

THE T.V. SET (A Story)

Theme:

Those in charge of children should give them time, full attention, take them seriously, show them concern and respect.

Target Audience:

Primarily Parents and family members.

Also teachers, boarding masters, and others in charge of children.

THE STORY.

Once an English Teacher asked her pupils to write an essay on:

“If I had to be a house instrument, what instrument I would like most to be and why”. One of the smartest kids in her class wrote the following:

AN ESSAY: WHAT SORT OF INSTRUMENT I WOULD LIKE TO BE

Above all, I would like to be a T.V. SET, because were, I a T.V. set, my parents would look at me oftener, they would spend lots of time with me, take more care of me, and take me more seriously.

They would listen to me much more attentively. They would tell me to ‘shut-up’ when I am speaking.

They would not tell me to get out of the T.V. room or go to bed in the middle of a game or when I do something I like. In fact, they, never go to bed until their favorite T.V. program is over.

(Adaptation of a Spanish story of Martin Descalzo)

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What are your priorities in your home? What are the things that preoccupy you most?
2. Who are the most important persons in your life? Your partner, your children, your friends or any one else?
3. What is your time allocation? To whom or to what do you give most of your time? Your children, your job, your business, your financial position, your social life, whatever?
4. In general what do you value most in your family? People or things - gadgets and money?
5. Can luxuries and modern gadgets be a suitable substitute for the time, care and affection your children need from you?
6. What is more important for you – to have a good ‘house’ or a happy ‘home’?
7. What makes a ‘house’? What makes a ‘home’?
8. Do you give enough time to your children? When do you give it? When they need it or when it suits you?

9. Some Children need more time and attention, some others less. Are you aware of your children's individual needs?
10. Do you listen sympathetically and attentively to your children?
11. Do you take them seriously? Don't say "He/she is just a child!"
12. Do you respect and accept their feelings, thoughts and opinions?
13. In your home, do you have meals together?
14. As a family, do you say pray together? How often? Henceforth, can you do it a little more?
15. As a family, do you attend Mass and/or other religious services together? How often?
16. Do you openly show external signs of affection towards your children? Do you kiss and hug them?
17. Are you giving to your children, encouragement, recognition and praise?
18. When your kids are doing wrong or are mistaken, can you patiently show them the right way of doing things, rather than scolding them or branding them as bad, disobedient and lazy?
19. Have you abdicated to teachers and tuition masters the education and schooling of your Children?
20. How much time you spend daily following their progress in studies and helping them in their learning difficulties?

INPUT; EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF FOLLOWING SENTENCES.

- ✓ The love we have for our children is shown by the amount of time spent with them.
- ✓ It is much better to spend time **with your** children than **for your** children.
- ✓ **Let your family be a true 'home', not a 'house' or a 'parking lot'**
- ✓ **Values are caught at home**, not taught in school
- ✓ The example of Parents and Grown-ups in the family speaks louder than words
- ✓ Always practice what you preach: better still, live in such a way that you may be able always to **preach what you practice**
- ✓ Lavish **more time than money** in the education of your kids.
- ✓ When a child wishes to talk to you, **listen to him immediately** .If you delay, you might lose him forever.
- ✓ **Once communication with your children is broken, you may never restore it again.**
- ✓ **For children there are no small problems.** All problems look big to them. Help them immediately to solve them.
- ✓ Small worries hurt children more than serious worries do to grownups
- ✓ **Don't discount Children's feelings.** They are very tender and brittle.
- ✓ **A small "put down" to a child may become a deadly punch!**
- ✓ **Children are fragile, handle them with care!**
- ✓ Respect your kids if you want to be respected by them
- ✓ Don't try to teach your children kindness with unkindness, meekness with temper,
- ✓ Don't ask for respect, **make yourself respectable..**
- ✓ Don't expect love from your children. **Be loveable.**

