

On Raising Children..

Contributed by Jonathan Haase
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Well last week's rant started out as a general rambling, but I ended up concentrating mostly on Spam. It's not really the direction that I intended to take with the Rant, but it worked out in the end. Overall what probably led to that is combating spam, and keeping our email system at work up and going is pretty much what my time has been consumed with the last month or so. Hopefully that can ease up some in the near future.

In any case that was all last week's news. The other major focus in my life lately has been my children. Andrew is in a stage where he is having to test his boundaries all over again, just to make sure they are still there. It hasn't been much fun for us around the Haase house lately. I'm sure we'll make it through it eventually. I'm not really looking forward to Abby reaching that stage. She's going to be a completely different personality than what Drew was.

With Drew for the most part discipline came easy. Tell him, NO!, or just that you were disappointed with something he did and that was pretty much all it took. He would immediately burst into tears and start telling you how sorry he was. Abby is going to be a different matter altogether. That little girl has a temper on her. Take for example the following story I related to a friend this morning. When Andrew was 1-2 years old, if he was playing with something, and you took it away from him, no big deal to him, he'd just find something else to play with. Abigail on the other hand, Andrew took something away from her last night, and she immediately screamed at him, and tried to hit him.

It's kind of funny to watch sometimes really, right now at least. However we've got to start getting it under control now, or else it'll really be bad later. She apparently learned a new phrase the other day too. I was playing with her a couple of nights ago, and she apparently got tired of it. She shoved a hand in my face to push me away from her, and just as plain as day said "Go 'way". I think Becky and I are going to have our hands full very shortly.

All in all though I'm sure we'll manage. About the only thing we can do is give it our best shot and pray that God will help us do the right things to help our children grow to be decent loving adults. We're doing the best we can do with it in any case. Anytime we start feeling a bit down on ourselves or our "parenting skills" we've got a few examples we can always refer to, that make us feel better. I won't go into any specifics here as I don't want to hurt any feelings, but suffice it to say that between Becky and I we know a few sets of parents who could stand to read Dr Dobson's "Dare to Discipline" book, and that leave you wondering who is the child and who the parent.

Anyway, I don't know that you can rightly call this a rant, all things considered, but it's what you get for this week anyway, and hey at least I put something out there.