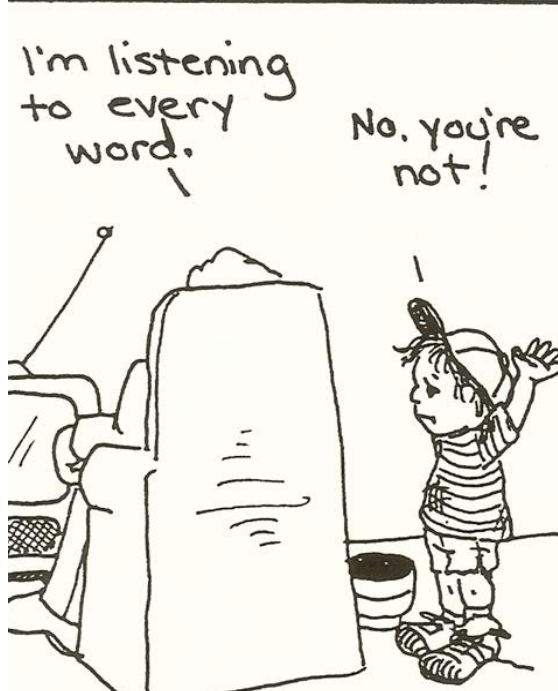
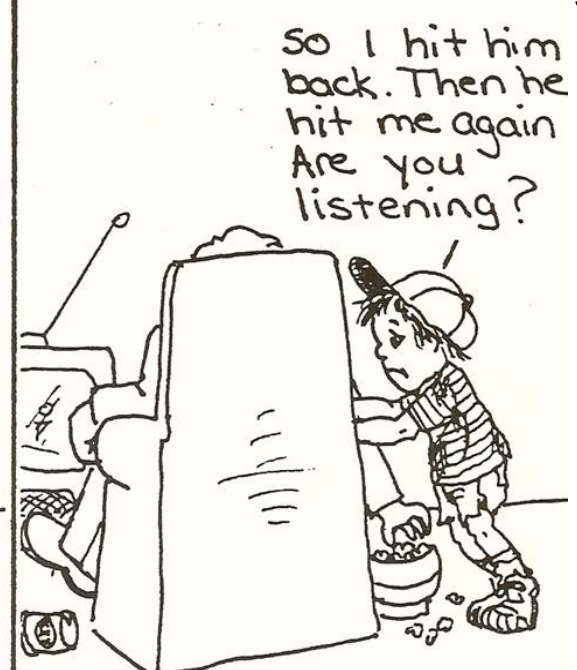


Helping Children Deal with their Feelings

Children need to have their
feelings accepted and respected.

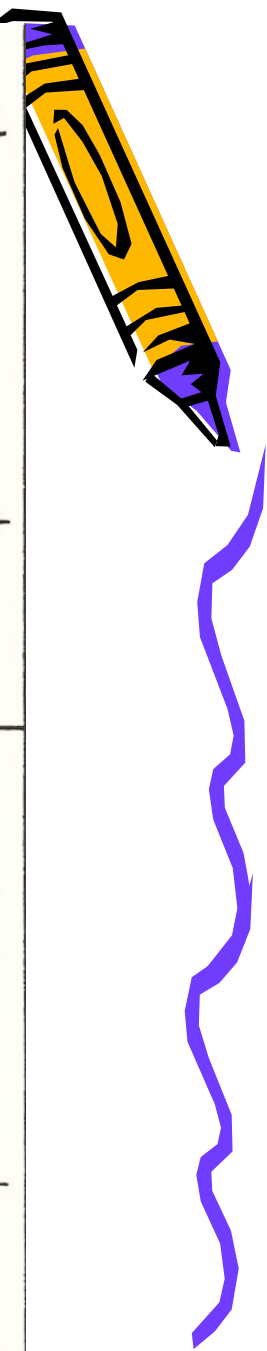


Instead of Half-
Listening,

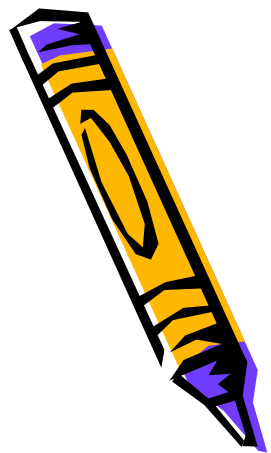
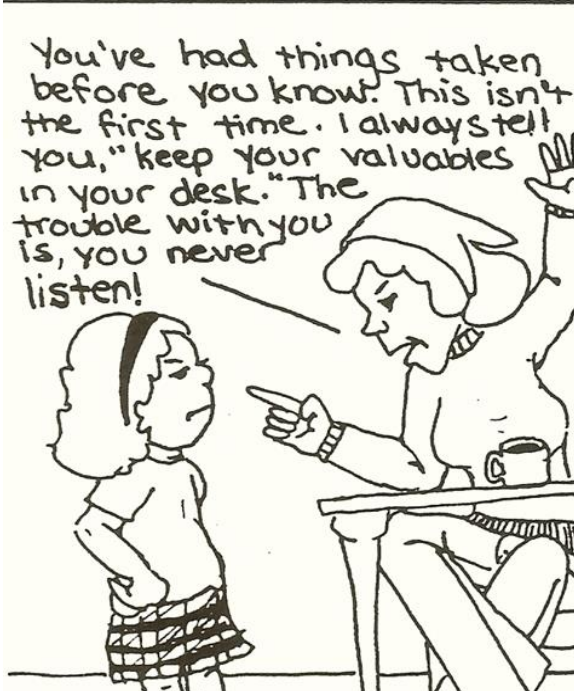


