

# Too Much of a Good Thing

Raising children of character in an age  
of materialism

WEEK 3

A.L.I Online Parenting Series

Winter 2014

# Review from Weeks 1 & 2

- Material wellbeing and crisis of conscience
- The role of peers
- The role of parents and parenting style

# Agenda for Week 3

- The 6 pillars of character
- What does a strong character look like in children?
- Using the TEAM approach to build character

# The essentials of good character

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness/Justice
- Caring
- Citizenship

# What does a child with good akhlaq/character look like?

**The Young Adolescent (without adult reminders or coaxing) regularly:**

Answer with a Yes or No

- Shows sensitivity and has a lot of feeling for others.
- Tries to see things from the other person's view, not just his/her own.
- Is honest and trustworthy; can be counted on to keep his/her word.
- Feels shame or guilt about his/her wrong actions; accepts the blame.
- Easily calms down when excited or angry; copes with behavioural impulses
- Behaves appropriately without reminders; thinks before acting.
- Treats everyone respectfully and courteously; no back talk or sass.
- Shares, helps, or comforts others with expecting something in return.
- Is open-minded: listens to all sides before forming opinions.
- Focuses on the positive traits of others instead of their differences.
- Tries to solve problems fairly and peacefully; willing to compromise.

If you checked less than 8 "yes" it means the young adolescent's moral IQ could use some boosting.

(From: Parents do make a difference – M Borba  
<http://www.parentingbookmark.com/pages/articleBMI04.htm> )

# The TEAM Approach

- Teach
- Enforce
- Advocate
- Model

# Let us start with modeling

- Model
- Walk the talk and practice what you preach

# What children learn from our relationships with our spouses

- The priority of the marriage
  - The value of interdependence
  - Importance of mutual respect
  - Maintaining trust in word and deed
  - Negotiating conflict and valuing differences
- 
- *What children learn from their parents' marriage* by Judith Siegal





# Words of Wisdom

*“Don’t worry that children do not hear what you are saying. Worry that they are seeing everything that you are doing.”*

# Advocate

- Means being consistent about the values and having high standards about applying them in your life.
- Expect and demand moral behaviors
- Not being neutral about importance of character or high standards of morality
- Reinforce morality in daily life and work on it together as a family

# Teaching

- Teach by Telling
- Teach by praising
- Preventative Teaching
- Corrective teaching/Guided self-correction
- Teaching Self-Control

# 1. Teach by Telling



"Before we learn this song, it's important to understand that cutting off the tail of a mouse is never acceptable."

## 2. Teach using descriptive praise

- Show your approval
- Describe the positive behaviour
- Give a reason



# Words of Wisdom

*“We increase whatever we praise. The whole creation responds to praise and is glad.”*

*Charles Fulmore*

Questions and comments?  
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