



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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I call it “psychological thinking,” referring to the tendency among parents of the last fifty years or so to attribute bad behavior on the part of a child to so-called “issues” that are thought to be causing emotional tensions of one sort or another. That is, in fact, precisely what my graduate school professors taught; to wit, that misbehavior was nothing more than a symptom of such tension, and for that reason, punishment would only make matters worse.

As psychological theory oozed into popular culture, this imaginary notion went, in contemporary terms, viral. During my private practice years, the typical parent(s) who solicited my advice concerning an ill-behaved child seemed to think that knowing the hypothetical source of the problem in question was tantamount to solving it and that discovering said source required a highly-trained psychologist – me! It pains me to admit that for more than a few years I believed I was capable of deep-diving into a child’s psyche and bringing up such buried treasure – or trash, as the case may be.

It slowly dawned on me that I was pulling this stuff out of thin air, that there was no empirical means by which such speculations could be verified; therefore, they bor-

dered on delusional. I further realized that these delusions absolved ill-behaved children of responsibility for their various anti-social outbursts and projected said responsibility on the parents. By such pseudo-intellectual alchemy, the misbehaving child was transformed from a perpetrator into a victim deserving not of discipline but great understanding and sympathy.

An example is the single mother who recently sought my help regarding a young teenage boy who was behaving disrespectfully toward her. She believed her son was “angry” at her for divorcing his father who just happened to be verbally abusive. Mom wanted to know how she could help the boy resolve his “anger issues.” It did not help that another therapist had told her that her son’s verbal abuse was indicative of depression. Psychobabble knows no limits.

The inevitable consequence to a parent of psychological thinking is what I call “disciplinary paralysis.” As was the case with the mother in this example, parents who engage in psychological thinking are unable to discipline firmly. They believe, after all, that THEY are to blame for their children’s misbehavior. They believe, therefore,

that THEY are the parties in need of correction. It’s as if they went to graduate school with me.

And so, the problem in question – whatever it might be – just keeps on getting worse. A disrespectful teen becomes more disrespectful. An anxious five-year-old who demands that her parents cater to her anxieties becomes more anxious and demanding. A ten-year-old who throws tantrums becomes a completely out-of-control thirteen-year-old.

All too often, these kids receive diagnoses of one sort or another – ADHD, oppositional-defiant disorder, bipolar disorder and so on – and wind up on medication. By the way, none of these diagnoses can be verified empirically and none of the medications used to “treat” them reliably outperform placebos.

Back to the aforementioned single mom: When she stopped absolving her son of responsibility for his disrespect, stopped thinking he was a victim with “anger issues,” stopped her unwitting enabling and responded to his abuse by confiscating all of his electronic gear and suspending all discretionary driving privileges until he was disrespect-free for two months...guess what? Right! After the shock wore off, his anger issues abruptly “resolved” and he became the model of a dutiful son.

Firm, loving authority is hard to beat.

Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com, parentguru.com.

Mississippi Attorney General’s office, Secretary of State’s office to combat fraudulent veteran charities

The Mississippi Attorney General’s Office and Secretary of State’s Office join the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and law enforcement officials and charity regulators from every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and Puerto Rico in announcing “Operation Donate with Honor,” an education campaign alerting donors to fund-raising solicitations falsely promising donations to veterans and service members.

The effort is also supported by the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board and Mississippi National Guard.

“Giving back to our veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom is a worthy cause, but, unfortunately, it has also become a common way to scam people out of money and veterans out of resources,” Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood said.

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann agreed.

“Mississippians are the most generous people in the Nation, always answering the call when it comes to our veterans and service

members,” he said. “Operation Donate with Honor continues our Office’s position to ensure funds donated are received by those who need it the most.”

Operation Donate with Honor was developed by the FTC and the National Association of State Charity Officials (NASCO), the association of state offices charged with oversight of charitable organizations and charitable solicitations in the United States. The initiative pairs enforcement actions with an education campaign to help consumers recognize charitable solicitation fraud and identify legitimate charities. This includes a social media campaign and a public service announcement video that highlights tips on how to research the legitimacy of charities so consumers can give wisely to veterans organizations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABxifqSktyg>.