Listen with Full Attention

It can be discouraging to try to get through to someone who gives only lip service to listening. It's much easier to tell your troubles to a parent who is really listening. He doesn't even have to say anything. Often a sympathetic silence is all a child needs.



Instead of
Questions and
Advice,





Somebody stole my new red pencil.

Oh?

I left it on my desk when I went to the bathroom and somebody took it.

Mmm...

That's the third time I've had my pencil ripped off.

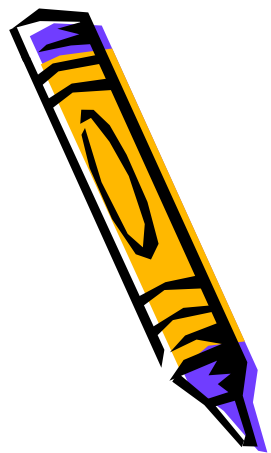
Uhhh!

I know. From now on when I leave I see... the room I'm going to hide my pencil in my desk.

I see...

Acknowledge with a word - "Oh...Mmm...I see"

It's hard for a child to think clearly or constructively when someone is questioning, blaming or advising her. There's a lot of help to be had from a simple "Oh..umm.." or "I see." Words like these, coupled with a caring attitude, are invitations to a child to explore her own thoughts and feelings, and possibly come up with her own solutions.



Instead of Denying
the Feeling,

My turtle
is dead. He
was alive
this morning.

Now don't
get so
upset honey.



Don't cry. It's
only a turtle.



WAH!
WAH!

Stop that! I'll
buy you
another turtle.



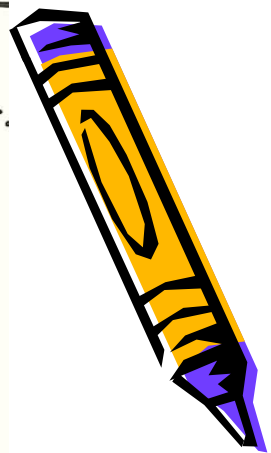
Now you're being
unreasonable!

I don't want
another one!

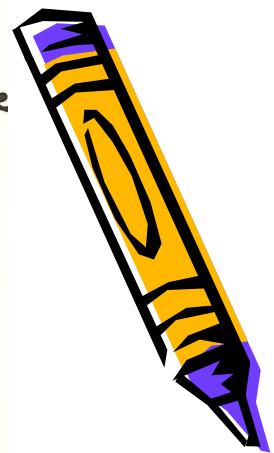
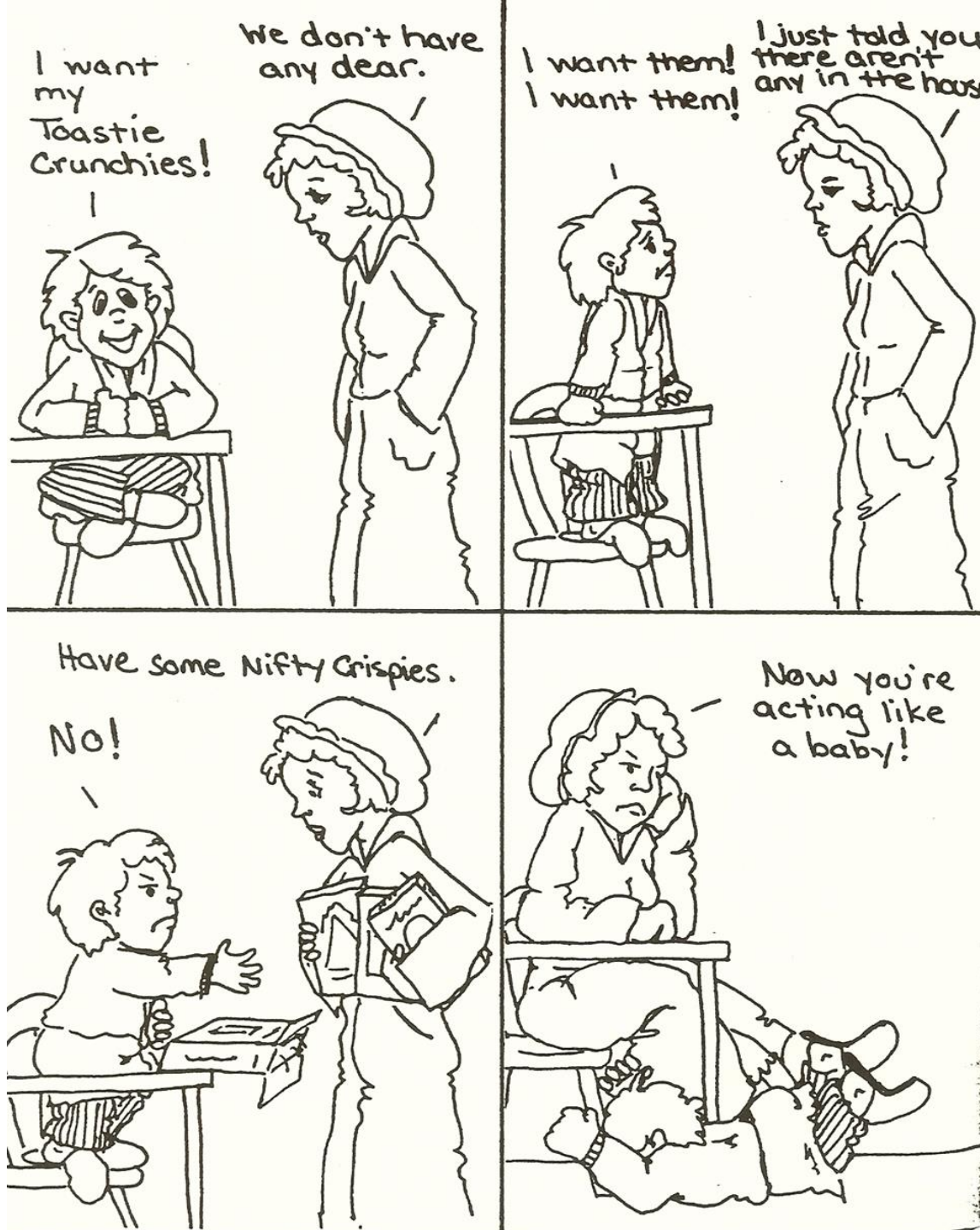


