

Lessons from My Mother-In-Law: A Story about Discipline- by Janet Gonzalez-Mena

Article review

The author's main point: The author's main point is that just because we do things a certain way because that is what is comfortable for us and it works, does not mean that is the only way to do it, the right way to do it, and is the way everyone should do it.

How this resonates with my family experience and the text reading: When it comes to discipline there are many ways to do it and people have their own preferences. I was raised in a household where we never received time outs, we were not put on restriction, and we didn't have a bed time. Instead, our main type of discipline was getting spanked.

We had plenty of friends who where the opposite from what we believed. My parents disciplined us according to what they believed to be the best for us as their children.

Every parents has the right to choose what he will do in the care of his own children. I appreciate this thought: ' Its' appropriate to help parents change if they want to or are harming their children...' (Gonzalez- Mena 57). Really though we don't have any right to tell parents that they are right or wrong in the choices they make. As a teacher you might have to adapt your philosophy in order to satisfy a parents culture, however, ' Honoring cultural differences doesn't mean that you have to change your philosophy and practice for every family' (Gonzalez-Mena 41). The author of this article talks a lot about self

discipline. Though I think that self discipline is important I don't think that comes until later. As infants, toddlers, and preschoolers they first have to be taught by adults what is right and wrong in order to learn to self discipline.

How this information will help me: 1. I will continue to look at the needs of each individual child and take into consideration their background, culture, and beliefs when considering what is right and what is best for each child when it comes to using discipline techniques. 2. Before jumping to any conclusions I will take the time to get to know and understand the parents of my children. I will take into consideration and respect how they feel and what they believe when it comes to the discipline of their child. One new thing I took away from all of this is to be more open-minded. Even though I might not necessarily agree with how others feel about this topic or others, it is okay to listen and hear what they have to say. Secondly, I shouldn't be so quick to give up what I believe just because others don't agree or because others think my idea is wrong. Like the author of this article I can still feel strongly on a subject and have differing views than another person and we can still get along.

Gonzalez-Mena, Janet. *Diversity in Early Care and Education*. 5th edition. Pages 41, 57.