



# **Raising Children the Islamic Way**

## **Session Three**

### **Honesty in children**

Have you caught your child lying?  
What motivated the child to lie?

# Hadith

الصِّدْقُ صَلَاحُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ  
الْكِذْبُ فَسَادُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ

Truthfulness improves all things

Lying corrupts all things

**Imam Ali (a)**

# Why children lie?


- 1) Fear: Anger, harsh consequences, disrespect, etc. make children lie as they want to avoid the negativity.
- 2) Motivation for praise, attention, esteem etc. Children have a need for respect and confidence and when this need is not met, they try to get it through lying.
- 3) Impossible expectations from parents and/or other adults.

# Reacting to children's lies

- 1) Don't panic. Children will explore many different things as they grow.
- 2) Know that young children sometimes cannot differentiate between reality and fantasy or imagination.
- 3) Understand that their aim is to please the parents, to escape from their displeasure and anger.
- 4) Do not label your child a liar. The child will then accept it.


# Resolving the problem of lying

- 1) Help children differentiate between fact and fiction. When reading stories, talk about how it is different from things that happen in real life.
- 2) Be a strong role model for honesty. Children absorb and record what they see and it leaves a lasting impression.
- 3) Joking should be made clear, so children know that it is different from the truth.



4) Don't be so harsh and angry that children become motivated to lie. Be firm but gentle and understanding so communication is easy. Allow children to express themselves without overreacting.

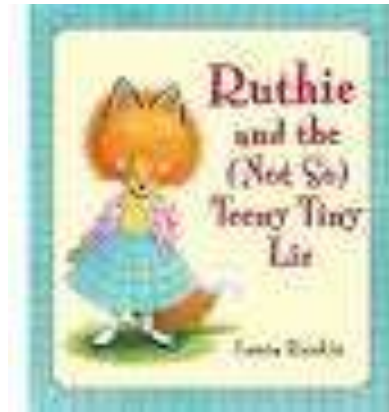
5) Help children understand that lying is worse than the wrong action it seeks to cover. It then becomes 2 bad deeds instead of 1. Truthfulness actually halves it. When giving consequences give separate consequences for the wrong that was done, and for the lying that may have followed it.

- 
- 6) Praise truthfulness and reward them for it. Emphasize its virtue through hadith, stories, talks etc.
  - 7) Give children a chance to confess. Offer a reason, a way out, so children will take it to tell the truth.
  - 8) Have a strong relationship with you child. Discuss often how lying breaks trust and weakens that relationship. It is then difficult to build trust again.

# Books on Truthfulness for children

## Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie

By Laura Rankin



Online reading

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcE00zvq2z0>



# **The Boy who cried Wolf**

Aesop's Fables

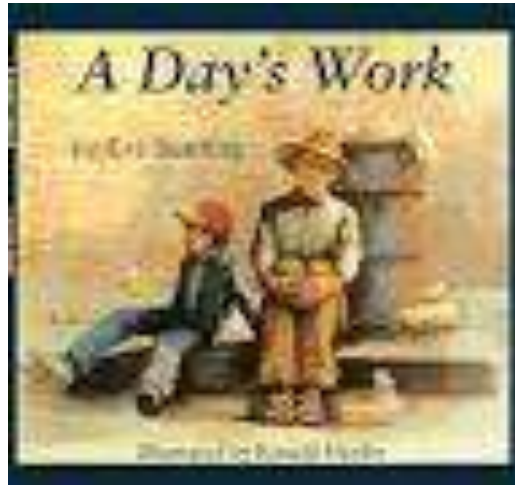
<http://www.storyarts.org/library/aesops/stories/boy.html>

Movie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heasnJY8HMM>

# **A Day's Work**

By Eve Bunting



Online review

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjaICnFX4DY>

# Prophetic Reminders

- 1) Do not constantly give orders to your child, so they don't build resentment. Resentment in childhood leads to rebellion in later stages.
- 2) Respect your children when in social gatherings. The Prophet (s) and Imams (a) taught that by their practical examples by letting children play on their back, asking them questions, respecting their personalities . . . etc. When the need for respect is not satisfied for a child at home, he looks for it in other things and other people.
- 3) Keep your promise to children. Even if you think it is not very important, it may mean a lot to your child. Breaking a promise is breaking a trust, and may confuse the child.