Give the Feeling a Name

Parents don't usually give this kind of response, because they fear that by giving a name to the feeling, they'll make it worse. Just the opposite is true. The child who hears the words for what he is experiencing is deeply comforted. Someone has acknowledged his inner experience.

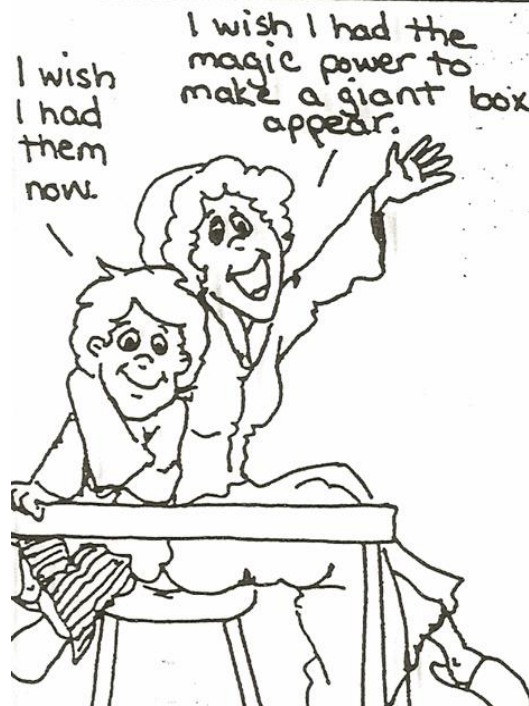


Instead of
Explanation and
Logic,

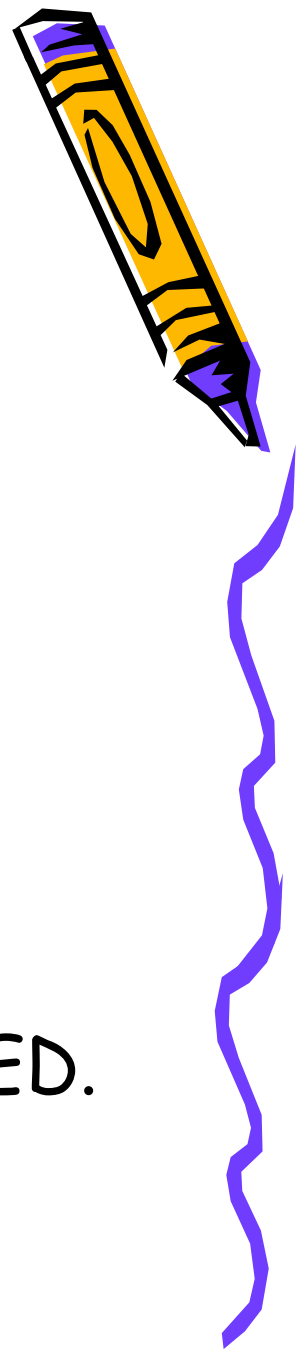


Give a Child his Wishes in Fantasy

When children want something they can't have, adults usually respond with logical explanations of why they can't have it. Often the harder we explain, the harder they protest. Sometimes just having someone understand how much you want something makes reality easier to bear.



