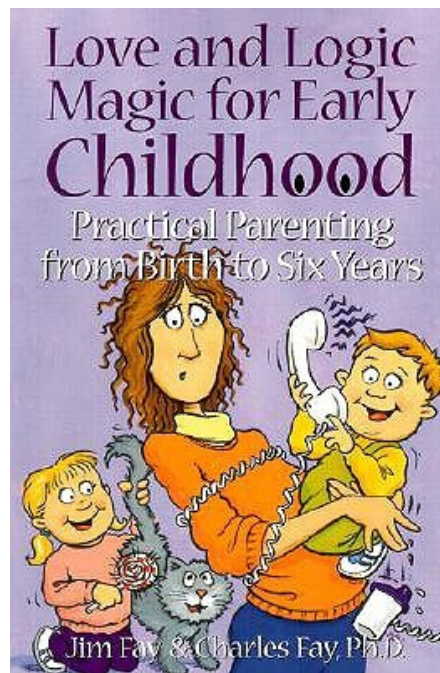




Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood

Jim Fay , Charles Fay

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Practical Parenting from Birth to Six Years Let Jim Fay and Charles Fay, Ph.D., help you start your child off on the right foot. The tools in Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood will give you the building blocks you need to create children who grow up to be responsible, successful teens and adults. And as a bonus you will enjoy every stage of your child's life and look forward to sharing a lifetime of joy with them. Get help with: * potty training * daycare * back-talk * whining * and many more everyday stresses faced by parents of toddlers

Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood Details

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From Reader Review Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood for online ebook

Danielle says

Ideas from this book I liked: 1. Let the consequence for your child's actions be the (primary) teacher (that is, don't lecture, just act). 2. Always discipline with empathy. 3. Don't let your child see your anger or frustration when they misbehave. If you lose control it tells your child they're unmanageable, which makes them feel insecure. 4. Encourage your child to think through problems and find solutions for themselves. 5. Hand over any control you don't absolutely need to your child, so that when you do need it, you can use it. 6. Use enforceable statements. Instead of saying "Pick up your toys" (which you can't really enforce) you say "Feel free to pick up any of the toys you want to keep." Then you have to see it through.

Things I didn't like: 1. Fay instructs parents to not say ANYTHING about the consequences of your child's bad decisions. He contends that when you tell your child why something happened, they tune you out and don't learn. If you don't say anything, they think it through for themselves. I don't buy this. I'm a fan of warning of consequences before they happen (one time, not indefinitely) and of briefly imparting the lesson to be learned after they happen. 2. Fay loves the idea that the "empathetic" phrase "This is so sad" can reduce a child to tears knowing that a punishment is on the way. I don't consider that empathy. 3. Many of the "good" examples in this book, where parents were using their Love and Logic training really creeped me out. If I witnessed a similar scene, I would be scared of that parent. It's almost like a sadistic power trip, dangling these choices and consequences in front of your child as you encourage them to think for themselves. I agree that children should be taught to think through cause and effect, but the tone of this book was just...yeah, creepy.

Over the last couple of weeks, I tried the directions in this book. My previous parenting style was similar, if a little more lenient. I did not notice a change in behavior. In both cases my son (going on three years old) was relatively obedient, reacted quickly to threats, and was suitably contrite after being punished (with time out). I didn't notice any change in his response to me when I was super empathetic, as this book recommends, or more matter of fact, which is how I was doing it. So, I'm not going to adopt this parenting style wholesale, but I did pick up a few good ideas that I'll continue to implement.

Emily says

Great parenting book! I agree with a lot of what they advocate. A few things I gleaned from it:

- Replace anger and frustration with empathy.
- Replace threats and warnings with simple actions (stop talking the talk so much and just walk the walk).
- Set limits you can enforce.
- Give away the control you don't need (give your kids lots of opportunities to choose).
- Point out your kids' interests that you notice, and resist the urge to follow it up with "That's great!". Let them have their interests without you having to approve of their interests.
- Allow your kids to struggle and solve their own problems.
- When kids make a poor decision, give them empathy and follow through the consequences so their decision, not you, is the bad guy.
- Every child worth keeping is going to experiment with misbehavior!
- Use enforceable statements (not "Hurry up" but "The car leaves in 5 minutes").
- It's okay to delay consequences to give yourself time to think of an appropriate one.
- Don't argue with your kids. Say, "I love you too much to argue."
- Give your kids chores!

Tonya says

I just wish this had really been geared more at EARLY childhood. like, starting at age 2. That's what I assumed it would be from the title and I was hoping for more tips about dealing with issues that arise from with my 2 year old. But there was only one chapter-one!- dedicated to ages 3 and under. I like a lot of the ideas and philosophies in this book but I think it's titled incorrectly to try to gear towards a different audience than their other books. I guess I will revisit it in a couple of years.

