

Training for Triumph E-Newsletter Issue 016 June 2007

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By Donna Reish

*Email Jonathan at trainingfortriumphhomeschool@mchsi.com if you wish to be taken off this mailing list—or to add a friend. Thanks!

Section I: Training for Triumph (TFT) Events and Announcements

1. Letter From Donna

Dear Readers,

We are having fun here doing our own version of summer school---reading history aloud, listening to talking books, doing math drill, and finally getting around to some summer de-cluttering projects. Of course, the older ones around here (who aren't in college or working full time) are writing and editing as summer is a good time to get TFT projects done too since we do not have cottage classes during these months.

In June we were all spread out more than we like to be! Kara was chosen by the Academy of Arts (A of A) to be part of their “Jamestown Project.” This year marked the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement and Vision Forum commissioned the A of A to prepare dramas and re-enactments for their week-long celebration. So Kara was in South Carolina for two weeks and Jamestown, Virginia for another eight days. The group performed for more than four thousand people total, and even though Kara was so homesick at first that even Ray suggested we go get her, she made it through and enjoyed the experience very much.

We had Kara back one week when the director of the A of A called and asked if Kara could come and replace an ill member of one of their traveling drama teams (the south team—Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and within twenty-four hours of his call, Kara was back on a plane headed for Florida to be on the drama team performing the drama “Sanctity of Life” in churches four to six times a week over the next six weeks. I was somewhat surprised that she agreed to leave again—and told her that she can’t make Mom cry every other day by calling me with homesickness if she decided to go! On the other hand, it shouldn’t really surprise me that she is off ministering in her own area (an area that she was sure she did not have as just a few months ago, she had no area, according to her—and her three older siblings all had theirs, but hers was not to be found! ☺) since Joshua, Kayla, and Cami were all three between seventeen and eighteen when they began their areas of service—most of which have shaped their life callings. Kara’s departure for ministry makes me all the more sure that Kayla’s new definition of socialization for homeschooling parents that she developed for her workshops this spring is right on target: **“Protecting children from the world for a short time so they can be witnesses to the world for a lifetime.”**

In between all of that, Cami was gone to serve at Joni and Friends Family Retreat. She is on their leadership team (for the Chicago area retreats), and she was gone for two weeks leading the young adults groups, teaching Bible studies, and serving families affected by disabilities. We went to see her two different occasions, and we just love what JAF (ministry of Joni Ereckson Tada—the same ministry with which Cami distributed wheel chairs in El Salvador in April) does. It is an amazing ministry. (Since the writing of this newsletter, Cami has been asked to be on the national leadership team, planning all of the United States’ family retreats for 2008, and she will travel to California for a weekend in the fall and meet with and plan with Joni herself. What a highlight of ministry this will be for Cami! ☺)

Cami also received a surprise blessing when she and her mentors/teachers decided that it was time for Cami to present more information about her disability ministry at church, One Heart, to the pastor and board of our large (two-thousand plus attendees) church. Our associate pastor/director of our church’s Bible college, who has worked closely with Cami as she developed/expanded One Heart over the past two years, wanted to help Cami get more visibility and funding for One Heart since the ministry serves nearly a hundred people with disabilities (and their families) each week through Bible studies, group home outreaches, respite care for families, game nights for young adults and teens with disabilities, etc. Cami went in with the hopes of getting more money for One Heart’s activities and more volunteers to serve, but to make a long story short, within a couple of weeks of presenting One Heart to our head pastor and board, Cami was on staff at First Assembly in Fort Wayne, Indiana as the disability director. It all happened so fast and is an answer to so many prayers on so many levels—and again

showed our children something we have been trying so hard to instill in them over and over again: When you just reach and serve, expecting nothing in return—even working additional, less glamorous jobs to fund much of your service (paper routes, stuffing newspapers, sticking labels on label cards for a factory, etc.)—God will bless your efforts. Now Cami is able to give up many of her “tentmaking” jobs, such as tutoring, teaching piano, delivering newspapers, and typesetting for TFT ☺ in order to focus nearly full time each week on serving those she is called to serve. (Oh, one of the stipulations from the church of her position is that she continue her ministry degree at least six hours a semester, so she can further her disability and ministry training. She won't be bored, for sure!)