Helping Children Deal with their Feelings



- Listen quietly and attentively
- Acknowledge their feelings with a word
- Give the feeling a name
- Give the child his wishes in fantasy

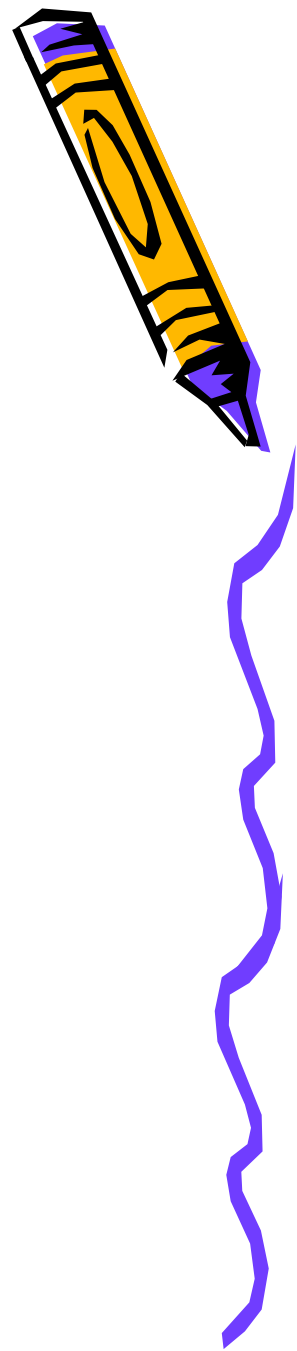
ALL FEELINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED.
CERTAIN ACTIONS MUST BE LIMITED.



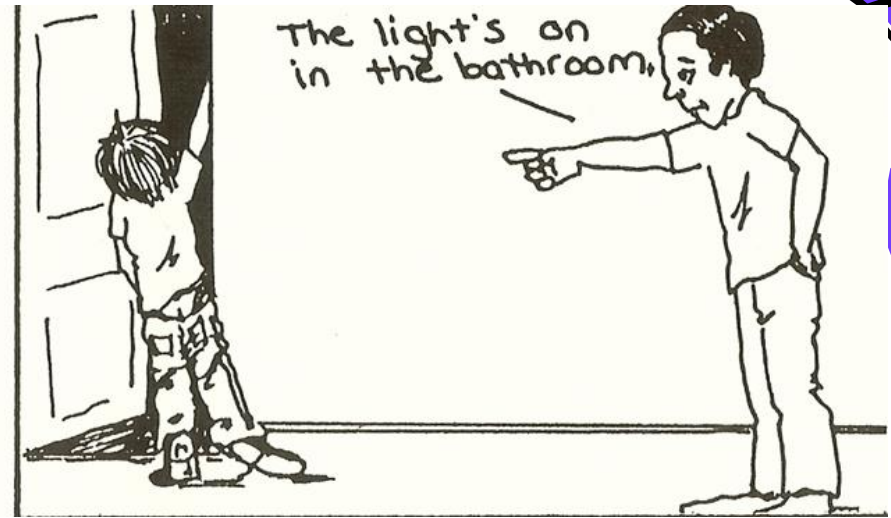
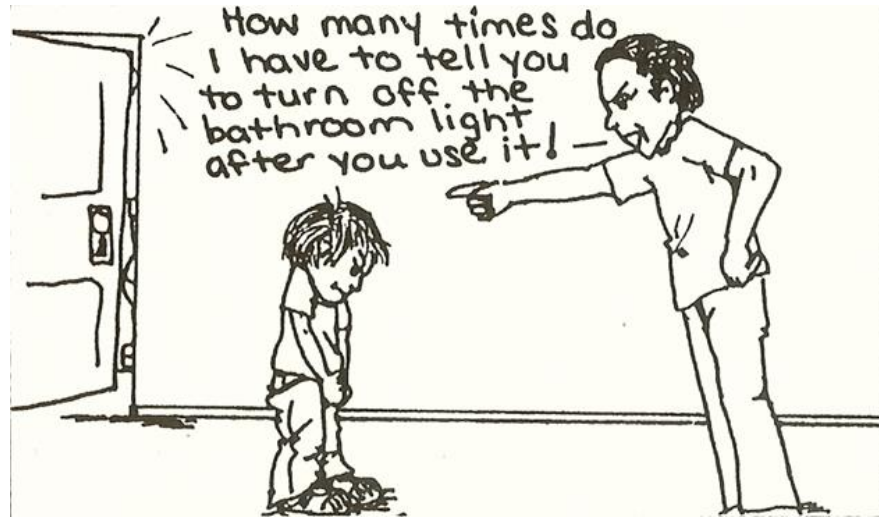
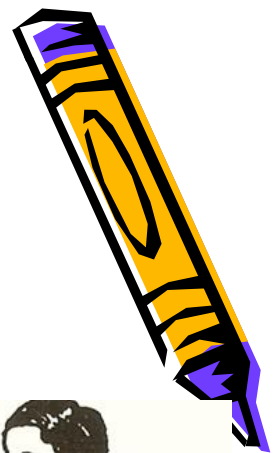
Engaging Cooperation

What we do:

