

Time Out: Mentor your children

Children have the most beautiful, honest perceptions of life. Young children often take what you say at face value.

When your young child asks you what your job is, you excitedly share what you do with him in simple words. The next day, he's building it up even more, telling his friends and teacher you run the company. Weeks later, you run into your son's friend's parents who congratulate you on your major promotion! When you "sign up" for a mood, you are the only one who takes on the role of mentor.

Your child will look up to you from birth until, in many cases, the teenage years. That's supposed to be the time when, no matter how much you do for your child and how much wisdom you possess, you just aren't cool and he thinks you know very little. In the teenage mind, parents don't know a cool thing in the world.

From the college years onward, your child "owns" you. His mentor again. He looks to you for advice on everything from how to do the laundry while on campus to career advice to getting married and raising a child.

You are your child's mentor. The pedestal is yours. In the taking the minute you become a parent. Once you do, you might wonder what you do with it. You ask, "Will I be a good role model?" or "Will I set the right example?"

You can read a lot of books



Celebrating Family
Lisa Luckow-Healy

about how to be a good parent and raise a well-balanced child. You can listen to experts expound upon their theories and opinions. You can watch your friends, relatives and neighbors and learn from their victories and defeats.

All this advice is information. You are the one who must disseminate it. Decide what works for you, and how it fits into your parenting style. Be yourself. Don't try to be someone you are not. As your child grows, he will know it and so will you. Examine each situation as it presents itself to you and your child as the two of you grow up together. As you do, specific questions may come to mind, depending on the surrounding circumstances. For example:

"As my child's mentor, do I teach him good work ethic by giving him the money to buy something he really wants, or do I explain to him how to earn his own money to pay for it?"

"How can I help my child aspire to a career in a given field she is fascinated by and reach for her dreams?"

"Take your child to your place of business to show him what you do and how your line of work contributes to the community. You can add why you went into your profession, what you do on a daily basis to earn the money you are paid, and how your salary helps pay for all your household and family needs."

You volunteer as a guest speaker at your child's school career day. Share your knowledge and love of your profession with other children to help inspire them to reach for their dreams. Expose your child to a variety of fields throughout his elementary and teenage years.

Don't leave it up to the schools to cover the fields in which you have less interest. It's your job as a parent and mentor to help your child learn about life and the world around him, and reach for his fullest potential.

Perhaps you're more technically inclined while your spouse flourishes in the creative realm. Balance your interests and talents with your spouse and your child. Help him build an electric circuit for a science project while the spouse transports him to the weekly art class he can't wait to attend. Show support and understanding for your child's interests and talents. Remember, it took you a childhood to aspire to your dreams and goals. And it took a period of time on the job to improve your professional talents and make a difference.

When your child falters in his area of interest, be patient. Help explain that perseverance will help him get right back on his feet to try again. No one ever got anywhere by giving up. Don't give up on your child and he won't give up on you!

To leave Lisa Luckow-Healy a message from a touch-tone phone about how you celebrate family, call (313) 953-2047; or e-mail your suggestions for future family topics to latehealy@comcast.net.

Decorations from hospital ball for sale

It's a Wonderful Life will come to life on Saturday, Dec. 7, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital's 27th annual Holiday Ball.

More than 100 volunteers have been hard at work creating the special holiday decorations that will adorn Eastern Michigan University's EMU Convocation Center, the setting for this year's fund-raising event.

The 2002 Holiday Ball will feature custom-made decorations necessary from some of the area's top interior

designers and local decorators. All of the decorations are available for purchase, and reservations for the decorations can be made prior to the event.

Also available will be a variety of fully decorated live trees, wreaths, garlands and centerpieces.

Decorations may be previewed and reserved Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 4-6, at the EMU Convocation Center on Lehigh Road in Ypsilanti. Decorations may also be previewed online at www.stjoe-

ball.org. Items will be available for pickup between 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Dec. 8. Holiday trees will be delivered Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 9 and 10.

Funds raised through the Holiday Ball will benefit the renovation and expansion of Pediatric Emergency Care at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

For more information, call the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Development Office at (734) 712-4040, or visit www.stjoe-ball.org.