We finished the revisions on Volume I of CQLA, so Volumes I and III are completely revised and updated—and Volume II revisions are underway, slated to be finished the end of this calendar year. It has been an expensive and elaborate undertaking, but we felt compelled to put in most of the changes and expansions that we discovered were needed/desired after testing the program for the past seven years each week with twenty students—and after receiving feedback from many early CQLA (and WBLA) users. We think the updates will help CQLA pay for TFT Family Ministries sooner—and have helped to earn us some outstanding reviews, for which we are so grateful.

Well, I will leave you to the remainder of the newsletter. I know that summer can become hectic and busy, but I want to encourage you not to let activities and busyness be the driving forces of your life this summer. If you have young adults home from college, especially, try to carve out some much needed time for mentoring and discipling. They'll be gone again before you know it, and they need your input in their lives now probably more than any other time of their lives. Don't let their time at home this summer slip by without doing the most important things.

Love,

Donna

P.S. The Academy of Arts is the drama ministry that I recommended in our newsletter a few months ago. In addition to the summer teams that travel around in ministry (as described above), they also have week long workshops in which they come to communities and provide opportunities to homeschool groups and Christian schools to work with them for a week preparing a full-length drama, then perform it. It is the ideal drama opportunity since it is short in duration (one week!), provided in your own community, protected from some of the negative influences that you might find in community theatre (especially for your younger students), and is an excellent learning experience. Check them out at their website (or see if one of the summer teams will be performing near you this summer; they're all over Indiana and Florida, I know): www.theacademyofarts.org/main.html

2. Become a CQLA Representative

CQLA fans may now help spread the word about CQLA formally--and make money doing so! Training for Triumph announces its CQLA Representative Program.

(1) A CQLA representative must sign an agreement saying that she will represent CQLA in a positive light, professional manner, and with godly character.

(2) A CQLA representative must order at least ten CQLA books per year. This might only be three or four families besides her own, in many cases.

(3) A CQLA representative may present CQLA at support group meetings, conventions, living room presentations, one-on-one, or any other opportunity that arises after first contacting TFT to be sure another representative (a TFT family member or other rep) is not already planning to present at that event.

(4) A CQLA representative will pay all of her own expenses for traveling, speaking about CQLA, preparing handouts and samples, etc.

(5) A CQLA representative will take orders and postal mail those orders (along with payment and shipping costs) to TFT. TFT will fill the orders from our warehouse (rather than the representative having to carry CQLA herself) and ship directly to the customers, as indicated in the orders sent to us by the representative.

(6) A CQLA representative may buy CQLA books ahead of time for events or to have in stock to fill orders on the spot. In that case, she would pay shipping then charge shipping to her customers in order to recoup that expense.

(7) A CQLA representative may return CQLA books after an event or at any time for a full refund of her purchase price as long as the books are still shrink-wrapped and unused. The representative will be responsible for the shipping - both directions.

(8) A CQLA representative may develop her own website using information about CQLA or MC from the TFT website, including samples to be downloaded and printed off.

(9) A CQLA representative may use our videos or cassettes in teaching about CQLA as long as she purchases these for herself. (She may lend these out, host events using them, etc.)

(10) A CQLA representative may not distribute or redeem "Friendship Vouchers" at any time. (This would be a TFT nightmare!)

(12) If becoming a CQLA Representative seems overwhelming to you, but you would like to

tell your friends about CQLA and earn free curriculum, check out our CQLA Friendship Voucher Program.

(13) For complete details about the CQLA Representative Program, including profit margin and agreement forms, contact TFT.

3. Friendship Voucher Program Expanded

We have had warm reception to our Friendship Voucher Program, so we are extending it to the end of the year! That's right. Until the end of December, every time someone buys CQLA and tells us her friend recommended it to her, that friend will receive a \$10 voucher towards her next CQLA purchase **for each CQLA book her friend orders**. There is no limit to how many vouchers you may earn, so share CQLA with your friends and earn your books for free!! (See our website for more info on Friendship Vouchers or email Jonathan to receive more info.)