- Blame
- Name-call
- Threaten
- Lecture
- Compare



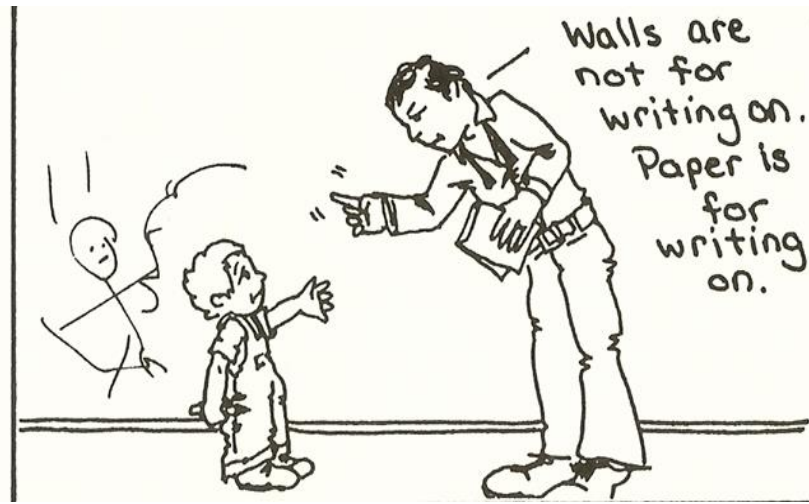
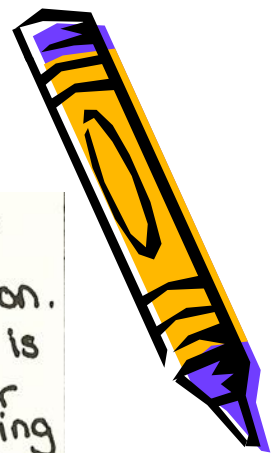
Describe



It's hard to do what needs to be done when people are telling you what's wrong with you. It's easier to concentrate on the problem when someone just describes it to you. When grownups describe the problem, it gives children a chance to tell themselves what to do.



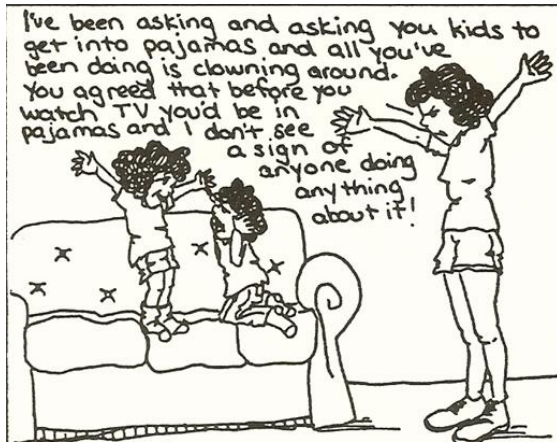
Give Information



Information is a lot easier to take than accusation. When children are given information, they can usually figure out for themselves what needs to be done.



Say It With A Word

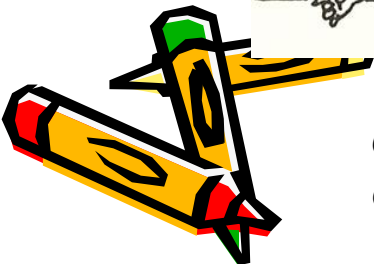
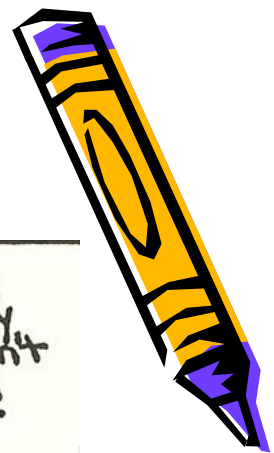


Billy, the DOG.



Children dislike hearing lectures, sermons, and long explanations. For them, the shorter the reminder, the better.

Talk About Your Feelings



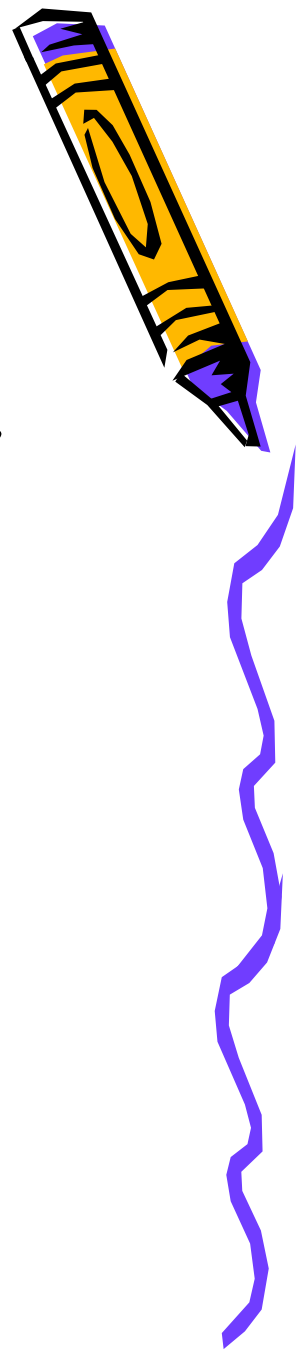
Children are entitled to hear their parents' honest feelings. By describing what we feel, we can be genuine without being hurtful.

