How many times have you heard, “I don’t care what my child does in his life, I just want him to be happy”?

Do you want your kids to have happiness for the short term, or for the long term? Here are some questions that will help you discover if you are preparing your kids for a lifetime of happiness or a lifetime of frustration:

1. Do you view frustration and struggle as potentially damaging to your child’s self-concept?
2. Do you believe that kids need to do their fair share of the family chores?
3. Is your child’s immediate happiness a high priority?
4. Are you willing to allow your children to be unhappy with you when they don’t get their way?
5. Is it important to you that your kids are never inconvenienced or uncomfortable?
6. Do you believe that kids take better care of possessions that they have earned?
7. Do you believe that giving your kids the things you never had will make them love you more, and therefore provide long-term happiness?
8. Do you believe that achievement born out of effort and struggle is most valuable?
9. Do you believe that it is better for kids to wait until they leave the home to learn to struggle and earn what they want in life?
10. Do you believe that kids learn about the benefits of struggle and responsibility best through experience?
11. Do you believe that parents are responsible for their children’s happiness?
12. Do you believe that having to wait for and earn things is good practice for the adult world?
13. Do you believe that kids learn about the benefits of effort and responsibility by being told and lectured?

If you answered yes to the even-numbered questions, you have a good chance of raising children who are better prepared for a happier adult life.

If you answered yes to the uneven-numbered questions, the odds are very high that you are raising a child who believes that it is the parent’s job to treat them like royalty. These are children who are positive in the beliefs that their parents can, and should, solve the problems that the child creates. Their birthright entitles them to have what they want, when they want it, without having to work for it.

A lifetime of chronic unhappiness awaits these children. It is very difficult for these kids to look to their own behaviors, decisions, or lack of effort as the source of their problems. Once they see themselves as a victim, chronic unhappiness sets in. These feelings can continue for life, because their expectations of how others should treat them or provide for them are seldom met. They have been given a prescription for unhappiness. In their eyes, everything that goes wrong is someone else’s fault or just the result of bad luck.
We all know friends and neighbors who create children like this by working hard to provide immediate happiness for them. Their kids have the best and latest toys and gadgets. These parents are quick to blame and attack anyone who gets in the way of their children’s happiness.

Teachers often experience the wrath of these parents when grades are less than perfect. When things go wrong at school, the parents’ question to the child is seldom, “What did you do wrong?” or “Did you fail to put out enough effort?” Most often these parents are asking, “What’s wrong with the teacher?” or “What’s wrong with the school?”

It is not uncommon for these parents to lie for their children and to do their school projects. They love their children and do everything they can to manufacture a perfect life for them. Their familiar battle cry is, “I want my children to know that I will protect them, regardless of the situation.”

Children in these homes live like honored guests. They seldom do their fair share of the work to keep the home and family running well, but are quick to blame their parents for any unhappiness. The parents are often overwhelmed with responsibilities, one of which is to provide more and more luxuries for their offspring. I have often known these children to say, “My parents ‘borned’ me, and it’s their job to buy great stuff for me.”

These parents are usually good people with a strong sense of responsibility to guarantee a happy life for their kids. But you and I have seen this family pattern over and over throughout our lives. And alas, have we ever seen it work out well in the long run?

These parents, who work so hard to provide a happy life, raise offspring who are chronically unhappy. They feel entitled to the good life without having to work for it. If you haven’t seen this in your own neighborhood with your own two eyes, you might be inclined to think that I’m exaggerating. But am I?

The growth of this syndrome is a major concern to the authors of Love and Logic. If this trend continues it is possible that it could reach epidemic proportions. It is scary to consider the impact it could have on our national economy.

The authors of Love and Logic often talk with the parents of these young people. It is not uncommon for us to hear, “I tell him that he needs to get a job, but he can’t find the kind of job that’s right for him. You know, it’s not like when we were young. Actually, he’s overqualified for a lot of jobs available right now. We’re hoping he finds something soon. We’re getting tired of having to support him. It might be different if he was willing to help us out by doing some of the work around the house. I can’t understand why he is so lazy; we’ve always given him everything he wanted.”

These parents give us the problem and the answer all in one statement. If you are unwilling to let your kids struggle, experience temporary frustrations, live with the consequence of their acts, or earn what they get, then you are giving them immediate short-term happiness along with a prescription for a lifetime of chronic unhappiness.
Raising kids the Love and Logic way gives them a real advantage over others when they grow up. These kids learn that they are responsible for their own happiness. We at Love and Logic are here to help you make this happen.

People who are really successful implementing this skill purchased

How to Discipline Kids without Losing Their Love and Respect

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