HOME CALENDAR

Auction
The Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills, will conduct an auction featuring property from numerous estates and private collectors 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21. Call (248) 332-1500 or visit www.boos-gallery.com

Holidays Antiques Market
The first Michigan's Holidays Antiques Market will take place Friday-Sunday, Nov. 22-24, at the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen at Civic Center Drive (10-12 Mile). Hours are 2-9 p.m. Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 regular, \$5 with any ads or listings of the event, free for ages 12 and under. One paid admission is good for all three days of the show. Find inspired ways to decorate in style as well as suggestions for ideal holiday gifting at the event. Top dealers from across the country will present a sophisticated range of antiques, accessories and collectibles, including estate and designer jewelry, furniture, modernist pieces, rare books, clocks, textiles, cardfiles, vintage bombs, serving platters and glassware, and holiday antiques.

Preview the show at www.antique.com/MSM. Cranbrook Holiday Tables
Elegant tables offering creative ideas for holiday entertaining will be displayed Friday-Sunday, Nov. 22-24, at Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Proceeds benefit the preservation of Cranbrook House, metro Detroit's oldest manor home. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. General admission is \$15 in advance.

\$20 at the door. Free parking and shuttle service will be available in the Christ Church Cranbrook lot, across Lone Pine Road.

Patron Teas will take place 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at Cranbrook House. Tickets to either tea are \$50. Call (248) 645-3147 for more information, and to buy Patron Tea and advance general admission tickets.

Basement remodeling
Waterford Community Education, in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute, will offer an eight-hour basement remodeling seminar that will meet Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 2 and 4, at Manley Campus, 2999 Van Zandt Road.

The seminar will take place 6-10 p.m. each day. It is designed to help people make better use of valuable space in their homes by planning and completing a successful basement remodeling. Cost is \$99, plus a textbook fee of \$8. Pre-registration with payment to Waterford Community Education is required no later than Wednesday, Nov. 27. To register, call (248) 674-2145 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The instructor, a licensed builder, will explain the many facets of basement remodeling - including planning, meeting building codes, getting all the permits, estimating materials, the basics of home construction, working with subcontractors, finishing techniques, and tying into existing plumbing, electrical and heating systems.

Oakland Builders Institute teaches courses in 38 schools in Michigan. For a free brochure and a current

schedule of class locations, call (800) 940-2014. For more information, visit www.buildersinstitute.com.

Festival of Trees
The 18th annual Festival of Trees, a public display of more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, gingerbread houses and wreaths to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan, will take place Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 at Cobo Center, 301 Civic Center Drive in Detroit.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 24, 29 and 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 25-10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 26-27 and Dec. 1. A Gala Preview Party is scheduled 6-10 p.m. Nov. 23. Show admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for ages 2-12, and free for under age 2. Advance tickets are \$15, \$200 or \$250.

Additional festival events are Lunch with Santa, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 30 (advance tickets required: \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and free for under age 2); and Holiday Dance, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Nov. 30 (\$25 per person at the door and \$20 in advance).

Call (313) 745-0178 or visit www.fot.org for information.

Faux painting
Decorative faux painting is a easy technique that creates the illusion of texture. Do-it-yourselfers can learn how to faux like a pro by attending a free how-to clinic at any area Home Depot. Clinics are scheduled 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday in November and last about 30 minutes.

Participants will learn how to achieve beautiful paint finishes using various techniques such as sponging, ragging, color washing and glazing.

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Good For One FREE SERVICE CALL

The Great Gallery Sell-off Sale*

We are remodeling 50% of our 35,000 sq. ft. showroom, and all of our **Thomasville Floor Samples** will be marked at, near, or below cost for the month of November. Save on Dining rooms, Bedrooms and Living rooms. Many other groups from **Harden, Lexington, Bradington-Young and Pennsylvania House** will be included in this sale!

As an added bonus, we will offer another "10% off" all the product in our warehouse clearance area.

Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here! Decorate your home in time for these holidays from our beautiful samples.

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