

Free Manual

EDUCATIONAL IDEAS

V0.2

some observations on fatherhood

from:

www.paternita.info/fatherhood
the Italian Paternity Portal

<http://psychoglossary.wiki.zoho.com>
knowing the human mind, a glossary of psychology



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individual, social and scientific aspects of fatherhood in the 21st century

Lies

Lies are useless. Don't forget that you are the model for your children to follow. So, if you lie to them, you cannot expect them not to lie to you.

What is more, children are not so used (accustomed) to lies as adults are.

For instance, if you have educated them to obey you, they will consider you a god and finding out that you have lied to them might disappoint them so badly that they will feel betrayed by you. A child who feels betrayed during his childhood or early boyhood may even stop trusting his/her parent and conversely run away from him/her, consequently finding himself at a loss.

Why?

So, you should know better than to tell lies. Before having children, you should be prepared for it. If this is not the case, you should do whatever it takes to make up for your irresponsibility. In fact, if you have managed so far being half as responsible as you were supposed to be, with your children around this is no longer acceptable, lest you should soon find yourself amidst utter chaos and serious trouble.

A child is like a fresh porous sponge that takes the same color of the fluid you have put it into (imprinting). And the world out there is made only of fluids. If you don't do your own bit, if you don't decide for your own children, other people will do it instead of you. This is the reason why you should know, day after day, what water you are putting them into.

Brain

It is the most important thing inside your child. Take good care to develop it and make it independent, because one can live without any other part of the body (eyes, legs, arms and other organs can be replaced), but one cannot live without one's brain. One's quality of life will depend on how well or badly one can use one's brain.

Gift

Teach them to give.

Selfishness

Let them experience it and show them how base it is to be selfish.

Happiness

This is the only thing you cannot teach. You can only show it. Do not be fictitiously theatrical, as children have a perception that is much higher than adults. Their eyes are not blinded by ideology. They look and see things as they really are.

Fake Teacher

Do not teach anything you are not sure of. Do not act as a charlatan, or else, by association, they will most likely take anybody else for one.

Imprinting

Our brain's self-adaptation to the world around. The brain (the central and directive organ of our body) configures itself and takes its specific form (identity) by relating to all outer stimuli.

Imprinting is like a large sphere expanding throughout life, with a basic nucleus at its center, which is the most difficult part to reach. This is why it is much easier to change an attitude than a principle.

Unconscious

It is as enormous as the number of things that you have not been able to explain logically and understand convincingly. Children do not yet have a logical and structural information storage method of their own. You should help them build it as soon as possible, without skipping any necessary step though.

All they store unconsciously goes into the unconscious. It is some sort of "lost property box" that, if you carry on ignoring it, will turn into a score of enormous containers filled with unlabeled baggage.

Criticism

The best possible situation is that in which children autonomously feel the impulse to grow up, ask questions, improve. If this is not the case, some criticism on your part will do your children no harm. However, make sure that you do not exaggerate. Hypercriticism of a child whose conscience is not yet fully shaped is like a hammer banging on a card castle.

Independence

The development of your child's independence is one of your parental duties. Make your child today a man or woman tomorrow - being a person with his/her own conscience and mental independence does not necessarily mean "being free" from the influence of the world around; it definitely means "being aware" of the environment and all its influences.

Transmission

It is one of your parental aims. Tell your child all you know and keep doing it, even when he/she has grown up. Humankind's most precious heritage is just what humankind is now: even the most precious museum can be swept away by a wicked and ignorant humankind, whereas a just humankind can save and consolidate their own knowledge in order to evolve, develop and thrive in peace and harmony.

A child in the year 5000 could be thrust into a jungle and (if he survives) grow without being able to speak and think as a human. He will soon adapt to the violent rules of wildlife. Likewise, without transmission and education, civil society would quickly deteriorate into its ancient origin - the animal kingdom.

Evil

A basic concept your children must be taught. Evil consists of all unhealthy, wicked and destructive principles and actions carried out against man and the environment. It is a concept the human being has formulated in order to safeguard himself/herself and the environment. The greater or lesser mastery of this concept accounts for the exact difference between the human man and the animal man.

Evil used to be very explicit and physically exerted in the streets out there; nowadays it is forbidden by modern democracies. You can observe, however, that it has by no means disappeared. It is commonly believed that evil can be eliminated by laws and decrees. Evil cannot be eliminated; it can only be observed, explained, interpreted and avoided as a result, by knowledge and awareness of what it is and its continuous comparison with good. Evil's actual function is to show us the very value of good. Our mind and brain mainly interpret and elaborate information by comparison and contrast.

