

Parenting Tip

Parents Helping With Homework

By John Rosemond

Question: I homeschooled my oldest, an 8-year-old boy, until this year. He started third grade in public school in August. As a homeschooling mom, I was not a micromanager and don't want to become one now, but the school virtually insists that parents help with homework. I want him to be independent. What are your thoughts on this?

Answer: I have gone on regular rants about this for 30 years now, so thank you for the opportunity to go on yet another.

Schools began encouraging parent involvement in homework because of a misinterpretation of data concerning Vietnamese children who came to the USA in the 1970s as part of the "boat people" migration. Even though there was no indication that parent involvement outside of very discrete populations was working, schools kept pushing it—a testament to the rigidity of bureaucracies.

When parents get involved with homework, they almost invariably begin to (a) enable and (b) personalize their children's grades. As a consequence, they are likely to complain about their children's grades. Ergo, we now have what is termed "grade inflation," one consequence of which is that children no longer know what their academic weaknesses are. Meanwhile, because of the enabling, their weaknesses become more pronounced and their strengths are at risk of never being fully developed.

I may not be able to rant about this much longer, however, because a relatively new study may finally get through to America's education planners. In the largest-ever study of its kind, researchers at the University of Texas and Duke University analyzed three decades' worth of data regarding parent participation in children's academics. What they discovered confirmed what I've been saying since the mid-1980s: Parents who help with homework may actually be hurting their children's chances for success. Regardless of race, income, or education level, parents helping with homework did not translate to higher scores on standardized achievement tests, for example, and was found to depress overall achievement in the long run.

Right! Parent homework help usually takes the form of the parent taking responsibility for the child's achievement level. It's a very simple equation, really: The more responsible the parent, the less responsible the child. Furthermore, many kids whose parents help with homework develop what psychologists term "learned helplessness syndrome." The more their parents help, the more incompetent the child begins to feel and the more helpless (and in need of help) the child begins to act.

Struggle is not a bad thing, in other words. In fact, it can be very growth-producing. In and of itself, the fact that a child is struggling does not justify parents jumping in to "help." For readers who are interested, the entire study can be found in *The Broken Compass: Parent Involvement with Children's Education* by Keith Robinson and Angel Harris (Harvard University Press, 2014).

Marriage Tip

No. 81

How Big Problems Grow Out of Small Stuff

By Dr. John Gray

The secret for creating lasting love and romance is in learning how to solve little problems, which most often grow out of a series of simple misunderstandings.

When we think about failed relationships, we often focus on what big problems occurred that drove a happy couple apart. But surprisingly it is most often a long list of small issues that in the end created those big problems and created a breach between once loving partners.

That said, if we can learn to address the small stuff, the big problems become much easier to handle.

Whether we stop to consciously acknowledge it or not, our feelings are hurt by each small misunderstanding. Over a short period of time those small hurts become like a physical bruise. It can heal if left alone, but when the same spot is poked at again and again, that bruise has no chance to heal.

Don't blame yourself for this, and don't blame your partner. We can hurt each other's feelings with little or no awareness that we have done so. To facilitate healing, we can learn to accept imperfection by practicing forgiveness. At the same time it is wise for us to learn from our mistakes.

This is how and why men and women are helped greatly in their communication skills when they learn that as Martians and Venusians they speak and think differently. Those communication gaps help to create communication gaffs in which no offense was meant, but offense was taken.

When a man doesn't have the information to understand how what he said created a problem, he thinks something is wrong with his partner for feeling hurt. After making a series of small, basically innocent mistakes he stops caring about correcting his actions and bigger problems start to emerge from small missteps.

In a similar fashion a woman can become frustrated with her partner and she will start to close down in her desire to reach out to him, doubting that she can ever get what she wants from the relationship.

Here's a simple example: A man comes home and his wife doesn't seem to appreciate him, so he stops caring as much about doing all the little things he did in the early stages of their relationship.

His lack of interest in doing for her encourages her disinterest in him. The warm feelings they felt for each other notably diminish and the relationship starts to feel more like a burden than a blessing.

