

Tips from the Trenches – Manz Elementary School

Topic: Following Through

We know that families are often searching for tips/ideas about how to handle things at home. We plan to send out some “tips” written by our very own Manz staff members to provide families with some helpful information.

Si usted quiere ayuda en interpretar esta carta, por favor póngase en contacto con el asistente de educación bilingüe al 715-852-3962 y deje un mensaje con su nombre y número de teléfono.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab kom koj nkag siab tsab ntawv nov zoo, hais ua lus Hmoob. Thov hu xov tooj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv yog 715-852-3962. Hais lus tseg, hais koj lub npe thiab muab koj tus xov tooj tseg. Peb ib tug neeg txhais lus mam li hu qhia rau koj kom koj nkag siab zoo tshaj qhov nov ntxiv.

Tip: Follow through on things you tell your child and be sure not to say things in the heat of the moment that you can’t follow through on.

Why does this work? It shows your child that you mean what you say and they can trust you at your word.

What happens if I miss a chance to do this right? We all make mistakes or fall back into old habits when we are stressed or tired. That’s ok. Just be sure to be as consistent as possible and acknowledge to your child that you made a mistake when you didn’t follow through on your words and that you will fix that for next time.

My story: As a mom of 3 children, ages 22, 18, and 14, I’ve had many opportunities to practice this tip. Often I’ve been able to stick to my word but sometimes I haven’t. What has that looked like in our house?

My children have begged me for years to get a cat. Every time they’ve asked, I told them that “we will never have a cat”.

My mistake: Don’t say “never” unless you really, really mean it.

As time went on, the kids got older, and they kept asking for a cat. In a weak moment, being tired of being asked, I finally said, "Fine, as long as you all take care of it."

So, now we have a cat- LeBron. Everyone in the house loves LeBron, including me, and I don't regret getting a cat. But, one lasting effect of not sticking to my words of "we will never have a cat" is that my 14-year-old won't stop asking me if he can get Grand Theft Auto for his video gaming system. Even though I've repeated said, "you will never have that game in our house"; he's learned from the cat experience that if he just keeps asking I may give in. That part of the cat situation I do regret. Instead of saying "we will never have a cat"; I should have said, "we aren't able to have a pet right now due to other obligations".

So, if you can, as often as possible, only say what you know you can follow through on. That will help your children to develop trust in others, knowing that people mean what they say and you can trust them to follow through.

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