

Parenting Tips Newsletter Parent Team LLC



"That's not fair," Entitlement in Our Children

by Ruth Fett M.S.C.

Greetings!

"That's not fair!" These words may be all too familiar in your home as well as homes across the country. They slip from the tongues of our children like a snake through grass. Daring us to defend our reasoning for our parental decisions. These children are not "bad" kids, they are the product of a society that is unbalanced in teaching children about giving and receiving. In an attempt to keep up with the "Jones" the joy and character building of being a giver is lost on our children.

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[An excellent book regarding the topic of entitlement, "From Innocence to Entitlement" by Jim Fay and Dawn Billings](#)

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The Root of Entitlement: Disrespect

Where there is a weed there is always a root and until we address the root the weed will keep rising up to confront us. Disrespect of parents and authority figures manifest itself in an air of entitlement from our children. In my experience when parents are passive or passive/aggressive in their parenting style this teaches the child a communication pattern that is wrought with disrespect. The child comes to expect to always get what they want. If they do not get it they feel they have the right to throw a tantrum in reply. Wanting to keep the peace parents often cave in, trainging their child to disrespect them.

Change starts with parents

As parents it is important that we recognize that we can not change anyone but ourselves. Frustration and anger is all that can come from trying to coerce, beg or bribe our children into changing. Therefore, we must first accept that we can not change our children. We can however change our own actions, the environment in which the children are growing and the expectations we place upon the children.

To combat disrespect which leads to a sense of entitlement from our children we first need to change our actions from aggressive or passive/aggressive to assertive. Assertive parenting is clear communication of expectations, using as few words as possible and following through with logical consequences when necessary.

What should we expect from our children

Children of all ages should be expected to:

- contribute to the greater good of the family
- understand that they will always get what they need, they will not always get what they want
- treat others the way they would want to be treated
- know that they have the right to feel safe in their home and the responsibility to help others feel safe
- learn as they are developmentally able that serving others is far better than being served

This of course is the goal and needs to be taken in baby steps. It may seem like an impossible dream but children who have assertive parents that structure the child's life to be more about giving than receiving feel better about themselves and are overall happier. After all if they grow up believing their world exist to serve them, they will have a rather rude awakening when faced with reality. So the next time you hear, "that's not fair" think about the bigger picture of what is fair to your child, raising them to believe they will always get their way or teaching them a more empathetic and giving view of the world.

Enjoy the summer months with your children. Whatever age they are currently they will only be exist at that developmental stage once, remember to enjoy it.

As a parent coach I am here to help you with any challenges you may face in parenting. I understand the societal pressure for all parents to know what they are doing and do it well without help, but we all need a little support as parents sometime. Please know that I am here, I am passionate about helping parents enjoy their job and feel empowered as parents.

Please call or e-mail for a **free consultation** today!

Sincerely,

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