Write A Note



Sometimes nothing we say is as effective as the written word.

Engaging a Child's Cooperation

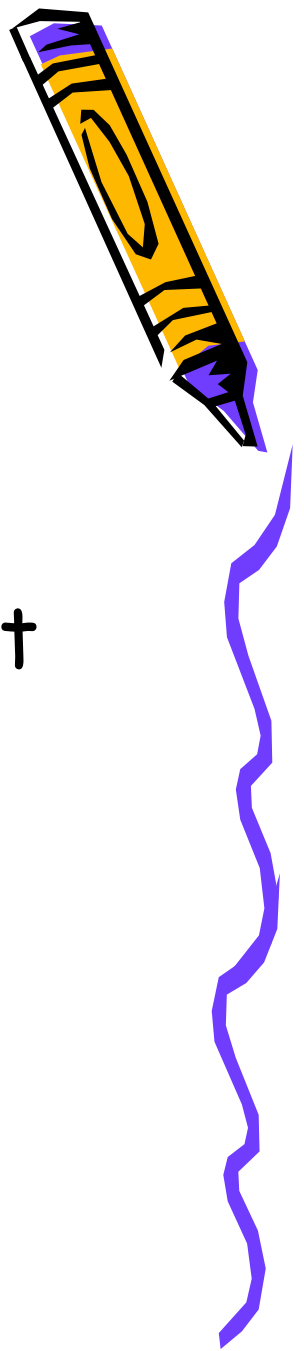


- Describe what you see or describe the problem
- Give information
- Say it with a word
- Describe what you feel
- Write a note (sing a song?!)
- No emotional "hooks"

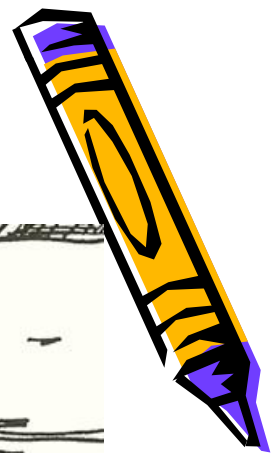


Encouraging Autonomy

- Toddlers and teenagers aren't that different....



Let Children Make Choices



These are all choices that give a child valuable practice in making decisions. It must be very hard to be an adult who is forced to make decisions about career, lifestyle, mate without having had a good deal of experience in exercising your own judgment.

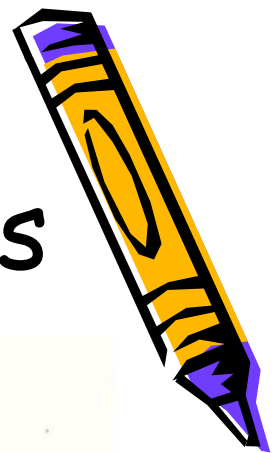
Show Respect for a Child's Struggle



When a child's struggle is respected, he gathers courage to see a job through by himself.



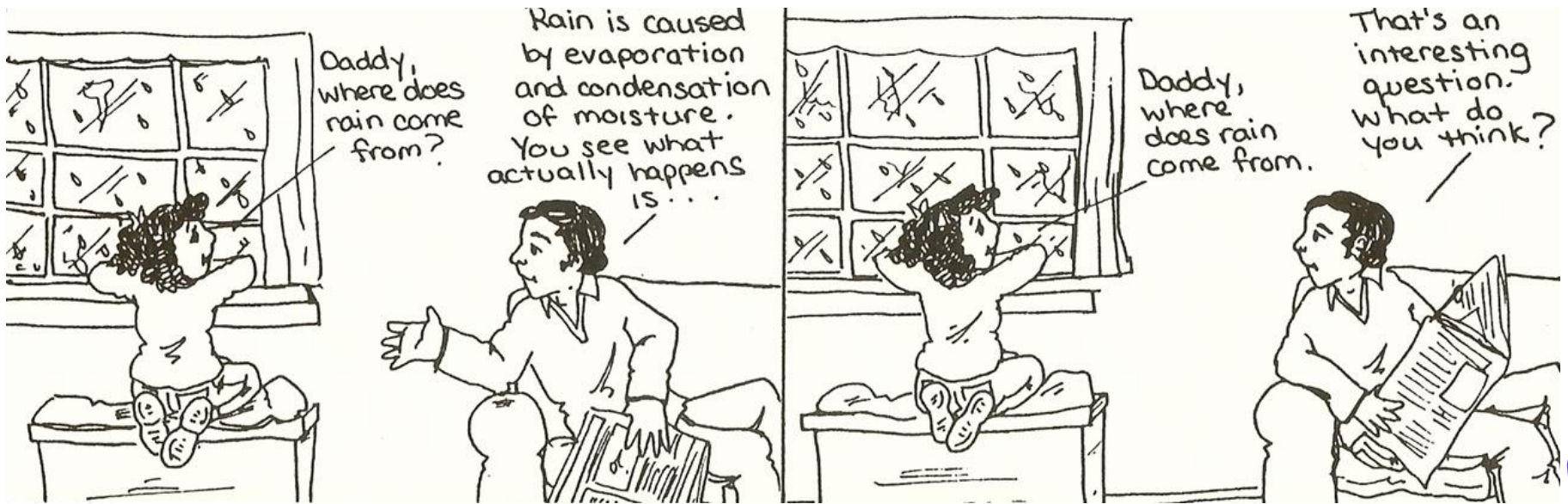
Don't Ask Too Many Questions



Too many questions can be experienced as an invasion of one's private life. Children will talk about what they want to talk about when they want to talk about it.



