

Inappropriate Parental Expectations



If

Then



The Construct

- A parenting practice that is very common among reported cases of child abuse and neglect is the inappropriate expectations parents have for their children. Beginning very early in the infant's life, abusive parents tend to inaccurately perceive the skills and abilities of their children.



The Construct

- Parents simply don't know the needs and capabilities of children at various stages of growth and development. Ignorant of this knowledge, expectations are made that often exceed the skills and abilities of the child.



The Construct

- Many parents who abuse their children generally lack a positive view of themselves and consequently of their children. Inadequate perceptions of self as an adult generally stem from early childhood experiences of failure, ridicule, and disappointment.



The Construct

- Abusive parents generally lack the empathy that is required to determine what is an appropriate expectation for children at different stages of development. Lacking empathy, (described in more detail in the following construct), is a major contributor to the inappropriate demands parents make of their children.



The Construct

- The effects of inappropriate parental expectations upon children are debilitating. Many children perceive themselves as being worthless, as failures, and as unacceptable and disappointing to adults.



Inappropriate Expectations Regarding Crying

It's inappropriate to

- Tell a baby to quit crying on command;
- “shushing” a baby to stop crying;
- Run a vacuum cleaner to get a baby to stop crying;
- Turn up the volume of the TV or radio to get a baby to stop crying; or
- Let a baby cry himself to sleep.



Common Effects of Inappropriate Expectations on Children

- Low regard for self (concept, esteem, worth)
- Feelings of failure
- Cannot please others
- Angry and anxious attachments
- Lack of trust in their skills and abilities
- Constantly striving to achieve higher goals because they are seldom satisfied with accomplishments.
- Develop a role based/performance-based identity
- Difficulty in accepting positive recognition



Labels and Children

Negative Labels

- The problem with labeling a child's behavior is that a child can often live up to the label given to him.
- If a child is labeled difficult often enough, he may tend to act more difficult than he otherwise would in order to live up to the label.
- This is called a self-fulfilling prophecy.



Labels and Children

When we label our children, whether in a positive *or* negative way, we impact our expectations and theirs.

Some studies have shown that simply being asked to check off "female" at the top of a math test can lower the way a woman performs on a test. Interestingly, if the woman happens to be Asian and is asked to identify her ethnicity rather than her sex before taking the test, her scores rise in line with positive stereotypes about Asians and math.



Labels and Children

Positive labels such as "gifted" can have negative side effects

During a recent study with 10 year olds who had taken an IQ test, some were praised for having done well because they were smart, while others were lauded for the hard work that had gone into achieving their high scores.

When given the opportunity to try a more challenging task, those who had been told they were smart were reluctant. They seemed to be thinking, 'They called me smart. I better not do anything too hard in case they change their minds.' In contrast, about 90 percent of those who had been praised for their effort wanted greater challenges.



Labels and Children

The researcher came to this conclusion about labels:

"It's not the label that's the problem, but the baggage associated with it."



Labels: Reframing

- Old, **Negative** Label
- Rebellious
- Demanding
- Anal Retentive Brat
- Whiny
- Mouthy
- Manipulative



Labels: Reframing

<u>Old, Negative Label</u>	<u>New, Positive Label</u>
• Rebellious	Independent
• Demanding	Persistent
• Anal Retentive Brat	Organized
• Whiny	Expressive
• Mouthy	Honest
• Manipulative	Charismatic



Labels: Reframing

- My Rebellious, now Independent child will be able to:
 - Resist Peer pressure
 - Stand up to the crowd
 - Say No to Drugs



Labels: Reframing

- My Demanding, now Persistent child will be able to:
- Stand up for something she believes in
- Set high standards and goals
- Demand accountability



Labels: Reframing

- My Anal Retentive Brat, now Organized child will be able to:
 - Manage details
 - Help solve complex issues
 - Be a lawyer!

Ages and Stages: Infants and Toddlers





Why Learn About Developmental Stages?

- To become the best parents we can.
- It makes a child's life easier and happier.
- To have appropriate expectations for children.
- So children can feel good about their capabilities.



Developmental Stages

- There are four things we know about child development:
 - The brain of young children is still developing.
 - Each stage has certain tasks that must be accomplished to move on to the next stage.

Developmental Stages

- The expectations we have for children determines whether childhood will be a nurturing experience.
- Children are unique and each child has individual capabilities.



Primary Areas of Development: Physical Development

- As children get older they get bigger.
- Their gross motor and fine motor skills increase.



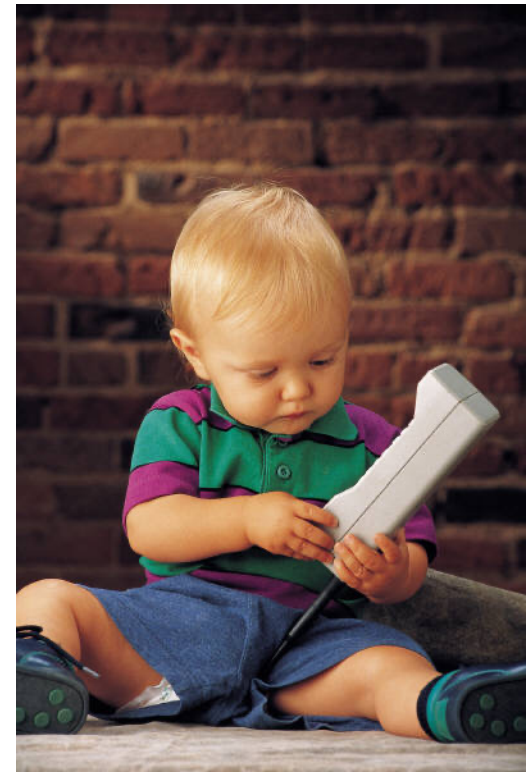
Primary Areas of Development: Intellectual Development

- Children learn more the older they get.
- Stimulation is necessary to help children's brains develop.
- Without stimulation, intellectual abilities may lag behind or fail to develop.



Primary Areas of Development: Language Development

- As children grow older, their communication skills increase.
- Their ability to use words, phrases, and sentences helps them gain mastery of their environment.





Primary Areas of Development: Social/Emotional Development

- The way we treat children and the care they receive affect the way they mature.
- The ability for children to use their physical, intellectual, and language skills depends on how well children develop socially and emotionally.



Ages and Stages

- Quiz



Appropriate expectations

- Nurturing Skills Curriculum



Appropriate expectations

- Nurturing Parenting Skills SV Curriculum
- Lesson 6.2 Expectations and Development of Children



Appropriate expectations

- -What objections to this construct do you think the families you are working with will have?
- - Are there current families you are working with that need work in this area?
- -Facilitator techniques that can be used to overcome objections