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SPE 240

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Parent Interview

The Malizzi Household:

I was given the opportunity to sit down and interview both my parents for the parent face-to-face interview about management and guidance in the household. I wanted to know what some of their greatest moments were as a parent and I also wanted to zoom in on some of the struggles they had with parenting four children.

The first question I asked was what do you think are some of the daily responsibilities of being a parent? With an agreement on all answers both my parents stated that parents need to put children before self. They need to make sure the children are where they need to be when they need to be there, they need to make sure the children are nourished and healthy, also they need to provide attention equally to each child. Lastly, they stated that they though making sure each child has an education is important as well. In class, we discussed that each child has different needs and different ways of doing things. It is the job of the care provider to make sure these necessities are met so they child has a chance to achieve great things further down the road. (Set your kids up for success not failure.)

The second question I asked my parents was, “What kinds of disciplines did you use on your children when they were younger?” They stated that when all of us kids were younger they used mainly verbal disciplining. They talked most of the situations out with us so that we could better understand what we were doing wrong and how we could fix it or what would happen if we didn’t choose to fix the issue. They also used timeout time by putting us in our room or making us sit in the corner to give us time to think about what we did wrong. These I agreed were pretty reasonable disciplines to use for younger aged children. The follow up question that I asked was, “How did your disciplines change when your’ kids got older?” They said that timeout time in the corner wasn’t used anymore; however, they continued with the timeout time in the room. One thing they added to the discipline list was that they started to take privileges away. These privileges included the things we enjoyed doing such as playing outside, going out with friends, getting a new toy, playing video games/computer games, watching movies, etc. I explained to my parents that we learned in class that as a teacher there are different privileges that I will have to take away if my students are not following the daily procedures, but I told them that I will have to be careful and make sure I am using proper disciplining techniques and not punishment.

The Fourth question I asked was, “What are some of the weekly procedures that you expect your children to follow?” They said that school comes first. So when all of us kids got home from school they expect us to start right in on our studies. All homework has to be done before we get to do what we want (unless there was a sport). All of us were involved in a sport so there was times where we would have to do homework in the car or we would have to start in on our homework before practice/a game and the finish when we returned back home. On top of homework we all had a list of chores to do. If the chores were not done then we weren’t able to go and play till they were all finished. Although most of the heavier loaded chores were done on the weekends only.

The fifth question that I asked my parents was “How do you stay organized as parent in and out of the household?” They both came the conclusion that communication is key. They make sure to communicate back and forth between each other and also with each of us kids now that we all have access to do so. They make sure to have the family calendar up to date so that all we have to do is pull it up on the computer and go. Also they make sure to keep track of all the responsibilities so that it makes it easy to get things done on time. I agree that communication is key to staying organized especially if you are a teacher. Communication is a never ending processes as a teacher. You will have to always keep your students, co-workers, administration, and student’s parents all in the loop of what you have planned and organized throughout the year. Communication makes your plans understandable and easy to follow because it allows room for immediate feedback.

To wrap up the interview I just wanted to through in a few fun questions at the end. I asked both my parents, “What is the hardest thing about parenting?” My dad said that one of the hardest things about being a parent is self-sacrifice. He says that having kids takes up the majority of the time in your life. You have to be able to fulfill the needs of your children before self and if that means giving up the things that you like to do so be it. My mom said that hardest thing about being a parent is not always having the answers. Each child has different needs and different ways and sometimes you just don’t have the answers to fulfill all of those things. The follow up question I asked was, “What is the best thing about being a parent?” My dad stated that one of the best things about being a parent is you will never have to worry about being alone. You will always be taking care of someone and someone will always be taking care of you. My mom said that the best thing about being parent is that you get to watch your creation grow and succeed depending on the way you managed your household. And it gives you hope for the future that your kids will grow up to having happy and healthy families and hope to stay in touch to see many generations strive.

The last question that I thought would be good one to bring up was, “If someone was watching your kids what kind of disciplines would you tell the babysitter to use if they child was not listening? My parents both said that if the children were acting up that they would explain to the babysitter that it would be allowed for them to put the kids I their rooms for timeout time, also they would make it available for the babysitter to be able to call at any time. Also the babysitter is given permission to limit TV time/ any privileges the kids wanted if they were not listening.

From asking these questions it definitely gave me a better picture of what kinds of things I can use to stay on top of everything for the future as a teacher. I hope to use some of the techniques listed above in my classroom to help keep the day running smoothly and keeping children on task and making sure I meeting as many needs as I can to help each child succeed. Management and organization are very important to keep in a teacher’s toolbox for if there was no structure or discipline students would be able to show off their true potential and they probably wouldn’t get anything accomplished.