Don't Rush to Answer Questions



When children ask questions, they deserve the chance to explore the answer for themselves first.

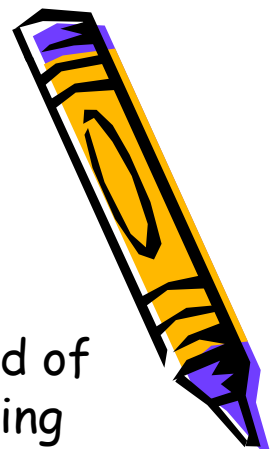


Encourage Children to Use Sources Outside the Home



We want our children to know that they're not completely dependent upon us. The world outside the home - the pet shop, the dentist, the school, an older child - can all be called upon to help them with their problems.

Don't Take Away Hope



Mom, I'm trying out for the lead in the school play. Do you think I'll get the part?



Look, I don't want you to be disappointed. Why try for the lead when you haven't had any acting experience?

Maybe there's a smaller part.



So you're going to try out for the lead. That should be an experience.



Instead of preparing children for disappointment, let them explore and experience.

Maybe I'll be an engineer when I grow up!



With your math grades, forget it.



So, you're considering a career in engineering!

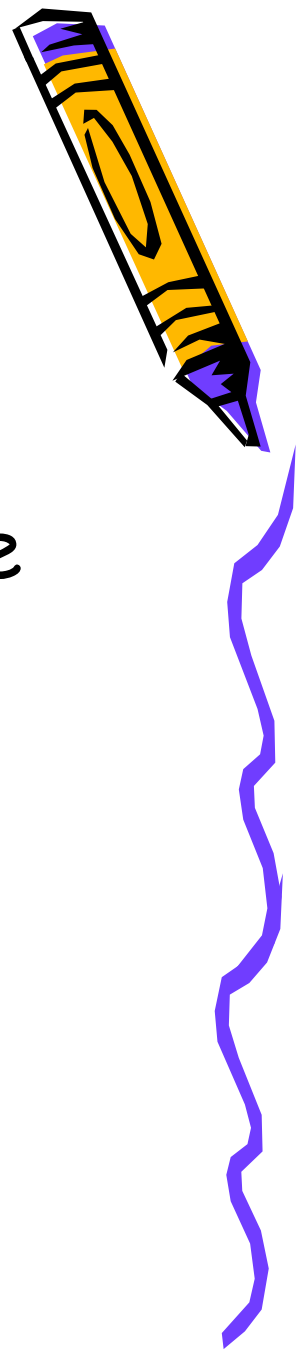


By trying to protect children from disappointment, we protect them from hoping, striving, dreaming, and sometimes from achieving their dreams.

Ken Cole

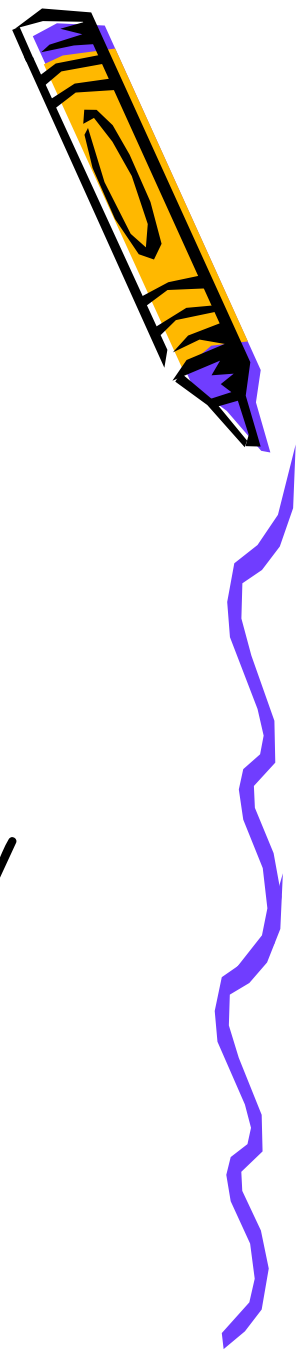
To Encourage Autonomy

- Let children make choices
- Show respect for a child's struggle
- Don't ask too many questions
- Don't rush to answer questions
- Encourage children to use sources outside the home
- Don't take away hope

