

Parent-Child Madness hit you yet? Can't wait until Spring Break?

There is an interesting dynamic that happens between parents and their children. It appears that parents have a lot of power and control over their kids, but sometimes it really doesn't feel like it. Why?

Picture a mother and her teenage boys on a typical school morning. Mom in a 50 min window of time gets home from her work-out, packs lunch, makes breakfast, showers, gets dressed, slaps on some make-up and gets into her car and await her teenagers to arrive. She watches as the clock on the dashboard ticks away and is fuming knowing that she would have to rush to school again. Meanwhile her kids get up 20 minutes before having to leave the house. They rummage through their laundry basket for clothes, take their sweet time brushing their teeth as they watch TV, and finally wet and do their hair. Through the rear-view mirror, mother sees her boys run out of the house with jacket, backpack, and breakfast in hand running to the car. Mom puts the car on drive and off she goes driving as composed as she can to get her kids to school without killing other students on the way. This poor but clever mother keeps figuring out new short cuts to school hoping that it will get them to school without having to rush. But each time she finds a new shortcut they seem to leave later. Her blood pressure has sky-rocketed again she gives her morning lecture about her disappointment. "Why are you guys late again...haven't I told you...!" repeating all the great ideas for getting out of the house on time for school. Their response is usually silence or, "I don't know."

She is fed up. What does this mom finally do? The next morning, all she did was tell her kids she'd be in the car waiting. When she got in the car, she turned off the clock and read her kindle. When her kids got in the car, she drove her kids calmly to school! Now are they late for school? Who knows and who cares now?

Externally, parents seem to have power and control over their kids, but as a parent it sure doesn't feel like it at times. Why? We are trying to control someone and something we have no direct control over. We can only influence our kids. Moral of the story, "Don't work harder than your kids!" Let them squirm and figure it out. When you can't get them to do anything, natural consequences will influence them in due time.