

Bullying: How do we teach our children right from wrong?



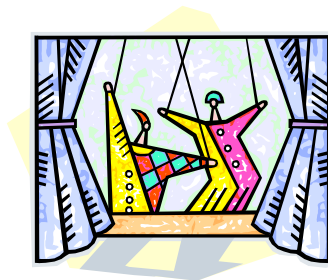
In the 2005 Warner Bros film, "[The Ant Bully](#)", a young boy named Lucas learns what it was like to be on the other end of his cruel behavior when he was suddenly transformed into a bug-sized kid. Unfortunately, we cannot shrink our children to grain-sized insects to teach them a lesson in bullying, but what we can do is live by example and stay ever vigilant.

Devaluing the child

When parents or other adults strike a child, the child often grows up thinking that the solution for problems is to lash out at others; especially those smaller and weaker than themselves. It is an all too common problem with children that are accustomed to corporal reactions. Rewarding children for positive behavior is the more transformative path that helps youth to understand how to act and live among others.

The same holds true for children who have become victims of bullying. If he is the constant target of a bully or group of bullies, the child learns to cower and be afraid of others. In that same token, those smaller than him may become his own target for bullying. In either case, it is a vicious cycle that teaches the child to not only become fearful of others, but to use that fear as a weapon to those weaker than him.

Role-playing



One way to teach your child the value of being a sincere, honest and brave individual is to engage her in role-playing. Since you cannot become ant size, you must compromise and set the stage for the two of you to become the victim and the aggressor (metaphorically, NOT actually). Demonstrate how it feels to be on the receiving end of bullying. Show her how sad it makes others feel, and the

repercussions and effects of bullying. You can do this through puppets, dolls, toy cars, or whatever you have at your disposal. Children love to engage in playtime, and there is no better way to spark their creative minds than by employing their favorite toys or gadgets in role-play. When they see for themselves the outcome of their actions, they just might learn to be more compassionate and understanding of others.

With teens, it becomes a little more challenging as they are going through a



lot of different changes; physically, mentally and emotionally. One of the best ways to teach your teen how to embrace others is to teach acceptance. Just as your teenager is trying desperately to be accepted among his peers, he must understand how important it is to be accepting of others if he wants to gain that

mutual respect. In this modern world, it is more critical than ever to connect with your teen as often as you can through social networks, phone texts, and one-on-one conversation. You will need to make a conscientious effort to migrate onto *their* playing fields to understand their issues, as well as ways to have healthier dialog with them. When you open the lines of communication, you are better equipped to deal with such problems as bullying.

Most importantly, of course, is to not be a bully you. If you are teaching negative behavior, it becomes an echo chamber in the hearts and minds of your children. They will begin to practice what is dealt to them. They are, after all, a mirror reflection of who we are. Practice what you preach. Live and lead with compassion and honesty. In doing so, your child will learn the values of being a moral and upstanding citizen in even the most distressing situations.

Blessings to you on your journey,

Joan Marie

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By Joan Marie

About the Author: Joan Marie Ambrose and her daughter, Joan Marie Whelan have created this children's Company to further teach children and their caregiver's about changing the way they act and react with others in a positive and moral manner.

Through the small books that feature the messages from the angel realm, these stories inspire and encourage children to form good wholesome habits that everyone will benefit from. **Lit'l Messengers, the Power Angels** are the superhero's that teach and share the messages. Visit our **Lit'l Messengers** on this site and learn more about their purpose and function in the terrestrial realm. http://www.childlikecreations.com/clc_messengers.php