Sonya says

Wow.... Okay, so there are a couple (I mean literally two) of key points that work for my parenting style. However, there are some big red flags that come up for me personally. I know this is a popular method with many people so will keep my opinions close this time. Happy to talk individually w/ anyone about it though. **Sorry, had to add a note after reading the reviews and some great information on Psychology Today's website / magazine. I feel that I took a bit of a cowardly exit by keeping my opinion to myself.

The red flags I mention above speak to the act of demeaning a person (a child in this case) by making fun or light of their feelings/outbursts in order to "corral and reign in" the tantrum. The issue is related to creating dangerous

passive-aggressive and co-dependent behaviors by asking the child "how they plan to replace the parents energy that was sapped from dealing with a tantrum."

The idea of not positively reinforcing a tantrum as the book suggests is correct in my opinion.

It is the tools and words that they suggest parents use that are highly dangerous to a small child's developing personality.

Lastly, the steps suggested for "delivering consequences" are to load on empathetic statements and loving words on one hand while dishing a punishment on the other.

This teaches children the concept of displaced anger and that words & actions do NOT need to align. This is the hallmark of most adult abusive relationships. ("I hurt you because I love you...")

Most child psychologists recommend allowing natural consequences to happen based on the child's actions (as per the book.) However, children need to trust that their parents words and actions are speaking to the same emotion.

In my humble opinion, helping children learn how to correctly identify emotions and feelings as they occur is perhaps the most valuable piece to parenting. We need to strive to mirror that ability in our daily lives as we identify our own emotions and work through them mindfully. There isn't better or more long-term lesson we could offer them.

Nikki says

[update after thinking about this a long time and worrying that I gave the wrong impression to everyone who got this email update originally]

So I have a really hard time assigning a rating to this book. The philosophy itself should get a five, because I think it is a fabulous philosophy. But the explaining of the philosophy should get a one or two, because this

is hands down the most disorganized book I've ever read.

I repeat, though: the philosophy should get a five, and I'm looking into hiring a Love and Logic teacher to give a seminar at my house, because I've heard that if you hire a good one (who explains it well, with real examples and probably better organization and age-appropriate application tips) then this stuff will change your parenting and your life.

[previous review]

I liked this book because it fit my style of parenting and gave me additional strategies for my current repertoire. Also, it helped me zero in on some areas where I was falling into traps: namely, letting my kid get away with bossing me around because at least he was saying (barking) "please"; and nagging him again and again to do things and wondering why he always refused. My biggest complaints with the book are that it seems too randomly organized, uses too-perfect examples (like your kid has to respond a certain way for it to work) and has too many typos. Also, though it does occasionally address age-appropriateness, I would have liked to know what age they're targeting with each strategy since many seemed too sophisticated for my three-year-old.

Meg says

That's right! Another book that receives a rare 5-star rating from Meg! If you have children, or if you work with children, or if you've heard of children before, do yourself a favor and read this book NOW. All the Love & Logic books are amazing, but this one is packed with concrete examples and conversations with young kids... instead of just a bunch of theoretical mumbo-jumbo. I'm terrified to think how much worse a parent I would be if I hadn't read it.

Natalie Cornish says

The concepts offered in this book seem simple, but they are difficult to remember in the heat of the moment. Take the authors advice and master one concept before adding another. I still don't know if this will work for my family, but it is worth a try!

Elise says

I'm not even done yet, but it's life-changing. I really love this book. Take it with a grain of salt and some prayer (like any parenting advice), but for quite a while I feel like I've been running into a brick wall with my parenting - it's not quite what I want (I get angry and frustrated way too easily and just plain don't like who I become in those moments), but I had no exact strategy to change my parenting/discipline techniques, so always ended up back in the same boat.

Enter this book, and my sanity. :) I feel like I now have something to work with. I'm still not perfect, but I'm headed in a much better direction, towards Happy Mama, instead of Angry Mama. It also seems to me to fit with how God parents us - love and empathy, but direct consequences. Not a lot of time spent in lectures, but we still learn just the same. Elder Christofferson said "The root of the word discipline is shared by the word disciple" (Moral Discipline, Oct. 2009). It really struck me that I don't often feel much like a disciple of

Christ when I'm disciplining my 3 yr old. It is easier to me to feel like I am doing good, like I am trying to be a disciple of Christ, using these techniques of discipline.

Overall just makes me feel like a better person inside and a better parent. Happy day!

Molly says

This was picked for my daughter's Montessori school book club of parents and teachers; fortunately, the lead teacher wasn't enamored with this book either.

