

Light in Correcting Children

*A soft answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Proverbs 15:1 (ESV*)

It's important to apply this concept with our children.

Are we stirring up anger or resentment in our children by using harsh words?

Yelling or threats, punishments, and even "consequences" aren't ultimately what help children learn to do what's right.

Telling them what the boundaries are, giving explanations about what's right and wrong, and setting the example helps them know what is right or acceptable. This is "train[ing] up a child in the way he should go."

Accountability is the key to enforcing boundaries, not the imposing of discomfort. Discussion of what went wrong and reminding the child of the expectations are often sufficient accountability that will guide them when we maintain a consistent message about the subject. They will tend to adopt those values in time, which will go with them even when no one is there watching them.

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 (ESV*)

Harsh dealings with our children bring darkness into their lives. Light comes into their lives when children feel loved and accepted, even during corrections.

* ESV = English Standard Version of the Holy Bible