Veterans fund-raising fraud schemes target potential donors online, via telemarketing, direct mail, door-to-door contacts, and at retail stores, falsely promising to help

homeless and disabled veterans, to provide veterans with employment counseling, mental health counseling or other assistance, and to send care packages to deployed service members. Many schemes solicit nationwide.

Stacey Pickering, Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board, and Lt. Col. Christian Patterson, Director of Public Affairs for the Mississippi Military Department, echoed the importance of this educational initiative.

“On behalf of Mississippi’s over 200,000 veterans, I want to thank Attorney General Hood and Secretary Hosemann for their leadership and protection of our Veterans and their benefits,” Auditor Pickering said. “Our Veterans have stood in the gap to protect our nation; it is only right that we stand in the gap to show them our appreciation and eternal thanks.”

“All efforts to prevent our Mississippi National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and family members from being targets of fraud are greatly appreciated,” Lt. Col. Patterson said. “The ‘Operation Donate With Honor’ partnership will be a strong tool for consumers as they continue

The Fruits of Labor



Jackie Harmon, (pictured at left) with the Mississippi Extension Office in Holmes County presented a tasty and hands on presentation on healthy foods by demonstrating how to make a fruit salad inside a hollowed out cantaloupe. Those in attendance were (from left): Harmon, Makalah Sumner, Kelsey Gilmore, Hannah Malone and Selena Gilmore. (Photo submitted)

Happy Birthday

- July 26** - Patsy Thomas, Seth Starns, Adrianna Buford Wigginton, Gaye Millwood, Angela Patton, Joiner, Daniel Parrish, Brylee Davis, Edward Pierce
- July 30** - Rosemary Bailey, Alyssa E. Killebrew, Megan McCleskey, C. J. Mangum, Pam Williams, Bryce Purvis, Ashlyn Tate, Ashton Tate, Addison Berry
- July 27** - Bertha Ervin, Parker Jenkins, Johnny Murtagh, Latasha Sumerall, Terry Stebly
- July 31** - Bertha Williams, Mike McBride, Ran’Darius Butler, Avery Rucker, Mollie Rosen Dillenkoffer, Butch Pepper, Shannon Berry, Terrance Miller
- August 1** - Diana Tate, John Christopher Riley, Christina Farmer, Taryn Brown, Thelma Palmer, Cindy White, Caleb Cain, Pastor Ernest Wilson

Happy Anniversary

- July 26** - Oscar and Clarkie McDougald
- July 27** - Jonathan and Leigh Barrett
- July 28** - Justin and Dee Word, Bobby and Linda McDonald, Paul and Traci Hollingsworth, Billy and Barbara May
- July 30** - Chuck and Nikki Edwards
- July 31** - Paul and Kristy Hager
- August 1** - Bubba, Jr. and Angela Spell

Bridal Registry
Brianna Watson
Mac Cain
September 8, 2018
Howell & Heggie Drug Co.
389 N. W. Depot St.
Durant
662-653-6441

to support our force into the future.”

Tips to remember when donating to a charity include:

- Ask for the charity’s name, web site, and physical location;
- Ask how much of any donation will go to the charitable program you want to support;
- Check the Secretary of State’s website to see whether the charity is registered in Mississippi: <http://charities.sos.ms.gov/online/portal/ch/page/charities-search/Portal.aspx>;
- Search the charity’s name online with the word “scam” or “complaint.” See what other people say about it;
- Check out the charity’s ratings at the Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Watch, or Charity Navigator;
- Never pay with cash, a gift card, or by wiring money; and
- Consider paying by credit card, but never over the phone, and only after receipt of written information you can verify.

For more information about charities and charity laws in Mississippi, visit www.ago.state.ms.us or www.sos.ms.gov/charities. More information from the FTC is accessible at www.FTC.gov/Charity.

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

TAX FREE WEEKEND
Friday, July 27 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday, July 28 7 a.m. to Noon**
Save BIG on our brands!
Boots • Coveralls
Jeans • Shirts
Work Clothes
and Caps
T-Shirts By:
DAN POST BOOT COMPANY **HEYBO** Tide & Timber
DRAKE **ARIAT** ARIAT Boys Jeans Sizes 7-14
ATTALA COUNTY CO-OP EST. 1938 KOSCIUSKO, MISS.
447 Hwy 12E • Kosciusko • 662-289-3741