

Parenting Tip

Sassy 5-year-old

By John Rosemond

Question: The "sassiness" that I have heard so much about from my friends started a few months ago with my 5-year-old daughter. She will say things to me that I actually find myself tongue-tied on how or what to say to correct her.

Sometimes, she apologizes, which tells me she knows she's talking disrespectfully to me. What do you think about ten minutes of time out for this sort of thing? Also, on a recent vacation with another family in which there are two other girls around the same age, my daughter became very competitive. She constantly wanted to "race" to see who would be first, for example. Is this normal for this age?

Answer: I take it your friends think sassiness is normal for this age child. That may be true today, but sassiness was far from the norm two-plus generations ago. Furthermore, there are still a considerable number of kids this age who are very respectful of adults.

It is certainly true that television and electronics in general have altered the behavior of children. Too many of today's kids, from relatively early on, pick up a very inappropriate manner of talking to adults from characters on television sitcoms. After all, this sassy manner of addressing and responding to adults is almost always followed by the laugh track. This is one of several reasons why I am completely and unequivocally opposed to allowing young children any exposure to television outside of educational programs on channels like Discovery and History.

But even without the toxicity of supposedly family fare on television, young kids often pick up sassiness from friends. When she was 8, my daughter had a friend in the neighborhood who talked to her mother like she was a servant or a peer. Amy would sometimes come home from said friend's house using the same tone with us. When this happened—and without giving her a warning—we would confine Amy to her room for the rest of the day. That curtailed her loose tongue rather quickly.

In that regard, I seriously doubt that ten minutes of time out is going to do the trick. If you want this to stop, and you certainly should, then you need to make an impression on your daughter. Time out for an offense of this sort is an example of what I call "trying to stop a charging elephant with a fly swatter." I recommend the "Amy cure."

As for the competition thing, I strongly encourage you not to give it a second thought. Kids work these sorts of things out among themselves. In fact, intervention on the part of well-intentioned (albeit anxious) adults can prevent children from going through the trial-and-error of certain social processes. Besides, it's good to know that the natural drive to compete will survive efforts on the part of many schools to squash it by doing absolutely silly things like banning dodgeball.

Marriage Tip

No. 83

Why Couples Argue Over Money

By Gary Chapman

Money is often a source of conflict in marriage. For over thirty-five years as a marriage counselor, I have been listening to couples argue about money. "He could get a better job if he would try." "All I ask is that she record the checks that she writes." "Why can't we save something?"

Is the problem really money? I don't think so. I think it is a relationship problem. The first step is to write down the "money issues" on which the two of you disagree. Then one by one, look for a game plan that will make both of you winners. If you can't agree on such a plan, then get a counselor or trusted friend to help you. You don't have to spend a lifetime arguing about money.

Is money an asset, or a liability to your marriage?

Much of the answer lies in your attitude toward money. If you are looking to money or the things that money can buy, to make you happy, then money will be a source of conflict in your marriage. But if your trust is in God and you're looking to Him for wisdom in how to handle money, then money will become an asset.

Money is a great servant, but a poor master. Don't let money overly influence the decisions you make. The bigger question is "How will this influence our marriage and family?" A move across the country may bring more money, but be detrimental to your family. In which case, less money is an asset.

When is the last time you and your spouse had an argument about money?

Was it the "same old issue"? My contention is that couples who continue to argue about the same thing over and over again need help. You are wasting your energy. You don't have a problem that other couples have not had. Why not reach out and get the wisdom of an older couple?

Most older couples would be thrilled to help you find answers to your money problems. Pick a couple you respect and ask if they would be willing to help. If they don't have the answer, they can likely point you to someone who does. Constant arguing destroys your relationship. Call a truce and look for help. Make money an asset to your marriage, not a battleground.

Money doesn't build or destroy marriages. People do.