Section II: Kitchen and Household Organization Helps

4. Camping and Motel Meals, Part II: Recipes to Try While Out and About

Last month I gave some suggestions from a loop I am on about camping and motel cooking. This month I have gathered some of their (and my suggestions) for meals for camping, day at the park, picnicking, etc.

Ziplock Omelets

Quart-sized ziplock freezer bags (not zipper ones)

2 large or extra large eggs per person

Choice of fillings, such as: cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, mushrooms, tomato, hash browns, salsa, bacon, etc. (pre cut and pre cooked)

- (1) Have each person write his or her name on a bag with permanent marker.
- (2) Crack two eggs in each bag (no more than 2) and shake to "scramble."
- (3) Add whatever add ins each person desires to his or her bag, zip, and shake again.
- (4) Place the bags in rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. (You can usually cook 608 omelets in a large pot.)
- (5) Remove from boiling water and open bag. Omelet will roll out easily.

Note: After this recipe ran on the loop, there was discussion about the dangers of heating or freezing in plastic. I don't know enough about that danger to comment, but I did want to include that tidbit here.

Easy Does It Spaghetti

Another suggestion from many gals is that of bringing canned things that can be all put together for an entrée (as opposed to bringing fresh ingredients that need refrigeration). I used a recipe similar to this one for spaghetti often when I had several small children and no kitchen helpers to speak of, except I used canned spaghetti sauce instead of all of the "homemade" ingredients for the sauce. Still worked well.

2 lbs of ground chuck, browned and drained (I use precooked, frozen hamburger or canned hamburger)
1 cup chopped onions
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 15-oz cans of tomato sauce
2-3 tsp. Italian seasoning
1 1/2 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
2 4-oz cans sliced mushrooms, drained
6 cups tomato juice
16-oz dry spaghetti, broken into 4-5-inch pieces
grated parmesan cheese

1. Combine all ingredients except spaghetti and cheese in 4-quart or larger slow cooker.
2. Cover. Cook on Low 6-8 hours, or High 3-5 hours. Turn to High during last 30 minutes and stir in dry spaghetti. (If spaghetti is not fully cooked, continue cooking another 10 minutes, checking to make sure it is not becoming over-cooked.)
3. Sprinkle individual servings with Parmesan cheese.

Canned Chicken and Rice Meal

The recipe below was given on the loop, but the general idea is the same as that above---canned meat (chicken, tuna, beef, etc.); liquids (broth, cream soups, etc.); starch (quick cook or canned, like canned potatoes), etc. The idea is taking away the element of spoilage with fresh food—and other precooking that needs done to meats, vegetables, etc.—and putting it all in one pan for an easy camping or motel meal.

1 bag yellow rice

Can or two of chicken

Can of peas

Small jar of pimentos

Chicken base (or use broth instead of water)

Salt and pepper

Minced onion and/or other seasonings

- (1) Dump all ingredients into electric skillet, along with the juices from the cans.
- (2) Let cook on medium until rice is done (add water as needed).

Taco Soup

Here's another suggestion from a gal on the loop—another recipe that can be made with canned or pre-cooked meat.

1 lb hamburger
2 cans pinto beans, not drained
1 can corn
1 can Rotel Tomatoes
1 can Mexican stewed tomatoes
1 envelope taco seasoning
1 envelope ranch dressing

(1) Brown beef (or in the case of camping, etc., I would bring the ground beef cooked and frozen or use canned ground beef)
(2) Add other ingredients.
(3) Simmer 20 minutes.
(4) Can thin with water or broth.

Quickey Soup

And another one not requiring perishables.

2 jars Salsa (probably the small size)
2 cans FF chicken broth
2 cans chicken rice soup
1 can pinto beans
1 can corn

(1) Mix and heat.
(2) Or place all in crock pot on low for the day.

Hobo Dinners

One of our favorite make-it-and-take-it or camping/at the park for the day recipes is the old standard hobo dinner or foil dinner. Besides making this while camping and sticking it in the hot logs, we have made it at home in the fall during the day (in the big cooker), then grabbed the big cooker full of done dinners, paper plates, plastic forks, jugs of cider, and cups and went to the park for the evening for talking, walking, and playing. It's a one-foil-packet meal with no mess! I don't have measurements for everything, but the ingredients and steps are listed below as accurately as I can give them for our throw together meal.