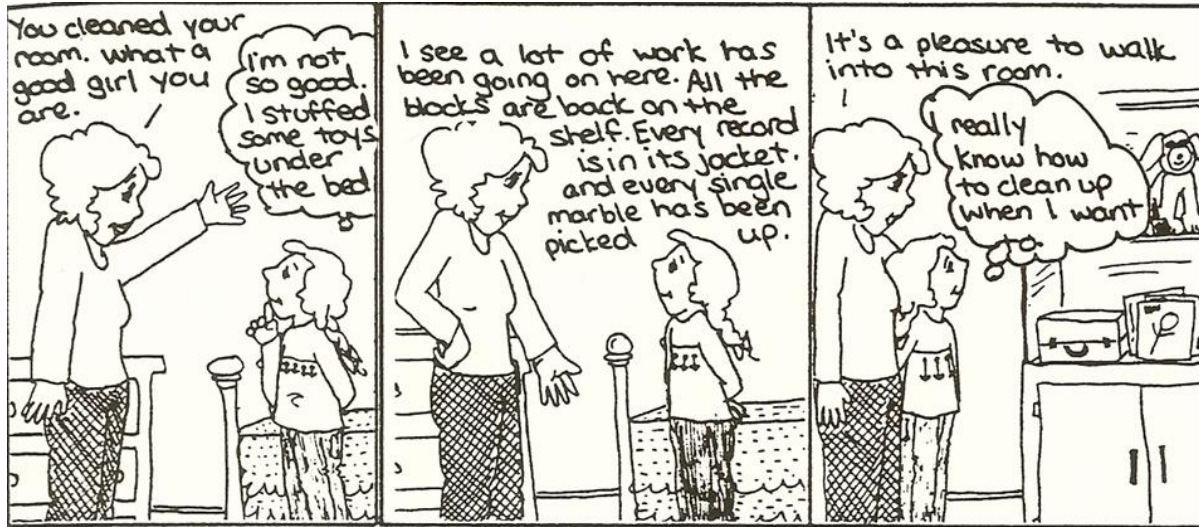


Praise and Self-Esteem

1. Describe what you see.
2. Describe what you feel.
3. Sum up the child's praiseworthy behavior with a word.

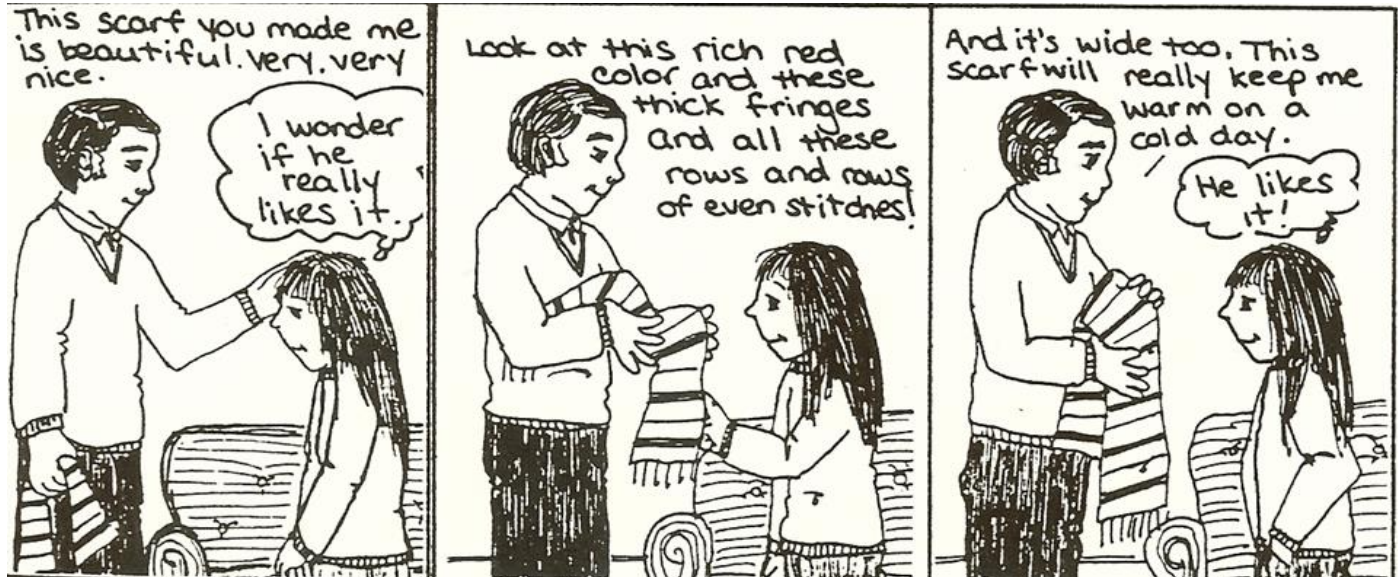


Descriptive Praise

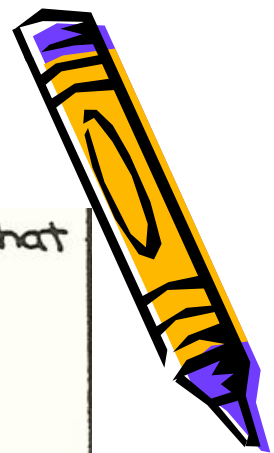


Instead of evaluating,

describe what you see or feel



Sum It up With a Word





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