

Visit Seven: Send the Wrong Message Summary Points

- The type of emotional messages we send to our children through the course of the day can actually build, strengthen or weaken the neuro-pathways of understanding.
- When a parent reinforces similar positive emotions by responding with the same emotion, the original emotion is reinforced.
- If a child's positive emotional signals are not met with similar positive signals from his parent, then the power of the first emotion can be suppressed or lost.
- When parents counter a negative emotion, such as anger, with a calm emotion, the negative emotion is not strengthened.
- If a child is constantly receiving an anger response to wrong behavior the child begins to equate wrong behavior with anger and not with consequences, which is where the lesson lies.
- To parent 'outside the funnel' is a phrase that gives definition to those times when parents allow behaviors that are neither age-appropriate nor in alignment with a child's moral and intellectual abilities.
- Parents actually discourage obedience when they become a threatening and repeating parent.
- Parents do not need their child's permission to give instructions. They should not add "Okay" at the end their instruction, nor should they state their instruction as a question.
- Couch time provides children with a visual and concrete sense of your togetherness. It is one tangible way your child can measure Mom and Dad's love relationship and have that inner need satisfied.
- To praise a child is to affirm the actual, to flatter is to offer false praise and is usually associated with deceitfulness.
- Flattery is a type of "pleasant" deception. Its danger lies hidden in its beauty.
- There are three strategies that encourage compliance:
 - Establishing eye contact with your child.
 - Receiving a "Yes Mommy/Yes Daddy" response.
 - Call your child's name and wait for a response before giving instruction.