Heavy duty aluminum foil
Hamburger patties
Thinly sliced potatoes (if not thinly sliced, I recommend precooking potatoes and carrots in micro before assembling)
Thinly sliced carrots

Onions, sliced in ring
V-8 or tomato juice
Bay leaves
Cream of mushroom soup (if desired)
Salt and pepper
Optionals: Green peppers, green beans, zucchini, etc.

- (1) Place two huge pieces of foil on the surface/table to form an x.
- (2) Place raw, frozen hamburger patty in center.
- (3) Place vegetables as desired on top of patty.
- (4) Season all with V-8, tomato juice, cream soup, salt, pepper, and/or other seasonings, as desired.
- (5) Fold both sides of packet up securely around dinner.
- (6) Cook in hot logs, coals, crock pot, big cooker, oven, etc. until hamburger patties are cooked and vegetables are tender

Walking Tacos

Individual bags of fritos (no names work well too)
Precooked taco meat
Taco fillings as desired: shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, sour cream, tomatoes, salsa, olives, chopped onion, etc.

- (1) Distribute bag of fritos to each person.
- (2) Have fillings available and prepared and let each person make his or her own "walking taco" by sprinkling the toppings throughout the frito bag as desired.
- (3) Eat and enjoy!

Subs or Hamaramas

Sub bread
Sandwich fillings: either sub fillings or ham and cheese
Heavy duty foil

- (1) Assemble sandwiches as desired.
- (2) Bake or heat, if needed (for hot subs or hamaramas).
- (3) Place in cooler with ice or in insulated casserole carrier with heat bag (for hot sandwiches).
- (4) Go!

9. Organizing Tip: Zip Type Bags

Okay, I am an organizing and school supply junkie. I don't think it's a big secret, and I don't even try to hide it anymore, but proudly announce each time I try a new system or get a new type of storage item. I'm used the eye rolling, sighing, condescending, "not another idea" looks now—and they don't phase me anymore. My scrapbooking pals accuse me of organizing my scrapbooking supplies more than actually scrapbooking. And well, it's just not true. (I don't think.) But I do love organizing things—and zip lock bags are major parts of my systems! ☺

That's one reason that it was so appropriate eight years ago when Ray left his job as the plant manager of an automotive plant to work a regular job and be home more—and he became materials manager at a *plastics plant*! Yes, a plant that makes all sorts of tubs and storage items (usually for other factories, but I have found dozens of uses for their leftovers!).

Years ago, I joined the "Love My Zip Lock Bags" bandwagon—and they have truly become some of my best friends through the years! ☺ I am going to give an abbreviated list below of the dozens of uses we have now and have had in the past. Maybe you'll catch the zip lock bag craze too! (Oh, and while we buy our clothes at Goodwill and our groceries at discount grocers, you won't find me using inferior zip lock bags! There are coupons available for the brand name ones though.)

Another note: I am **organizing** them by size to make it easier to get your zip lock ideas flowing! ☺

Teeny Zip Bags—found these a few years ago at the hobby store—several dozen for under a buck—they are so cute!!!

*pills

*mints or teeny candies

*spices (tape to your large bag containing your entrée—parmesan cheese, etc.)

*teeny craft supplies—brads, eyelets, buttons, etc.

*little change bag

*vitamins

*staples

*paper clips

*tacs

*nails, screws, etc.

*jewelry item

Mini or Half Quart

*salad toppings to add at last minute

*small snacks for littles (cheerios, cheese crackers, etc.)

*shredded cheese to put on casserole at end (tape to frozen casserole)

*few small items to stick in purse—small eye drops, tooth picks, mints

*small craft supplies—big buttons, scrapbooking embellishments, patches

*condiments for small picnic—chopped onions, pickles, etc.

Quart

*Sandwich fillings in freezer—sloppy joes, bbq beef, hot turkey sandwich filling

*Soup starters in freezer—put each type of soup starter in separate quart bag and put them all down in a big one and freeze (i.e. different vegetable soup items, chili items, etc.—precooked meats, seasoned vegetables, precooked and seasoned rice, etc.—we did these all the time when the older kids were little—and they were handy!)

