

Pointers For Parents

Teaching Children Right From Wrong

(NAPSA)—Parents don't just pass down genes and inheritances to children. They pass a sense of right and wrong, too. Experts say children learn morality from their parents or caregivers—and that the right lessons can go a long way toward helping kids make the right decisions when faced with moral dilemmas. They offer these tips:

- **Talk The Talk**—Speak to your child about issues that come up during the day. Give your child a clear understanding about what is right, what is wrong and why. For instance, if you're undercharged for something at a store while shopping with your child, explain why it is important to still pay the correct amount. You could say, "It's important not to take advantage of other people's mistakes, and besides, I wouldn't want to get the clerk in trouble with his boss."

- **Listen Up**—Ask your child about his day, and listen carefully to what he says. Use the stories he tells you as a chance to teach him about moral choices and responsibilities. When your child talks about decisions he made at school, on the playground or on the school bus, ask him why he made the choices he did and discuss what the consequences could have been if other choices were made. "What would have happened if you were mean to that little boy? Why do you think it's so important not to be mean to other children?" for example.

- **Watch And Learn**—Often, watching television or movies with a child leads to an opportunity to discuss morality and the consequences of actions. For instance, a television series that's now also



Experts say discussing the daily choices your child makes can help teach him right from wrong.

available on DVD—called "The Roach Approach"—uses a warm-hearted and funny family of animated roaches to help teach important lessons. On one DVD, called "Roach Approach: Don't Miss The Boat," the family is vacationing in Florida when a hurricane threatens to ruin their good time. Grandpa Lou then takes the opportunity to tell the story of Noah's Ark. Parents can use the show to discuss moral issues with their kids. On a second DVD, "The Mane Event," Grandpa Lou retells the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den and talks about the importance of standing up for your beliefs.

- **Walk The Walk**—Few things confuse children more than obvious discrepancies between what parents teach and how they behave. If you tell your child to treat others kindly, be sure to do so yourself. If you realize you've mistreated someone, tell your child about the incident and discuss what you could have done differently. Doing so can help your child see that everyone makes mistakes and that it's important to own up to them.

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