In the western cultures today, evil has only moved inside from the outside, from overt situations to the inside of our forehead: the Brain. From the brain, evil acquires the necessary power to get back out in the streets. Evil today does the same things as it used to do yesterday: it kills and destroys, but it does so with greater intelligence, precision and sneakiness than in the past. Many people believe or convince themselves they are exempt from it, perhaps only because they do not steal or kill, and their lives slowly drift towards Evil and corruption. They do not like to talk about evil and feel embarrassed if asked about it. Everyday they coin words to use instead of that exact word. Just like yesterday, even today this taboo shakes the pillars of the human world.

Mental Development

To put it simply, the brain undergoes three stages during a child's life:

Infantile Dependence, Semi-Independence, Independence

Infantile Dependence: the virgin brain absorbs the earliest information without special filters and adapts to the outer world without obstacles, it is very reactive that is to say it responds directly to the stimuli it receives.

The child is not yet self-conscious, since, for instance, he is unable to recognize himself in the mirror and, just like most animals, he looks at his image thinking that what he sees is something or somebody else.

Semi-Independence: The brain has built an early solid cerebral base of information. The answer to the stimuli from the world around him is no longer necessarily direct, but it more and more often goes through the filter of this cerebral base which begins to process and influence one's final answer.

A child begins to recognize himself through the mirror. He starts to compose more articulated and complex sentences and to carry out actions resulting from the elaboration of several thoughts put together.

This is the most delicate stage ever. An Ego which is still not fully shaped is an Ego continuously risking his life: he risks destruction, selfishness or insanity, he risks becoming a megalomaniac or the extension of another Ego.

You are the guardians of this Ego until it is fully shaped and independent. Keep dosing your teachings, transparency and honesty in a gradually increasing fashion. You will see that his day will come.

Independence: you have done a good job, your children are now walking on their own. They have reached their mental independence. They are adult, masters and conscious observers of their own life. They are now able to tell what they are from what you are and what the other is. They now know each and every person is a mind, a body and a life of his/her own, unique and unrepeatable.

Physical Punishment

Slaps and wallops: use them with intelligence, tact and affection.

For instance, my daughter has received a dozen in her earliest 5 years; only as a last resort and when she was not intelligent enough to let me do otherwise (talk, think, reflect or process). Later on, as she grew up, after a horrible mistake I only told her I should punish her physically but, as she was no longer a baby, we could talk it over instead and she would understand her mistake by only listening to my words.

Result: She has always chosen the latter option (dialogue) and has actually gained my consideration. Telling your child you should punish him/her should not mean threatening him/her, but one of the two options to offer and the one to choose only in those extreme cases in which physical punishment is inevitable. In so doing, I have also been able to turn those prior slaps (that dozen I have already mentioned) into something rational, something that she could understand. Therefore, she perfectly knows when, why and for what purpose she was punished physically. This is the authoritativeness that her upbringing needs, which is way far from the authoritarianism typical of those who beat their children everyday without even telling them why they do so.

The results are clear: a kind of love (my daughter's love) that is free (she expresses it as she wishes, in her own way and as her own nature will allow and enable her to), but also aware of her own state and that of the world around, like psycho-physical health limitations (her own and other people's), the basic principles of respect and coexistence, and her conscious obedience to a father who, especially until she becomes an adult, has the important role of joyously and lovingly walking her through the best of her life.

Paternal Features

A different body: beard and body hair, deep voice, breastless chest, muscular structure, psychologists primarily talk of physical diversity, which is important for the child's sensory and affective development since his birth.

Two is more than one (choice and co-parenting): two parents mean two different points of view for the child. Colors exist insofar as there are at least two of them. A single parent's child has only one opinion; a child with both parents normally discussing things and exchanging ideas will listen to at least two opinions. It takes at least two opinions for the child to feel the need to form one of his own.

Boys and girls: experiencing the constant presence of your father, his physicalness, affection and communication, the love for the masculine, will stand you in good stead when you become an adolescent female and "meet with" the male world: you will know what people are talking about, it will not be a plunge into the complete unknown, you will be more capable of telling good from evil, you will make a more conscious choice of a healthy relationship based on tender affection and constructive interaction with the other sex. A constantly present father is he who stimulates this kind of interaction with his children, he who initiates and guides it. So, during their adolescence, his children will have been provided with more adequate means to safely build their own personality, without wandering in the "middle ground" of the darkest unknown for so long. The same goes for boys. Male friendship changes during adolescence, it becomes more ample, complex and deep, it integrates the pleasure for the feminine, a further and wider view of the world. All these aspects are easier to manage, infantile friendship turns more smoothly into adult friendship if you already have a adult male friend at home (your father) and you know where to go.