*Precooked meat in freezer (hamburger, stew meat with gravy, etc.—just enough for the types of entrees you use them for)

*Pictures (great to sort out for various scrapbook pages)

*Make up and toiletries when traveling

*Jewelry when traveling (put teeny bags down in one quart bag)

*Individual snack bags for outings

*Lunch items in packed lunches

*Math manipulatives

*Small book and tape sets (I have various sizes of book and tape sets and other "kits" and "sets" in different sizes of bags, hanging by clothes pins with hangers on top (I think they're for lingerie drying—clothes pin at bottom and hanger at top from dollar store) on a rod

*Put small amount of cookies, bars, or fudge on small foam plates and slide in quart bags. Freeze unstacked, then stack and store in freezer—ready to go!

*Markers, crayons, colored pencils

*Card games

One Gallon

*Freezer entrees too big for quart and not layered in pan—push out air and freeze flat, then stack

*8 ½ x 11 or less paper projects

*Opened cheeses, precleaned veggies, etc.

*Things for the beach or pool—won't matter if they get wet or sandy

*Protect small magazines and books when traveling (keep them from getting wet or sandy!)

*Non-frozen foods that go with entrees—stick chips, ff onions, etc. in zip locks when giving freezer meals that need additions later to others (I like to give everything that goes with a meal, if possible—so if I give frozen chili, I would put small jar of peanut butter, loaf of bread, and saltines all in a bag together and mark on that "to go with chili")

*Meat you buy in bulk and divide up into meal sized portions

*Book and tape sets (as described in quart size—I have tons of these hanging that I have collected at garage sales, Goodwill, etc. through the years)

*Games that are in bad repair—put box or at least label of game in bag too

Two Gallon—my favorite, of course!

*Overfull frozen casseroles can be slid into these (even foil pans)

*Tons of meat to marinate

*Keep one in freezer marked "soup starter"—throw anything that would be okay to add to vegetable (or stone!) soup—gravy, leftover veggies, leftover broths, meat chunks/pieces, etc.—it's actually very good!

*Projects and returns—I currently have the following in them: (1) journal with old

calendar pages to catch up “someday”; (2) scrapbooking magazines with bound index cards to cut ideas from and glue onto cards; (3) Edits to go to typesetter—with multiple pieces, cd’s, etc.; (4) frames and pics to be assembled and hung; (5) borrowed things to return—a book, a movie, a scrapbooking cutter, and some special scissors; (5) things left here by a student—sweatshirt, book, folder, pencils;

*Changes of clothes or shoes/socks for after church, etc. when we go from church to zoo or park, etc.

*Dance shoes and hoes

XL Ziplocks –new ones in the last couple of years, like an oversized tote bag

*Giving things to someone that have multiple pieces (I just loaned someone a lot of books and tapes, etc.—carried it all in this bag—then she can store it all in there while she borrows them)

*Swimming—I like putting swimming toys, etc. in here, then when we come home, our wet things can go in as well

*Extra cooler items—when we’re going for a few days, we put extra drinks in these bags, then refill the cooler as it empties

Section III: Language Arts and Homeschooling Helps

10. Meaningful Comp: For Those Who Want the Directed Writing Approach But Don’t “Want It All”

After a year of distributing CQLA, we discovered, to our amazement, that there were people who did not “want it all.” They liked the idea of a directed writing approach, but did not desire to do copy work, comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage, composition, creative writing, editing and revising, and dictation. They wanted a simple grammar book and writing book. Because of that, we excerpted our “writing only” portions of CQLA into composition books—and since they still contain the meaningful content of CQLA, we called them *Meaningful Composition*. Below are the details for those desiring that type of program.

Meaningful Comp Overview

- *Eighteen week programs with one and two week reports from outlining through writing through revising with a detailed, usage-based checklist (Checklist Challenge--CC) through final product
- *All writing is directed--student is taught step by step what to write, how many paragraphs, what should go into each paragraph, etc.
- *One semester in length (18 weeks) if used alone 30-70 minutes per day, depending on level
- *Two semesters in length (36 weeks) if used along with a grammar-only program like Easy Grammar or Jensen's Grammar (not with another language arts program that already includes writing as that would be too much)
- *Report and essay content, both in given material for KWO writing and for original assignments, is character, principle, historical, and scientific based (i.e. diligence, honoring authorities, godly missionaries, historic battles and treaties, butterflies, salt, etc.-all related back to character and godly principles)

