

The Benefits of Natural Consequences

No parent LIKES to watch his or her child fail. It is not fun to listen to the weeping and distress of our children when faced with difficulty. We naturally become caregivers when our children are born and so it feels unnatural to allow them to experience pain.

I love to talk with parents about the benefits of natural consequences because there really is no better teacher. We may tell our children we want to prevent them from making the same mistakes that perhaps we did. But that is not a real learning experience. A real learning experience is when your child forgets the assignment, or doesn't study enough or doesn't do their chores or forgets their uniform for the game and reaps what they have sown.

Don't get me wrong. I am not against a tender heart and perhaps a rare "bail out". But what are we really teaching with regular bailouts? Be honest with yourself.

So what am I saying?

Let him do his own homework—along with mistakes.

Let her go back to school the next day without her work done because she forgot it at school instead of running up to grab it for her.

Let him miss the game because your rule is to do his chores or he can't play a sport.

Let her stay home because your rule is you can't go to the party if you missed an assignment (and if you don't have a rule like this—maybe consider it).

I think as parents we get caught in a competitive trap and social media braggadocia does not help. Be confident in yourself as a parent and in your child for WHO IS HE and WHO SHE IS. And let the natural consequences roll!

If you or your child need any help at all from me, please don't hesitate to reach out.
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The Teaching Never Stops