

LOVE AND LOGIC CHANGED MY LIFE!

*by Alice Flood
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My Colorado Teaching License was coming up for renewal, and I needed to take some graduate hours to satisfy the state requirements for classroom teachers. I took a class, "Parenting with Love and Logic." It changed my life.

I started reading the materials and listening to cassettes and watching videos. I was afraid to try it, but at the same time chomping at the bit to see if it REALLY worked. I decided to start on a small chronic problem in my classroom.

Johnny was one of eight rather nasty children in my classroom. It didn't matter if I was teaching, or helping other students; he was always off-task. He also held the honor of being the ringleader of this group. One day I decided to try my new tools gleaned from Love and Logic. We had started our reading groups and naturally, this was the signal for Johnny to start wandering around and getting into trouble. I sat down with the group and started the lesson. After about a minute, I smiled and walked over to Johnny and said in a voice just loud enough for my group to hear, "Johnny you are welcome to join the group after you have finished your laps." He looked at me and said, "What do you mean after I finish my laps?" I again repeated the statement, "Johnny you are welcome to join the group after you have finished your laps." Johnny was so confused, because I was smiling, had a soft voice, and had given him permission to walk around the room.

At the same time his followers were so confused, they did not get up and join him. They sat in the group and looked at him waiting to see what he would do. I slowly walked back to the group and asked the second in command, to please show me where we were, and continued the group. Johnny waited another

minute and then came over and sat down mumbling about not doing any laps. That was the beginning of a new relationship with my class.

I used choices, and the four steps to responsibility. Instead of anger and negative statements I used enforceable statements. Changes occurred daily. I kept trying with other children, individually, and then with the entire class. The class worked on problem solving, using the five steps to helping children solve their own problems. I used it with the special-needs children. Love and Logic worked like a miracle. My anger was gone. I smiled more, the class laughed more, the children were more respectful. I knew the children were learning more, and having more fun doing it.

I thought, If this is working well with the class, why not try it with the parents! Another teacher and I asked the PTA to buy materials for the school and pay for us to attend the facilitators' class. In return, we would volunteer to facilitate the parenting class in the evening. Little did we realize what a positive effect this would have on classrooms, our parents, and our school.

Since then, I have facilitated many classes for parents and teachers. I feel blessed to have been able to help so many children, and parents, make not only a positive difference in their lives, but to have less anger, more fun, and to enjoy life. Love and Logic did change my life!



The Love and Logic People

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