Meaningful Comp A—third through fifth grade

- *Starts with sentences (parts of a sentence)
- *Only book that outlines the basic parts of speech (as related to what a sentence contains)
- *Moves from sentence writing to combining types of sentences (topic sentences, closing sentences, support sentences) into paragraphs quickly
- *Practices dozens of paragraph writing/outlining models--question/answer, personal mapping, other mapping, list making, 5 W's, fill in the support sentences when topic and closing sentences are given, and more
- *Multiple paragraph writing introduced, including transitioning, paragraph as unit of thought/aspect of a topic, paragraph breakdown, etc.

- *Introduction and detailed teaching of how to do the Key Word Outline (KWO) over given material
- *Multiple paragraph report introduction over given material via KWO
- *Introduction and detailed teaching of how to complete the basics of the Checklist Challenge (CC) (i.e. not quotation writing, advanced sentence combining, etc.)
- *Broken down day by day
- *Excellent remediation for students who have had a lot of grammar but have never mastered solid, detailed paragraph and multi-paragraph writing; very gentle writing introduction (even high schoolers have used this over a month or two period of time as remediation)

Meaningful Comp B—sixth through eighth grade

- *Starts with introduction and detailed teaching of how to do the Key Word Outline (KWO) over given material
- *Many KWO reports and essays with given material over character-based, historical, and scientific topics (i.e. endurance, George Washington Carver, trees, etc.)
- *Starts early on with introduction and detailed teaching of how to do the Checklist Challenge, including more difficult revision items not given in MC A
- *Original, directed reports from outlining, to writing, to CC, to final product, including informative, persuasive, narrative, etc.
- *Broken down into one and two week lessons
- *Excellent remediation for students who have had a lot of grammar but have never mastered multi-paragraph writing and for those who have not learned how to do the KWO and CC since detailed instructions are included in this book

Meaningful Comp C—high school

- *A couple of KWO reports/essays
- *Main focus is on two week original reports and essays from outlining to writing to CC, to final product, including informative, persuasive, narrative, instructional, story writing, and more
- *Lengthy CC's given for each report/essay to promote application of grammar and usage skills
- *Broken down into one and two week lessons
- *Introduces and practices five paragraph and timed essay for SAT preparations

11. Homeschooling Tip by Vera Berry

Fellow long-time homeschool mom and loop friend, Vera Berry, has been writing and collecting homeschool tips—and she agreed to share them here! Thanks, Vera!

We did this very thing described below with our older kids—and similar things during church (i.e. put a smiley face in front of the word God written on a paper every time he hears God spoken, etc.). Those were the days!

How can you do Bible studies or devotions when you can't read but wish you could? Don't you just love the times in your child's life right before they learn to read? It is just like crawling, walking, or riding a bike. They try so hard, then finally they are ready and it is like the light goes on, and "click," they can do it! You can't force a six month old to walk. My five year old is on the verge of reading. He loves doing his phonics, but keeps asking me when he will be able to read! Even though he can say enough sounds of the alphabet letters to read simple words, he hasn't broken the reading code yet! We are anticipating it anytime. He just wants to read so much.

In the meantime I have him this little project he can do and he just loves it. I gave him one of those Bible highlighting pencils and wrote the word "God" on the inside cover of his Bible. Then I found the word "God" in his Bible and highlighted it. I told him to "search" his Bible and find the Word "God." When he finds the word "God," he highlights it, then continues to search for the same word, highlighting it each time he finds the word "God." I have since added other words to his list of search words on the inside cover of his Bible, such as "Lord" and "Jesus." He does this activity at home during our Wisdom Searches many times. He takes his Bible to church and does this activity during the sermon. He also asks many times in the middle of the day if he can search his Bible for words. He keeps the Bible highlighter pencil in his Bible cover pocket so he always ready to search for words.

This is a really fun activity for pre-readers; plus they are searching in God's Word while we do wisdom searches, listening to sermons, or another time during the day. Anytime is a good time to search God's Word! It is nice for little ones to be able to search the Bible and find something too; plus it's a good quiet activity and keeps them busy with their hands.

