

What the Children are saying

J.A. Peterson, in his book *For Families Only*, wrote about an assignment given by Mrs. Imogene Frost to her 10-year-old class at Brookside (New Jersey) Community Sunday School. She asked them to give their views on “What’s wrong with grownups?”

They came up with these complaints:

1. Grownups make promises, then they forget all about them, or else they say it wasn’t really a promise, just a maybe.
2. Grownups don’t do the things they’re always telling the children to do – like pick up their things, or be neat, or always tell the truth.
3. Grownups never really listen to what children have to say. They always decide ahead of time what they’re going to answer.
4. Grownups make mistakes, but they won’t admit them. They always pretend that they weren’t mistakes at all – or that somebody else made them.
5. Grownups interrupt children all the time and think nothing of it. If a child interrupts a grownup, he gets a scolding or something worse.
6. Grownups never understand how much children want a certain thing – a certain color or shape or size. If it’s something they don’t admire, even if the children have spent their own money for it, they always say, “I can’t imagine what you want with that old thing!”
7. Sometimes grownups punish children unfairly. It isn’t right if you’ve done just some little thing wrong and grownups take away something that means an awful lot to you. Other times you can do something really bad and they say they’re going to punish you, but they don’t. You never know, and you ought to know.
8. Grownups are always talking about what they did and what they knew when they were 10 years old, but they never try to think what it’s like to be 10 years old right now.

Some sober reflections on parenting – from a child’s perspective.

Wisdom? Well, you’ve heard it said, “Out of the mouths of babes ...”

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger (Psalm 8:2 NKJV).

But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’” (Matthew 21:15-16 NKJV).

Seems like we should pay careful attention to what they – and we – say!

– Beecher Hunter