



Monticello Christian Academy


Note From the Principal's Office
~ March 2010 ~

“WWJBD”

The Duggar family on TV stuns me. I'm so impressed with the parents and how they seem to be SO CALM. Just dealing with one at home, I find myself asking, “what would Jim Bob do?” He's the dad on the show. At the writing of this letter, I just completed teaching a workshop at a conference in Springfield. The conference was for new teachers who will be entering, or are in their first year of teaching. I traveled last October to Charleston, S.C. to receive this training, and since have shared it with our staff, sixty teachers at Springfield, the Moms' Group in a few days, and I'd like to summarize it for you; effective teaching after all, is based on effective parenting. The real, short version of it follows these five components: self-control, unconditional love, attention to space, teach to's, and refocus.

Self-control. When we lose it with our kids we lose more than our temper, we lose dignity. In a heated moment we don't honor our children, our selves, or our Lord. If you want to see this in practice watch the Duggar's with the 18, sorry, I mean, 19, what's that, you're kidding right, 20 kids! The Duggar's amaze me because I never see them lose control. Their calm is contagious in their family. They're not heavy-handed with their children, their certainly not passive, they show respect, and maintain a calm sense of self-control.

Unconditional love. Our children should know that we will always love them, and their behaviors, no matter how bad they become, will not affect our relationship with them. Some research was conducted in schools. The researchers noted that upwards of 90% of the comments made to students were based on what the child was doing or not doing, only 10% of the comments were relating to the child as a person. This is something to take stock of. The more we are connecting with our children simply as a person who we love; we are building in them the belief that we really love them unconditionally.

Space. As the square footage of homes has nearly tripled since the 1950's, we have more room in our homes to “stretch out.” In some ways this may be good, but we tend to spend less time actually with each other. When we add to that multiple television sets in the home, computers, cell phones, personal electronic games, and personal music devices, it's easy to see that we can live in the same home with people we barely know. Consider arranging your living spaces in a way that creates more opportunities to just “be together.”

Teach to. Kids have lots of rules, and lots of rulers. It's easy to forget how many different rulers children have over them, and we expect them to remember all of that ruler's specific rules. If a child is going to get in trouble for something, we should make sure that we have “taught to” that something. To teach it means telling it, showing them exactly the correct way, showing them all of the unacceptable ways, allowing them to practice only the correct way (practice makes permanent), giving them several chances to practice it after the initial teaching, THEN we can

consequent the behavior. Now, the consequence should place the burden to change on them. With God's help, only they can really change the behavior.

Refocus. This is a spin on time out, only it's a time in. When a child is not cooperating with something you have "taught to," then they go to Refocus. Simply designate a Refocus place, and there they will answer these questions: what did I do, what did I want, what will I do next time, am I ready to try again? You may want to include, have you prayed about this? You are asking the child, in a way that is not punishment, to think about their behavior and try better next time.

We're trying these strategies at school (and at home ☺) with great success. With these strategies in place, we can get put away our drill instructor boots and whistle, and get back to being the parent God has called us to be! Thank you Jim Bob for being a great example for us! Please call me or email, if you'd like more information on these highly effective strategies. Have a great March!

Mr. H