IS IT CONTROLLING OR MOLDING?

by:

Cynthia M. Quinto
Limay Elementary School

Parents and teachers are most often than not would like to be assured that their children or pupils are going to have a bright future. They wanted them to be always on the right track. Since the path they might be passing through is not that smooth and safe. To be able to keep them away from any forms of harm, we wanted them to be aware of what is right and wrong, good and bad, acceptable and unacceptable, just and unjust, etc. But in trying to do so, we sometimes get confused on how to keep them at the right side. Sometimes we come to a point of asking ourselves, did I hurt my kid? Did I embarrass my child? Though deep within our heart all we want is to discipline our kids and make them aware of their wrong doings, we unconsciously tend to hurt them physically or verbally. This problem gets worse because of so many laws concerning our children. One of these is the widely talk about law, DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 otherwise known as child protection policy. It’s too deep to discuss so we better go back to our topic which is to straighten our children’s behavior and values in life. Does discipline play a role here? When we discipline, are we controlling or molding a child?

Discipline as defined by the Webster Dictionary is “control gained by enforcing obedience or order”. It refers to guidance, or the task of helping children learn to behave in acceptable ways. It also refers to everything that adults do and say, either directly or indirectly which influence a child’s behavior. But whatever the form of discipline we exercise on our children, it should be a learning experience for them.

Here are some helpful guidelines both for parents and teachers to successfully discipline children:
1. Establish clear limits of behavior.

Be a good example. Instead of simply telling them, showing them what to do.

2. Administer discipline in private.

Discipline should not put our child to shame, humiliation nor anger.

3. Administer discipline firmly and thoroughly.

Be firm and unyielding. When you say NO, you must mean it.

4. Establish sense of responsibility for wrongdoing.

Be sure to explain to the offender why he is being disciplined.

5. Show grief over the offense.

Make the child realize that your heart is hurting when he does something wrong.

Proper discipline is really a worthwhile investment. We, parents have only a chance of a lifetime to bring up our children, so we ought to do this the best way we could. It’s really hard especially when we are from 8-hour work and facing another set of challenges upon reaching our home. When you need to prepare meal for dinner, help the child or worse two or more children do homework and project at the same time, disciplining becomes a great challenge. But all of these turn into blessings when you see your kids doing and showing what you’re actually expecting them to do. It only means that we reap the fruit of our hard labor if we were able to mold them the way we intend them to be. We did not control, but we develop them the way God wants us to shape them. That’s the role of discipline. It is more of molding while controlling finds its way.
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