My first issue is the barrier--the first hoop, the first swoon or sorrow--I will always have with a book: the writing style. And in this case, it's miserable. There's a weird, used-car salesman grin behind every sentence, and most of the points the authors raise come with a completely asinine scenario with unrealistic conclusions. "And then they all lived happily ever after" kind of stuff (because they used our formula...)

Here's what I'm on board with: sending great gobs of love in the direction of our children and maintaining calm. I like the idea of putting power into their hands in appropriate moments--and true, as much as possible.

I had pointed out at the book club that I didn't understand in the example where the child was making a mess in the grocery store, how the parent could walk away, what kind of message that would send, and the teacher pointed out that some kiddos like the attention. Oh yeah. For someone like my daughter, walking away would send an abandonment message. She's the sort who loves to be around people for the company, as opposed to the attention.

I'm truly not on board with the hard luck kind of parenting (am I getting the cliché right? probably not)--there's an example where a father observes his son fall from a slippery rock into water. Yes, kids need to learn their own lessons and need to anticipate consequences, but really? We can't warn our kids that maybe that rock is slippery? Isn't this the time for us to teach them how to observe? Granted, my oldest is only three, and I do let her learn things for herself, but--

I resist the idea, also, of punishing or saying, "How sad. Go to bed." No discussion of what went wrong, just, "You messed up, see ya" kind of attitude. I know discussing something in the midst of a tantrum just isn't going to happen, but this "You need to read my mind" attitude frightens me a little. It's sending some strange message--I prefer the idea of being straightforward. "How sad" YES to empathy! "You can't do X, so let's go have some quiet time." Just slip a little extra in.

I think, if I'm in a jam, I find the books I've read on positive discipline a bit stronger. We'll see how things pan out with my two littles--one never knows what one might need in that parenting toolbox.

JoyfulK says

This little book is the clearest introduction I've found to the Love and Logic parenting system, an excellent system that is adaptable to situations including parenting, step-parenting, co-parenting, teaching, and counseling.

The system is based on empathy, natural & logical consequences, and helping kids make age-appropriate decisions on their own---so that they take on increasing levels of responsibility for themselves and move towards healthy interdependence. Although this book uses examples with pre-schoolers, the principles

explained can be "aged up" to your kids.

There are also books in the Love and Logic set for school-age kids, teens, kids with chronic illness, and kids with attention issues. There are also free tips on their website, Love and Logic. All of their books I've read thus far are useful, but I think this one is the best place to start.

Brette says

The central idea of this parenting book (and the Love and Logic system) is a good one: instead of solving all their problems, let your children learn from natural consequences, helping them develop logic on their own. For example, if Bear throws food at dinner, dinner should be over, and I should let him go hungry for a little while. Good plan. I just don't think it necessarily works for every single scenario, especially through toddlerhood. I don't think he's ready for adult-like logic, especially when he's hysterical about something. Also, in this book, I felt more like the authors were selling their parenting system, rather than addressing specific problems. Some of the examples were a little extreme and kind of brutal (e.g., Love and Logic parent's child graduates top of his class and loves to do chores and spend time with family, versus non-L&L child, who ends up in jail). Also, I don't really agree with their advice that L&L parents encourage children to make mistakes, so they can learn now instead of when they're teenagers (like their example where the little boy stays up all night watching movies at a friend's house; the next time he goes, the parents encourage, "Yeah, you should stay up all night again! That would be fun!"; and then when he comes home, he tells his parents that he decided not to stay up all night because he was too tired the next day afterward. Why would the parents encourage bad behavior instead of gently reminding him what happened last time? I'm not convinced every child make the right choice on his own.).

So I like the idea of using consequences instead of lectures. But I don't think that idea alone will work all of the time. I think sometimes parents have to gently point out right and wrong (while hopefully avoiding turning it into a lecture). Overall, a good book, although the idea could be condensed into an article.

Lisa Wuertz says

I liked this book, but I think that the subtitle is totally off: "Practical Parenting from Birth to Six Years." More like from 3 to the teenage years. While there are a few things the authors address that are applicable to infants and anyone under the age of three, most of it is not.

Other problems I have with this book:

- It definitely reads like a cheesy self-help book. Complete with catch phrases, one-liners, and mantras. These kinds of things annoy me.

- There is a lot of emphasis placed on "self-concept" which just seems to be the old "self-esteem" gospel repackaged.

- I take issue with rule #2: Turn every mistake or misbehavior into a learning opportunity, mostly because this is completely how my husband operates and it gets on my nerves a lot because sometimes life just happens the way it does and not everything is a teachable moment or a learning opportunity (in my opinion anyway).

