



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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When Baby Boomers get together we often talk about our observations of parenting in these postmodern times, one of which is that today’s parents seem, as a rule, to want to be liked by their children, to want to be their children’s friends. That, we agree, is very odd. What is lacking in the life of an adult that they want to be liked by a child? we ask. Furthermore, what could it possibly mean that a child – an emotionally immature, ignorant (no matter how smart) human being – likes you? Or, at any given moment in time, does not?

Well, to begin with, it means to the parent in question that he or she is doing a splendid job. Being liked by one’s child is the measure of a parent these days, or so it

The parent-friend lowers himself to his child’s level (the child, after all, cannot rise to the level of the adult), thus rendering himself so incapable.

Second, a parent who desires, above all else, wonderful relationship with one’s child is incapable of delivering effective discipline. Discipline, if it is properly corrective, does not make the recipient feel warm and fuzzy toward the agent of correction. That is contrary to the intent of having a wonderful relationship, because the overarching Rule of such is “Thou shalt never make thy child upset at you.”

Third, and for the reason immediately above the parent in question allows himself to be manipulated by his child’s emotional output, which becomes, over time, more and more uncivil. Said parent interprets his child’s emotional outbursts as evidence (a) he has done something wrong and needs to correct it or (b) that some-

thing is wrong in his child’s life and he needs to discover it and fix it. That boils down to the child being in COMPLETE CONTROL of the relationship. The parent-child relationship, therefore, is inverted, which is bad for both parties.

Fourth, we have defined a codependent relationship in which said parent becomes an enabler. In this case, the job of the adult enabler is to always make sure his child is happy.

What’s wrong with that? a reader shouts.

Because that is not in your job description, which says you are to prepare your child for responsible living in the real world, and the real world is full of disappointment, failure, loss, and other stuff that isn’t “happy.” Accepting those realities is to become emotionally resilient, and emotional resilience is key to personal satisfaction. It is more important than success. Truly happy people are not in codependent relationships

with dedicated personal enablers. People who are being enabled have not had to accept full responsibility for state of their lives. Their enablers are the responsible parties.

Fifth, enabled people almost always think of themselves as victims. Enabling always fails. No amount can defeat life’s realities. So, enabled people are unhappy; either angry unhappy or depressed unhappy.

All of which is why I am convinced that the post-1960s phenomenon of parents trying to be their kids’ friends is a major contributor to childhood, and especially adolescent, mental health problems.

If you think you can defend your attempt to be your child’s friend, I’d love to hear from you. Email me at radio@rosemond.com. If I use your defense in a future column, rest assured I won’t use your name.

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

Drug-testing policy to be implemented at Mississippi school

Associated Press

Officials say a drug-testing policy that will be implemented at a northern Mississippi school is aimed at keeping students off drugs.

News outlets reported this week that the Chickasaw County School District will implement the policy that goes into effect this fall for seventh through 12th grades at Houlka Attendance Center.

Principal Anthony Golding says students participating in extracurricular activities or driving on campus must agree to take random drug testing. Students cannot participate in extracurricular activities if a guardian chooses not to sign a form consenting to the policy.

Testing positive would cause a student to be suspended from the pursuits for at least one month. Subsequent failures would result in longer suspensions. Students who fail the test may submit a doctor’s note or written prescriptions.

*Public County

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Wednesday’s meeting was a promise kept by Dr. Henderson to the students. They had previously asked for it to share their relocation concerns. However, their parents strongly preferred that he meet with them first. That meeting took place during his transitional period in June. It concluded (after much dialogue and debate) that everyone involved wanted what is best for the children.

“Tonight, young people, we are not going back and rehash the old,” Henderson said, as he opened the Chat and Chew. “The die has been cast; therefore, we are moving forward with any concerns you may have now.” As he moved among the crowd he realized there were quite a number of parents in attendance. “With all due respect parents, this is the students’ meeting. I want them to ask questions and make comments,” he expressed.

“Young people, let’s talk the future at this junction; don’t be shy. You may even push back on whatever we say as long you do it respectfully.”

Student Jada Sumler asked the first question. She wanted to know whether HCCHS would have more organizations than Beta Club, in which students could participate. “That’s a very good question,” said the new high school principal, Dr. Marcus Mason, who, with his assistant principal, Mr. Jason Young, also accompanied Henderson to meet the Durant students. He assured her that they would. He also cautioned students that he expects them to prioritize with academics being first.

Student MiKhail Webster wanted to know whether

he could drive and park on campus. Mason told him if he holds a valid Mississippi driver’s license, is covered under insurance, has his parents’ permission, and secures a campus parking decal from Young, then he would be permitted to do so.

Mason shared his expectations as their principal. The two emphasized ones were respect and “90% as the minimum acceptable level.” “Anything less, then we will have to do some reteaching. I hold myself to that level, and I have already conveyed it to my staff,” Mason stressed. The longtime educator who came out of retirement to help Henderson and the district told the students that practice, rehearse and perform are the achievement principles he would like them to apply in order to get A’s.

Mason is a Missouri native and Mississippi Valley State University alumnus who served in its band under the direction of the late Leonard Trammel.

Mason said as of Wednesday night, 68 of Durant’s 98 high school students had enrolled for the upcoming school year at HCCHS. The deadline was July 27.

across the street from the Durant school.”

Lowe, who has already enrolled, believes she is going to enjoy her upcoming school year. She has already met her volleyball, basketball and track coaches. She plans to attend Alcorn State University and later the University of Central Florida to become an OBGYN.

Bullying is a national concern. However, according to stopbullying.gov: “When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.”

Both Henderson and Mason committed themselves to school safety and appropriate behavior modification. “I am not mean, but I mean what I say,” said Mason.

Henderson revealed that he will propose the installation of cameras on all HCCSD school buses to the board on August 9.

After the students did not have further questions or concerns, parents were allowed to ask questions. One wanted to know about a special bus for special needs students, others wanted to know about the bus stops for the children of Durant who had been accustomed to walking to the school as well as the registration process.

Webster, the student interested in driving to Lexington, shared after the meeting that “I did not have any fears about transferring [to HCCHS].”

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