If you are arguing over money, I'm suggesting that money is not the problem. The problem is that the two of you are blaming each other rather than joining forces to find a solution. For example, let's say you are arguing about "not enough money." He blames her for spending too much and she blames him for not looking for a better job.

The solution? Stop blaming and arguing, and spend that same energy looking for creative ways to lower spending and increase income. These are the only two ways to have more money. If you work as a team and apply your best thinking, seeking God's help, you will find a solution. Remember: God has promised to meet our needs, if we put Him first.

Making the Needed Adjustments to Make Marriage Work

When I wrote my book, Profit Sharing: A Guide to Making Money an Asset to Your Marriage, I discovered that one of the most common problems is that couples do not feel like partners. Often, the husband so controls the money that the wife feels like a child on an allowance. Or, the wife will control the money and the husband feels "left out".

Obviously, someone must balance the checkbook, and keep the bills paid, but this does not mean that they control the money. We are a team, and must work together. The Bible says, "Two are better than one." That is certainly true in money management. If you keep the books, you might ask your spouse: "Do you feel like a partner, or a child?" Take their answer seriously, and make adjustments as needed.

Spiritual Tip

101 Proofs for God: #20 GPS and Monarchs

By Jim Stephens

From the website:
www.101ProofsForGod.Com

Most people are familiar with devices in your car or Smartphone that are called GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) systems and they guide you over short or long distances to exactly your destination.

If you do any research on GPS, you will learn what a modern-day miracle of technology they are.

First you have to have the 31 communication satellites up in orbit circling around the earth. Each one is emitting a signal telling the time and its location. Your GPS device has to be able to pick up at least 4 satellites in order to be able to locate its own position. There is a computer inside the GPS that uses the broadcast information to calculate exactly where you are.

Pretty amazing when you think of all the intelligence and development of science, math, and technology to put those satellites in orbit and in creating the GPS devices themselves.

And the purpose is to create a guidance system in order to give you directions to get you to where you want to go.

Is it possible for such a sophisticated guidance system to come about randomly without purposeful

application of intelligence? Not in a billion, billion years.

Let me tell you about a guidance system even more sophisticated and miraculous. It's the story of the Monarch butterfly.

The normal Monarch butterfly that lives in the spring or summer will only live for two to four weeks. They will mate, lay eggs, and die in that time as they are migrating northward. However, the generation of Monarchs that are born in late August, unlike their parents and grandparents will live for nine months. Scientists do not know why.



Their desire to mate is turned off and they stock up on nectar and water and begin an incredible flight. They start off in Canada or the northern United States and will fly between 2,500 to 3,500 miles using some type of "GPS" system.

They fly all the way back to the same area and maybe the same tree in Mexico where their ancestors started out. 300 million Monarchs converge from all over North America on the exact same 12 locations in Mexico.



After going into semi-hibernation for the winter, they start the long flight back north. But now their mating instincts are turned back on. They mate, lay eggs, and soon die.



The eggs hatch out caterpillars that eat, make cocoons, emerge as butterflies and continue the flight north. This new generation mates, lay eggs, and dies. This generation lives only two to four weeks also. One, two, maybe three generations live, reproduce, and die. Then comes late August and the whole thing starts over again with a generation that lives for nine months. This is called the Methusela generation and flies all the way back to Mexico to their ancestral home.

This generation has never been to that spot in Mexico where their "GPS" takes them. Neither were their parents there or their grandparents. How's that for an incredible GPS system!



Each generation included caterpillars that spun cocoons, turned into mush, and reconstituted that mush into a butterfly with that GPS system intact in order to get the Methusela generation back to "home".

Scientists don't have any idea yet of how that system works. What does it use for "satellites" for points of reference for guidance? It's obviously more of a miracle of intelligence than the manmade GPS. Only a super intelligence could have designed Monarch butterflies.

Also note how big the GPS in the Monarch is. The brain of a Monarch is about the size of a few grains of sand.

There must be a God.

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