

Thoughts

Why do they call the airport 'the terminal' if flying is so safe?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'Broker'?

Why isn't there mouse flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Things kids say

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth."
Billy - age 4

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."
Bobby - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day."

Grandparents— www.ourlittletreasure.com.au

Many grandparents and other family members around the world help by sharing the care of children in their families. Being a grandparent, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be entrusted with the care of a grandchild.

Generally (but not always), grandparents have more time to enjoy the wonder of their grandchildren. We are able to spend more time playing and making the most of this time together than we were with our own children. As a grandparent, you begin to understand just how special childhood is and it becomes a joy to contribute to the upbringing

ing of little ones. Often relationships with our own children are strengthened as a result of helping with this care.

Being the carer of a grandchild is not always easy! We are not quite as young as we used to be, and at the end of the day our body generally aches. Many grandparents in Australia both care for grandchildren and work either full or part time! But most of us would not swap it! Just to share the smiles, to enjoy the hugs and cuddles our little ones (and not so little ones) shower on us.

by Susan Clarke (Co-Founder of Our Little Treasure, Grandmother to 8, Mother to 3!)

We have one staff member who thinks that pie sandwiches are great . . .



From previous page ...

Also avoid leading questions. A query such as, 'Do you think it's appropriate to talk to me that way?' often backfires. Instead, you might say, 'I feel angry when you talk to me that way'.

Listen without contradicting her. Instead of saying, 'That's ridiculous', you might simply say, 'Hmm' or 'Really'. Then, ask specific questions based on the situation your child has described.

Repeat what you heard your child say, but in a more mature way. You can reflect her statement in the form of a question, implying, 'Am I getting this right?' In this way, you are respecting your child's intelligence, making her feel understood and encouraging her to tell you more. You might say, 'So, you think your teacher is stupid, but you don't want me to intervene? Can you tell me what you are upset about?'

Laugh a little and admit your mistakes. At times, humour is the best way to resolve a dispute, react to an upset or make a request of your school-age child. You can also ask your child for help in figuring out what to do. Kids love to hear parents admit they were

wrong. You might say, 'Am I making a mess of this? Should we try to figure it out a different way?'

Ask your child to help set her own limits. Don't be afraid to say 'no' when your school-age child (or you) needs it. However, within reason, your child can make some rules, too. For instance, you might ask her to propose a reasonable time to begin her homework. 'Discuss it and then back off', recommends Gillian McNamee, PhD. 'Ask your child to be the boss of deciding what help is given, how much and when (in accordance with her teacher's instructions)'. In this way, you help your child to feel in control of her world.

Keep talking even if your child won't talk to you. 'You will feel at times that you have lost your credibility with a school-age child', comments Michael Thompson, PhD. 'If you take silence or impulsive remarks personally, things can go quite badly. But they are often simply trying to establish their independence.'

By pbsparents.org

All Harmony House centre's are

Management Matters

KIDS TIME

Please leave court issues and adult discussions at the door.

Staff are here to support you in this.

We will make time to speak to you - but not in front of your children.

Please ask us for a review meeting or call us during the week.

Easter holidays and long weekends

Friday 2nd April—Good Friday	Closed
Saturday 3rd April—Eater Saturday	Closed
Sunday 4th April—Easter Sunday	Open
Monday 5th April—Easter Monday	Closed
Monday 26th April—ANZAC Day	Closed
Monday 3rd May—Labour Day	Closed

Have you seen these websites?

www.stepfamilyzone.com.au
www.childrensweek.org.au
www.raisingchildren.net.au
www.twohomes.com.au



Steve from Onebuild Constructions has been doing maintenance around Harmony House Cotton Tree, at a very reduced rate. Please support our supporters contact Steve:

Onebuild Constructions
 Build right Build one
 0488 066 948
stephen_stephens@hotmail.com

Courses

Harmony House Cotton Tree 07 5479 6971 or
 Harmony House Caboolture 07 5432 3720

P5

A Parenting Program Promoting Pleasurable Parenting. Suitable for all families and cultures, parenting babies to adolescents. Supportive of women and men parenting together or independently.

Course Outline

This course runs over 6 weekly 2 hour sessions and will cover:

Session 1: Why children misbehave.

Session 2: Confident parenting

Session 3: Natural and Logical consequence

Session 4: Communication: mainly listening.

Session 5: Positive ways to improve behavior

Session 6: Optional extras

Times:

The course will run through the day or night according to need. It can also be run as an outreach in local schools.

Cost:

The cost is \$10.00 per person per session. Bookings are essential. Refreshments and handouts are included in the cost.

Dates for P5 at Harmony House

Cotton Tree

Term 1

1. Tue 9th Feb
2. Tue 16th Feb
3. Tue 23rd Feb
4. Tue 2nd Mar
5. Tue 9th Mar
6. Tue 16th Mar

Term 2

1. Tue 27th Apr
2. Tue 4th May
3. Tue 11th May
4. Tue 18th May
5. Tue 25th May
6. Tue 1st June

Caboolture

Term 1

1. Thu 11th Feb
2. Thu 18th Feb
3. Thu 25th Feb
4. Thu 4th Mar
5. Thu 11th Mar
6. Thu 18th Mar

TBA



**Sunshine Coast
Family
Contact Centre**

PO Box 571
Cotton Tree
Phone: 07 5479 6971
Fax: 07 5443 3686
E-mail: scfcc@bigpond.com

'Where Kids Come First'



'Where Kids Come First' is the focus of our supervised contact and changeover service for children and parents. The residential and non-residential parents do not come into contact during changeover, which means unnecessary conflict between parents is avoided. Our Centres offer a safe, harmonious and neutral environment, where children can safely develop a positive relationship with their non-residential parent.