- Letting the kid decide how much time-out (bedroom time is what they call it) they get, "You can feel free to come out when you are ready to be sweet." My daughter caught onto that one ages ago, even before I read this book, and now thinks that as long as she says sorry or "OK be nice now" that time-out can last as little as a second and then it is right back doing what she was doing wrong before. Pretty much not effective, I'd say.

There were still some good things I think I gleaned from the book. It was a good reminder not to get

frustrated and angry, that it only makes the problems/behavior worse. There were a lot of practical situations addressed (grocery shopping, talking on the phone, temper tantrums, etc.).

Franziska says

What I liked about this book:

- its clear outline and need for enforceable statements and rules, and the need to set limits and boundaries for your child
- its emphasis on staying calm, being positive and loving, even in a difficult situation
- its emphasis on teaching consequences and helping your kids learn to think
- suggesting to give lots of choices and sharing power/control where you can

What I didn't like:

- pretty much everything else. I particularly hated the tone of the Authors. They sounded really arrogant and full of themselves, particularly when I felt that none of their ideas were very original to me.
- I disliked their discouraging warnings. I realize that they want to help you to make sure that what you say to a child means something, and doesn't become a bunch of empty threats and warnings. However, I think in order to teach a child to learn to control his feelings better, warnings are necessary. It's good to tell your child where they're at emotionally, because they are still so young often to realize themselves. You could say 'Sweetie, you're getting really upset right now. Remember what happens when we get mad and start yelling? Please calm down or I have to X...'. I felt they were just trying to push for actions whenever your child misbehaved without trying to help parents teach their children not even get to the bad behavior (other than teaching to suppress the bad behavior with immediate discipline). Hated that.
- I really disliked, and was even concerned about some of their suggestions for discipline. They gave one example of a mother feeding her 10-months old kid. The kid first likes the food, then gets crankier and crankier and eventually spits out the food. Their suggestion: take the kid, and put it in the crib. Huh??? I mean seriously! This baby is 10 months old. Apparently the mother didn't get the hint that the kid is done (getting cranky about the food) and kept going until the kid drew a line and spit out its food. I mean, if it can't communicate any other way, what do you expect??? And then go punish a little baby? That's crazy, particularly in the area of food. They had a similar example somewhere in there that I thought was also just as bad advice.

I'm all for discipline, but only when there's clear communication and understanding, and not when I'm too stupid to understand my child.

- I am not sure about some of their disciplining methods/suggestions like the 'energy drain'. First of all, I don't want certain chores in the house to become my classic punishments and thus something they hate and dread. Also, I want my kids to learn natural consequences wherever possible. And mostly, I don't want my kids to feel that their choices (good or bad) or their mere existence is hard and draining to me. Of course, it is at times. But, I think for little kids that's a bad message to send out. They need to feel safe no matter what. I'd rather have them learn how their actions hurt themselves rather than their mom or dad, unless of course they do something that in fact is hurting someone else (hitting, stealing, biting, name calling etc.)

Bottom line: The book had some good suggestions, but all in all I wasn't a big fan. I don't think it had a lot in there that was original or new to me, and definitely nothing in there that warrants the arrogant tone of the authors.

Shelley says

This book has a lot of great ideas. I think the technique is pretty good, and they write it in an easy-to-use way. However, it was so obnoxious to read that I could barely stomach the first half of the book. After that I got over the annoyance and just gleaned the good techniques. The Fays seem to be high on their own theory. They even make comments such as "Is it possible that there would be no such thing as the United States of America if King George had known about Love and Logic?" Barf! The other thing this book is missing is more focus on encouraging and reinforcing positive behavior. Almost all of it was directed toward disciplining negative behavior, which of course is the more unpleasant (and generally tricky) part of child rearing. I'm glad I read it. I do think I can benefit from many of the techniques, but like I said, the Fays were a huge turn off.

Jessica says

aside from the overly and ridiculously (at least to me with MY kids) unrealistic examples of love and logic at work with young kids, i actually thought the basic principles of love and logic make a lot of sense. i especially liked the idea that actions speak louder than words -- you don't need to give a million warnings, just one and then act on the consequence. i also appreciated the concept that you don't need to act in anger or frustration, but just put the kid in their room for as long as it takes until they can calm down and be reasonable. and then rather than lecturing or fussing or moralizing, simply expressing love to them. i was surprised at how well this worked when trying it with my rather spirited children. this principle in particular seems very gospel oriented -- you know "reproving betimes with sharpness when moved upon by the holy ghost and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love towards him whom thou hast reproved lest he esteem thee to be thy enemy."

anyway, like i said. i thought the stories given were ridiculous, but the principles are worth trying out. i'd give this closer to 3 1/2 or 3 3/4 stars.
