

Stuff That Works Building Families

Chapter 6 **“Consequences”**

Take Action

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Chapter 6 Take Action: Content

- Next time your child has lost something or broken it and you are pissed because it needs to be replaced. Don't replace it for at least 30 days.
- Set a boundary for your child. Clearly state the line and the consequences for crossing the line. Make it simple but then enforce it. For example no video games until homework is done or you will loose the video games for three days. If they violate the rule enforce the consequences.
- Set a boundary and state a reward. If you fill the dishwasher every day this week I will give you \$20.00. If they miss even one day no reward but if the achieve the objective pay them the full amount. NO PRO RATING THE PAYMENT! Be black and white here.
- Invest time on Stuffthatworksbooks.com

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Chapter 6 Take Action: Action 1

Next time your child has lost something or broken it and you are pissed because it needs to be replaced. Don't replace it for at least 30 days.

ACTION

This is a hard one to act on because it seems in the moment that you must replace the item broken immediately. I would encourage you to try and make it work.

When pronouncing the consequence do not set a time table. This will give you flexibility. For example do not say "We are not replacing TV for 30 Days." Instead say, "We will have to do without a TV for Awhile." This gives you flexibility to replace tomorrow if it is unbearable or next week once all have felt the loss long enough.

We live in a society of instant gratification and disposable excess of assets. I try to take every opportunity to teach the value of our possessions and the fact that they are to be cared for not just purchased.

You will find great benefit in making the family do without when they casually lose or damage something you own.

EXAMPLES

Lost Calculator

My child lost a very expensive calculator for math class. It appeared we would need to replace it at once as the calculator was required for class, homework and the upcoming test.

After conversation with the school I learned that students could use a school calculator at school. They had to check them out and use them in the study hall.

Our response was that our child would use a school calculator for class and the test in two weeks. It was a pain for the child as they had to get homework done at school and use free school time to check out a calculator and do work.

However, Best grade ever. The child studied better, faster and more often using the school calculator than the home one.

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Chapter 6 Take Action: Action 2

Set a boundary for your child. Clearly state the line and the consequences for crossing the line. Make it simple but then enforce it. For example no video games until homework is done or you will lose the video games for three days. If they violate the rule enforce the consequences.

ACTION.

Warning: As a young parent I worked out elaborate reward systems and rules galore. What a nightmare. Nothing saps the enjoyment out of life and destroys integrity faster than a host of rules. All you end up doing is catching people in violation of the rules and end up compromising all the time on the consequences. My advice have no more than 3 rules and if at all possible move to principles to guide your relationships.

So set a boundary and define the consequence of crossing the boundary. Then enforce the boundary. It is important that the boundary be clear and easy to spot. The consequence needs to be fair. The punishment must fit the crime. You must be able to enforce the consequence.

My advice is to keep it black and white and gain the alignment of the family to the arrangement. Contract with them. For example we all agree that homework will be done before the TV comes on right? This is best for all of us. Great if you violate this contract you lose TV privileges for 5 days.

EXAMPLES

Here are some boundaries and consequences I have used with my family.

Boundary	Consequence
If you sneak out of room at night leave a note in Sock Drawer telling us whom you are with and when you left and plan to return	No note=30 days grounding. Note = no more than 3 days grounding
If a homework Assignment is not turned in	Grounded until it is made up or you lose TV privileges for 7 days
Receiving below a "B" on a college report card	resulted in child taking a student loan to repay dad for the course cost

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Chapter 6 Take Action: Action 3

Set a boundary and state a reward. If you fill the dishwasher every day this week I will give you \$20.00. If they miss even one day no reward but if they achieve the objective pay them the full amount. NO PRO RATING THE PAYMENT! Be black and white here.

ACTION.

Kids are great negotiators. There is this idea that if you do half the job you should receive half the pay. I disagree with this within the family. It is important to learn to do what you say. To complete the entire job to receive any payment.

This is a great opportunity to catch your children doing right.

There is a watch out here in that you should reward children not pay them or bribe them. Each parent has to find the correct mix of these tactics for their family.

I am not an expert in raising children or in psychology. I am simply stating that this is something that worked for me.

EXAMPLES

Boundary	Consequence
Take out the garbage without being told	First time \$1. It doubles each time you do it in a row up to \$100. This Friday \$1. Next Friday \$2, then four. If you miss a Friday it resets to \$1
Bring a friend to Dinner	\$5
Help work in yard this Saturday	We go to a movie of your choice and dinner.

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Chapter 6 Take Action: Action 4

Invest time on Stuffthatworksbooks.com to discover more ways to add fun to daily office life.

ACTION.

This is an easy one.

I believe that each of us can help someone else.

There is so much to know and to experience. You just can not do it on your own. So the best way forward is to share and learn from each other.

Technology makes this so easy today. That is why I built the web site Stuffthatworksbooks.com .

It only reaches its potential if you join in and add the stuff that works that you have found. Please make a contribution today. Help others find the Stuff That Works.

Others have already shared their stuff that works so be sure to check the site often as there is probably something to improve every area of your life.

The community is waiting and growing. I hope you will join in and make a positive difference.

Thank you!

EXAMPLES

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