

Proper Form

A father tells a story of an afternoon once spent with his three-year-old daughter. An avid golfer, he was practicing with his clubs in the yard while she played nearby. As he prepared for each swing, he would look to his left to aim the shot, then back to his right to make sure the child was out of harm's way. Only then would he take the shot.

Soon, he noticed that his daughter was also "playing golf." She had taken a stick to use as a club, and he watched as she set her "club," carefully looked left, then right, before taking her shot. In her perception, proper golfing form required that you look both ways before swinging.

Whether we realize it or not, our example leaves an impression on others. In the 1800s, Charles Spurgeon, England's best-known preacher for most of the second half of the 19th Century, put it this way:

A man's life is always more forcible than his speech. When men take stock of him, they reckon his deeds as dollars and his words as pennies. If his life and doctrine disagree, the mass of onlookers accept his practice and reject his preaching.

This is a principle particularly important to leaders in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. Because of the positions we hold, people – residents, families, associates and the public – are continually observing what we do and taking note of the impressions that we project through our actions. One way or another, for good or for bad, we are communicating a message.

In the spiritual realm, when Jesus said, "You are the light of the world," He wasn't speaking only of our verbal witness. The most profound testimony we will ever give is the one we live on a daily basis. And it's never more important than when we don't know anyone is paying attention.

--Beecher Hunter