The Sunshine Coast Family Contact Centre is a children's contact centre which ensures the smooth changeover of children between separated parents and appropriate contact visits between children and their non-residential parents/guardians.

The service is for families who are in conflict and cannot arrange a mutually agreeable or safe venue for child-parent contact.

Harmony House -
Funded by the Attorney Generals Department
Administered by Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Where Kids Come First Charity
No.8/44/2801
Donations greatly appreciated, over \$2.00 tax deductible

Contact information:

Harmony House Cotton Tree

Monday to Friday
8.30 am—5.30 pm
Saturday and Sunday
8.30 am—5.30 pm
P: 07 5479 6971
F: 07 5443 3686

Harmony House Caboolture

Tuesday and Wednesday
9 am to 4 pm
Thursday to Sunday
8.30 am to 5.30 pm
P: 07 5432 3720
F: 07 5432 3275

Harmony House Hervey Bay

Thursday to Sunday.
9 am to 5 pm
P: 07 4124 1681
F: 07 4124 2381

Harmony House Fees

Application Fee \$20.00 per parent

Changeover Fee \$5.00 per parent
Changeback Fee \$5.00 per parent
Facilitated Contact Fee \$25.00 per hour (2 hour block)
Additional Hours \$30.00 per hour
Annual Administration Fee \$20.00 due 1st Sept each year
**fees may change at any time*

Robbie's Place Gympie

Friday 3.00pm – 5.00pm and
Sunday 9.00am – 5.00pm
P: 07 5482 6953
F: 07 5482 6953

Robbie's Place Fees

Outreach Service (partially funded)
Application Fee \$20.00 per parent
Changeover Fee \$5.00 per parent
Changeback Fee \$5.00 per parent
Facilitated Contact Fee \$25.00 per hour
Annual Administration Fee \$20.00 due 1st Sept each year
**fees may change at any time*

Supporters of the Centre

Margaret Rimmer

Bernadette Farnell

Lisa Toomey

Pippa Coleman

Profile Print

Onebuild Constructions

Rhonjen Fancy Dresses

Courier Mail Children's
Fund



Where Kids Come First
Harmony House - Cotton Tree
Caboolture Hervey Bay
Robbie's Place - Gympie



Where Kids Come First
Harmony House - Cotton Tree
Caboolture Hervey Bay
Robbie's Place - Gympie



Keeping in Contact

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. ~Stacia Tauscher

How school age children communicate

At this stage, children often move from being concrete thinkers to being more reflective ones. They think more logically about world events, while still seeing them from their own point of view. They start to look at causes and begin asking more challenging questions.

Between the ages of 6-11, kids become purposeful. They think in advance about what they want and often have a plan for how to get it. Because their communication style is impulsive and driven by their desires, it may mask how deep, loving and wise they are inside.

School-age kids range from feeling dependent on, resistant to or even rebellious toward their parents. This confusing behaviour can be quite nerve-racking for parents. School-age kids may appear needy for days and then suddenly throw tantrums. They become insulted if their parents treat them in ways they consider babyish, even though at other times they still want to be babied.

School-age kids question, doubt and criticise their parents. They no longer consider their parents to be the sole authority. This questioning is normal, and it means they are becoming critical thinkers. They may appear to distance themselves from, or even reject, the people they love most.

School-age kids begin to tailor their communication styles to their surroundings. Younger kids usually communicate with one style no matter where they are or who they are with. As school-age kids spend more time away from home, they often develop new patterns of speaking based on what their friends are saying or what they hear on television.

School-age kids may become private

about their thoughts. No matter how positive a relationship a school-age child has with his parents, he may now begin to shut them out as his life outside the home begins to compete with his home life.

School-age kids develop a more sophisticated sense of humor. They enjoy telling jokes and puns and playing more advanced games. They can understand more grown-up media and analyse the rules and premises of the games they play.

Find time to talk. With a school-age child, you won't have as many opportunities for conversation as you did with your preschooler. As your child grows up, she may turn to you less frequently, so you may need to make a special effort to spend time together.

Speak to your school-age child in a mature fashion. School-age kids want their 'bigness' acknowledged. They may be offended if they feel they are being spoken to like babies (even if they happen to be acting like them). You might say, 'I expect you to do your homework. What time would you like to do it?' instead of 'How many times do I have to tell you to do your book report!'

Show your child respect. One way is to ask your child for help in understanding her and her needs. If you acknowledge that your child has some information you don't have, she will know that you respect her, even though you are making final decisions.

Ask specific, rather than general questions. Instead of asking a question such as 'How was school?' you might ask, 'Did your teacher give you comments on your science project?'

**Sunshine Coast
Family
Contact Centre**

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