A second example: Both partners come home after a long day, and she says, "Do you want to go out for dinner?" He responds by saying, "Let's just stay in and have leftovers." She may take that to mean, "You are no longer special to me and I don't care if you want to go out or not."

For the average male her reaction is a mystery. On Mars you don't suggest or ask, you declare. If she had said, "I don't want to eat at home, let's go out," with that he would have heard the real message. But she didn't say that, and he did not understand what she really meant. That night when he attempts to get close, she rejects his overtures and his heart closes a little more in all his feelings towards her.

As we said at the start, it's most often the small stuff. Like the beat of a drum, the small misunderstandings keep going, all too often to the wrong rhythm. The lack of warm loving feelings between partners leads to an increasing air of tension that intensifies with each misstep. Now solving the inevitable big problems that arise in shared lives becomes increasingly difficult.

Much of the success of the Mars Venus message comes from giving couples the tools to cure this essential breakdown in communication.

Dozens and dozens of small wounds add up over time to hurts that are often too large to heal. At the root of the problem is an inability to clearly communicate with words that express not just our thoughts, but more importantly, our true heart and feelings.

Spiritual Tip

101 Proofs for God: #12 Chimpanzees

By Jim Stephens

From the website:
www.101ProofsForGod.Com

Biologists have told us that Chimpanzees are our closest "relatives" and evolutionists believe that we all descended from ape-like creatures.



It has been repeated for years that the DNA between chimpanzees and humans is 98% to 99% the same. (Actually, human and chimp genome sequencing more recently has put that figure at 95% to 96%.)

That seems like a really small difference and so it's plausible to think that the gap is easily overcome by a few simple mutations. Actually not.

Let's take a closer look at the true reality.

Human DNA has 3 billion "letters" (base pairs). So what is a 2%

difference out of 3 billion? It's 60 million differences. A 5% difference is 150 million.

What this means is that an ape-like creature would have to go through 60-150 million mutation changes to their DNA to get to where it's a human being.

Just 60 million characters is something like the equivalent of 20 books of information that are each 500 pages long. (The Encyclopædia Britannica has about 40 million words on half a million topics.)

The DNA of our supposed ancestral apes would have to "evolve" 60-150 million times to produce a human.



- Large heel
- Ankle adapted for walking
- Stiff midfoot for propulsion
- Adducted big toe in line with other digits
- Small heel
- Ankle adapted for climbing
- Flexible midfoot (midtarsal break)
- Grasping big toe

AND we're not just talking about 60 million "mutations". That's because any given mutation is not necessarily an improvement. If we're talking about 60 million improvements and advances in the ape's DNA toward a human's DNA, then the number of mutations is many, many times the 60 million.

And if you want to know the truth, scientists have never witnessed any mutation which adds NEW information.

Mutations are known to lose or confuse information. The idea that mutation is a method of advancing development is not based on scientific observation, but faith in evolution.

The only mutations that scientists can find to study are the ones that cause diseases.

So the number of mutations would have to be many, many times 60,000,000, in order that some tiny fraction of mutations could actually result in the needed advancements.

But even suppose we disregard the fact that mutations don't bring advancements, and go with the mutation theory, we have to ask ourselves could that work? No, it doesn't.

Remember, for mutation to work its magic, the apes had to reproduce generation after generation. Reproduction is the only way that mutations can be passed down to descendants. How long does that take? The ape-like creatures will have to grow to be 10 to 20 years old before they mate and produce offspring.

If we need to have 60-150 million mutations times a 10-20 year ape growth rate, it's going to take a long time. Take a guess.

Imagine the absolute shortest possible route. If there were one successful mutation from an ape toward a human being every single generation (totally against science), it would still take more than 10 years (lifespan) x 60,000,000 changes. Absolutely could

not take less than 600,000,000 years.

However, the typical "evolution time clock" indicates that 700,000,000 years ago was when the first multi-celled organisms appeared. It was only about 4,000,000 years ago that ape-like mammals appeared.

This can't cut it. An absolute minimum of 600 million years compared to the available 4 million.



As they say, "It doesn't compute."

There must be a God.

Compliments of the District 1 Marriage and Family Ministry, FFWPU

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