



Resource 6

Natural and Logical Consequences

Use this tool to guide you in using natural and logical consequences with your child.

Discipline is a method of teaching children life-long responsibility and acceptable behaviors. Punishment on the other hand, tends to force children to behave a certain way and does not allow for children to be responsible for their own behavior.

The use of natural and logical consequences when children make mistakes or misbehave allows for discipline that teaches responsibility and life-long learning. Below are some examples of natural and logical consequences. Think about how these can be used with your child.

Example of Behavior	Consequence	Lesson Learned
Child forgets to return library book to school.	Child cannot check out another book.	Child learns to be more responsible in remembering the next time.
Child chooses not to study for a test or exam.	Child receives a poor grade.	Child learns that his or her decision can affect the overall outcome (in this case his or her grade).
Child forgets shoes or uniform for a sporting event.	Child is not allowed to play in the game.	Child learns the value of being prepared.
Child uses negative name calling with a friend.	The friend expresses hurt feelings.	Child realizes how powerful words can be.
Child doesn't put dirty clothes in the appropriate place.	His or her clothes do not get washed that week.	Child learns that he or she must do their part in helping with chores.
A teenager consistently shows up late for work.	He or she loses the job.	He or she learns the value of being prompt.

Points to Remember When “Disciplining” Children

- Natural and logical consequences can teach children to:
- be responsible for their actions.
 - recognize both parent and child’s rights.
 - focus on present and future behavior.
 - make decisions and learn from mistakes.
 - develop mutual respect between parents and children.
 - feel encouraged and develop positive self-esteem.