

## Why Kids Argue

Kids want to be in charge but  
**Parents are the Leaders!**

If we turn over  
control to our children...

We are not leading and  
they are not learning.



## Clear Instructions, Direct Communication

**Who:** Say your child's name.

**Example:** • *Leticia, turn off the TV.*

**What:** Be specific. Describe what you want done. Start with words that motivate to action, such as "stop," "take," "make" or "pick up."

**Examples:**

- *Pick your clothes up off the floor.*
- *Put all dirty clothes in the laundry basket.*
- *Fold all your clothes and put them in your drawers.*
- *Put all the trash in the trash basket.*

**When:** Tell your child when you want something done.

**Examples:**

- *Now!*
- *Before you watch TV.*
- *By Saturday at noon.*
- *Immediately after school.*

**Where:** Be specific about where you want them to be and where you expect them to put things.

**Examples:**

- *Play only in the front yard.*
- *Take the sheets off your bed and put them in the laundry room in the green basket.*
- *Stop jumping on the sofa and put your feet on the floor.*

**How Often:** Is this a daily or weekly expectation?

**Example:**

- *Every Saturday.*
- *Every day.*
- *Every night.*
- *Just this once.*

LET'S CLEAR  
THIS UP BY  
GOING OVER  
THESE POINTS.



**Put It All Together:** Daniel. Clear the dishes off the table and put them in the sink.

Do this after dinner tonight and after dinner every night.

## Ending Arguments and Setting Boundaries

### The keys to practicing with the Shield:

- Use few words.
- Don't engage.
- Repeat calmly.
- Stand strong.



## Parents in the Lead: Don't Take the Bait!



# The Difference Between Discipline and Punishment

## Discipline:

- Training that empowers a person to learn from mistakes and be equipped for success next time.
- Training or learning that develops strong character, self-control, and moral capacity.

## The Eight Characteristics of Discipline

1. Provides direction and correction.
2. Values learning from mistakes.
3. Focuses on the future.
4. Attitude of love and support.
5. Directed at the behavior.
6. Promotes security and self-control.
7. Parents invest time and effort.
8. Manageable for parent and child.

## Child Learns:

- Responsibility
- Self-control
- To be a learner
- To recover from mistakes
- To see self as a winner
- To see self as okay
- Positive self-identity

## Punishment:

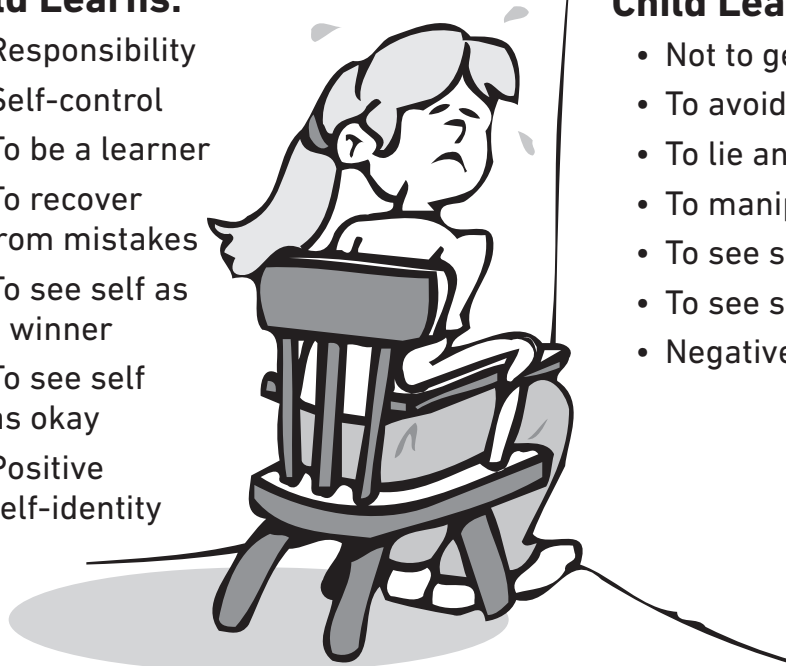
- Imposing a penalty for breaking a rule or the law; often in retaliation.
- Dealing with roughly or harshly; castigating.

## The Eight Characteristics of Punishment

1. Inflicts a penalty.
2. Requires perfection.
3. Focuses on the past.
4. Attitude of anger and retaliation.
5. Directed at the individual.
6. Promotes fear, resentment and anxiety.
7. Dismissive. Not investing time.
8. Overwhelming.

