

MKB Classroom Newsletter

Reasons to Smile: *a good dream, giving a treasured gift, seeing a good friend, a child's smile, a good joke, a compliment, witnessing an act of kindness, baby birds chirping, watching a child's first steps, smell of fresh bread, first winter snowfall, seeing a shooting star, frisky kittens, ice cream, being loved, hearing your favorite song, a beautiful sunset, reaching the finish line, no cavities, sleeping puppies, learning something new...*

Happy New Year to you all!



Topics

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Last Month's Highlights



Visiting the children from Centrul Comunitar Sf. Vasile...



...and the elderly from Centrul de asistenta si ingrijire 'Sf. Ioan'

Thank You!

to all children and parents. You were wonderful... like bees in a hive - everybody showed generosity and care. Thank you, dear parents, for the donations, the cakes, the objects, the time and effort that you offered.

News of the month

- Charity for children from Centrul Comunitar Sf. Vasile, sector 4, Bucharest. We visited the children from a Montessori group and brought them presents. We played and ate together.
- Charity for elders. Centrul de asistenta si ingrijire 'Sf. Ioan'
- We prepared for the End-of-the-Year Performance. We made the gifts for parents, we decorated the rooms (those beautiful lanterns were made by our little but skillful hands), we made the 'sorcovas' and so many more other things.



Welcome

We would like to welcome our new students, Miruna and Matei. It is a pleasure to have you with us!

Our Christmas Party

Merry Christmas

*We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!*



MOS CRACIUN CU PLETE DALBE

*Mos Craciun cu plete dalbe, a sosit de prin nameti
Si aduce daruri multe la fetite si baieti.
Mos Craciun, Mos Craciun!*

*Din batrini se povesteste ca-n toti anii, negresit
Mos Craciun pribeag soseste, niciodata n-a lipsit.
Mos Craciun, Mos Craciun!*

*Mos Craciun cu plete dalbe, incotro vrei s-o apuci?
Ti-as cinta florile dalbe, de la noi sa nu te duci.
Mos Craciun, Mos Craciun!*

SORCOVA

*Sorcova, vesela, sa traiti sa-mbatriniti
Ca un mar, ca un par, ca un fir de trandafir!
Tare ca piatra, iute ca sageata,
Tare ca fierul, iute ca otelul!
La anu', si la multi ani!*



Article of the month: BEYOND CONSEQUENCES

By Jane Nelsen, Lynn Lott and Stephen Glenn

Too many parents and teachers use "logical consequences" as a way to make kids "pay" for what they have done instead of focusing on solutions for the future. In other words, they think they are disguising punishment by using the words "logical consequences." We have eight suggestions for going beyond consequences and/or to make sure consequences are not disguised punishment.

1. If It Isn't Obvious, It Isn't Logical

One of the most popular questions we hear is, "What would be the logical consequence for _____?" The answer is, "If a consequence is not obvious, then a consequence is not appropriate." For example, it's obvious when someone writes on a desk that it would be related, respectful and reasonable for that person to clean the desk. If someone hurts another person, it's obvious that it would be related, respectful and reasonable to apologize. If we have to ask what a consequence would be, then it isn't obvious and we have our first clue that we might be more interested in punishment than solutions.

2. Focus on Solutions Instead of Consequences

One of the most effective things to do instead of looking for logical consequences is to look for solutions. It's a mistake to think there must be a logical consequence for every behavior and to solve every problem. It's time to put less emphasis on consequences and more emphasis on problem-solving.

3. Get Kids Involved in Solutions

Kids are our greatest, untapped resource. They have a wealth of wisdom and talent for solving problems when we tap into this valuable resource.

4. Focus on the Future Instead of the Past

Another clue that we are more interested in punishment (in the name of consequences) is when the focus is on the past rather than the future. In other words, the focus is on making kids "pay" for what they have done instead of looking for solutions that will help them learn for the future. The following formula can help define when logical consequences might be appropriate.

5. Opportunity = Responsibility = Consequence

For every opportunity children have there is a responsibility. The obvious consequence for not accepting the responsibility is to lose the opportunity. The opportunity of having toys requires the responsibility of taking care of them. When children don't take care of them, the consequence is to lose the opportunity of having the toys they don't take care of. A teenager who has the opportunity of using the family car may have the responsibility of leaving the tank at least half full. When the tank is not left half full, the opportunity of using the car maybe lost for a previously agreed upon time. An important point that is often missed is that the children have a chance to try again so they can learn from their mistake.

Children have the opportunity of using the school playground during recess. The responsibility is to treat the equipment and other people with respect. When people or things are treated disrespectfully, it would be a logical consequence for that child to lose the opportunity of using the playground and have to sit on a "time-out bench" until he or she is ready to be respectful again. These consequences will be effective only if they are enforced respectfully and children have another chance to have the opportunity as soon as they are ready for the responsibility.

6. Avoid Piggy Backing

In both of the cases above it would be easy for adults to turn the consequences into punishment by piggy backing on the punishment. We piggy back when we enforce consequences with an attitude of making the child pay instead of helping the child learn with dignity and respect. Piggy backing is adding something to the consequence that is not necessary, and is actually hurtful to the child, such as, "Maybe this will teach you!" or, "You can just sit there and think about what you did!"

7. Advance Planning

One way to eliminate the feeling of punishment is to get kids involved in deciding on consequences in advance. During a family meeting, a class meeting or a problem-solving session we can ask kids for their help in deciding what consequences would help them learn. "What do you think would be logical to help kids remember to use the playground respectfully?" "What do you think a logical consequence would be when you bring the car home with an empty gas tank?"

8. Revealed: The Fourth "R" of Logical Consequences

Anyone who is familiar with the "Three R's of Logical Consequences" knows that the consequence must be related, respectful and reasonable. We now have a fourth "R": Revealed.

If kids aren't involved in the planning, they can at least have advance notice - the consequences can be "revealed." It can be revealed to kids that people who use the playground disrespectfully will be asked to sit on the "time-out bench" for a cooling off period until they are ready to use the playground respectfully again. To increase responsibility, accountability and shared power it's effective to add, "You will be asked by the yard supervisor to decide how much time you think you need to cool of and calm down. If you're having a problem and need help solving it, you can put the problem on the class meeting agenda."

The point of these eight suggestions is to **help kids learn for the future instead of pay for the past.** Let's remember the long-range goals of parenting and teaching - to give our kids the courage, confidence and life-skills that will help them live successfully as happy contributing members of society.

Source: www.mammolina.org