## Child Learns:

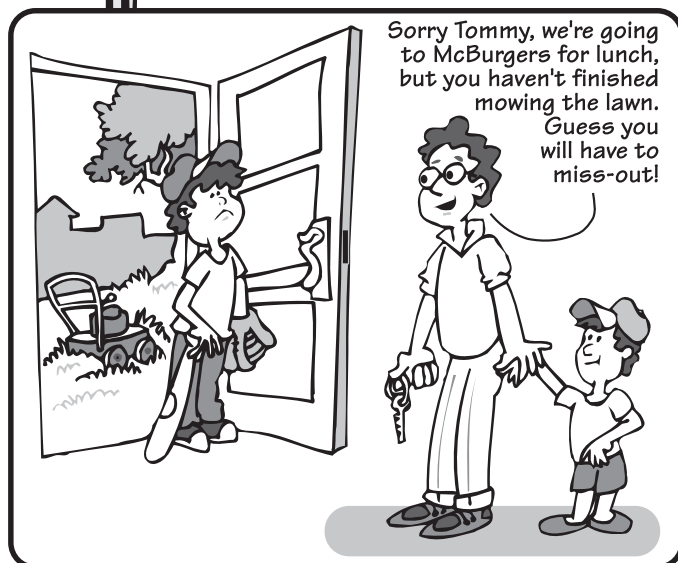
- Not to get caught
- To avoid punishment
- To lie and be sneaky
- To manipulate the system
- To see self as a failure
- To see self as not okay
- Negative self-identity



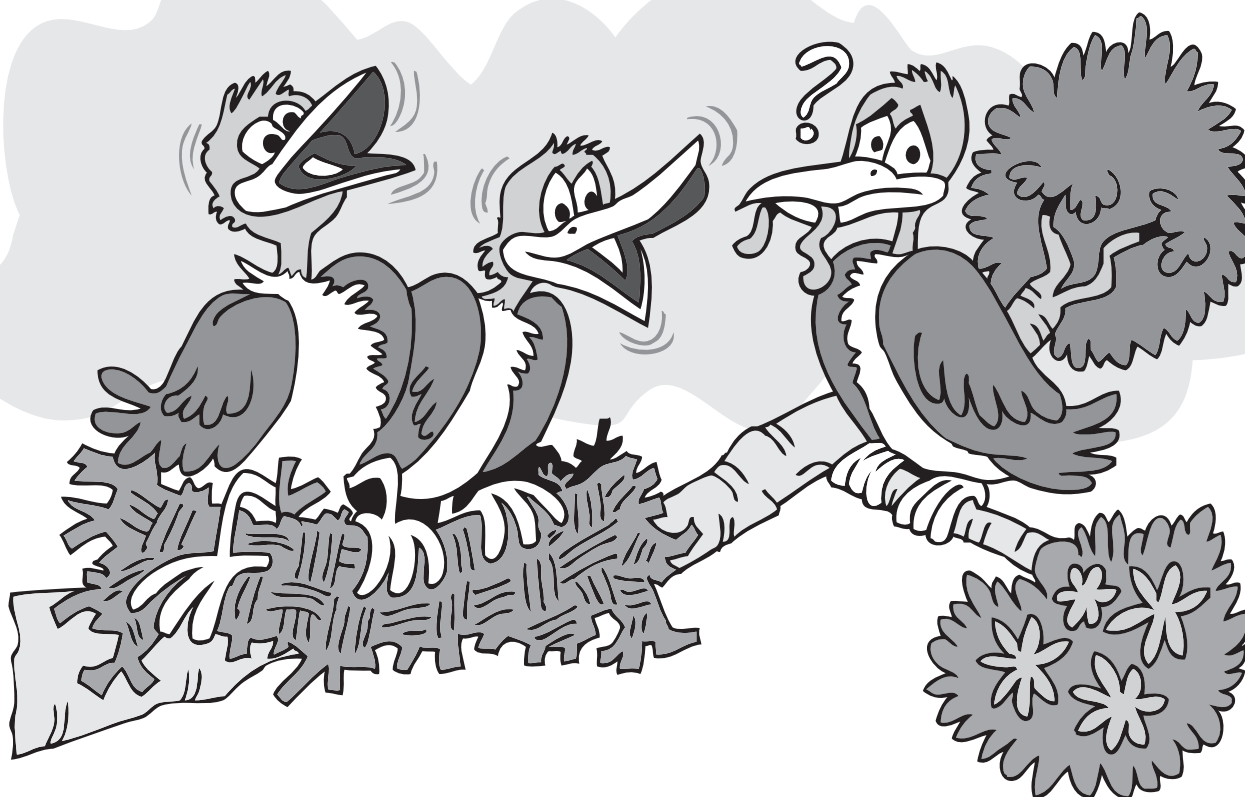
## Eight Guidelines for Setting Logical Consequences

### Consequences must:

1. Be put into action without anger.
2. Be communicated first.
3. Be perceived by the child as negative.
4. Relate to the misbehavior.
5. Allow freedom of choice.
6. Be age-appropriate and reasonable.
7. Be allowed to work.
8. Be manageable for the parents.



## Be the Parent Now or Later



### Parents Have Two Choices.

#### **Be the buddy now and the parent forever.**

When parents withhold discipline, their teens and young adult children often lack the tools for independence, especially discernment and knowing whom to trust.

- Therefore, parents may continually be called upon to intervene and rescue their young adult children.

or

#### **Be the parent now, and the buddy later.**

When parents discipline their children as they grow, they gain the skills and confidence to become independent young adults.

- Therefore, confident, independent young adult children can be friends with their parents!