Section IV: Heart Helps

12. Merry Heart: "Sumptuous Children"

When our older children were little, we worked very hard teaching them to be grateful and respectful to adults—and not be presumptuous. When they could barely speak, they could already say the word presumptuous (well, sort of)—and used it correctly in speech. It wasn't uncommon to overhear one of them correcting a younger sibling: "Don't ask that; you're being 'sumptuous.'" Or "Mommy, Cami asked for gum from

Grandma—she's being 'sumptuous again!"

We taught them that being presumptuous meant, as it actually does, to presume upon someone. It comes out in expecting things given to us, asking for things we shouldn't ask for, talking when we shouldn't talk (presuming that adults want children to dominate a conversation, etc.).

I always wondered why children often seemed so presumptuous. Didn't their parents teach them not to be 'sumptuous? Can't Mommy just explain that you don't ask for that or presume upon an adult?

Then it happened...my just reward for thinking that others should simply teach their children not to be 'sumptuous. I gave birth to a child who came out of the womb being presumptuous. From the moment he was born, he presumed many things. He wouldn't cooperate with breastfeeding; he presumed that everyone wanted to hold him and entertain him all the time; he was late learning to speak, but when he did learn, he would say anything to anybody. No amount of "'sumptuous training" seemed to help.

I have worked day and night with this child—and we all continue to do so. He's as sweet as he can be, but, quite frankly, he can be, well, 'sumptuous—even as an eight year old.

His most recent presumptuous activity occurred at the pediatrician's office earlier this summer. As usual, he began talking to the doctor and nurse about his life. I often have to signal him to not talk so much or to be quiet and listen to the doctor, etc. This time, the doctor asked him whether he was off from school or if he had to do school in the summer. (He is a father of six young children, devoted Catholic, and enjoys our family's visit—and we enjoy him, as well.)

I explained that we are doing summer school, but it's a lot lighter than regular school, etc. True to Jackie's 'sumptuous nature, he spoke up: "Yeah. Regular school is like being whipped with the cat-o-nine tails, but summer school is only like having salt rubbed in your eyes!"

I guess nobody can say this little boy who is behind in reading and writing isn't educated—how many other second graders understand medieval torture and make elaborate analogies! ☺

13. Heart Tip For Young Adult: Spend Summer With Them!

Need some ideas of how to influence/mentor your young adults before school begins again. Some ideas that we are doing this summer include a weekly book study meeting in which we all read certain chapters of a book (by ourselves) for

that week then meet to discuss them; late night milkshakes (sweets always help the college age bunch!); lunches with Dad; swimming outings (in which we wrestle the big lounge from the boys and sunbathe and talk—tee hee); midnight talks about life; bonfire nights; scrapbooking together; tennis and walks; etc. What else do we have to do with our lives if it's not investing in our kids????

Section III: Article From TFT

"I Want an Oompa Loompa Now, Daddy! Part II of III" By Donna Reish

Disobedience or Childishness?

In disciplining our children, Ray and I try to determine whether their behavior was rebellion against us (as in outright disobedience or disrespect) or childishness (forgetfulness, procrastination, sloppiness, etc.). We do this because disobedience requires punishment, and childishness requires a different disciplinary approach. Discerning between disobedience and childishness can be so difficult! Even after twenty-three years of parenting, Ray and I still continuously ask each other which behavior a child is displaying.

Difficult or not, we must do it. The Bible says that we are not to exasperate our children. Two sure ways to exasperate them are to discipline incorrectly (in anger, etc.) and to discipline something as disobedience when we should be training through consequences.

All parents are faced with this---parents of many are just faced with it more often! A child dawdles when we call him to come get ready for bed, and we wonder whether this is just childishness or if it is real disobedience. Our son leaves the dog out all night rather than kenneling him (for the third night in a row), and the pooch potties on the new carpet; we ask ourselves if our little guy is disobeying or forgetting because children (and adults) forget things---and need help remembering.

When our older children were little, we taught them what we called "obedience math." It goes like this:

Obedience + Own Method = Disobedience
Obedience + Delay = Disobedience
Obedience + Incompleteness = Disobedience
Obedience + Bad Attitude = Disobedience

Obedience math sums up the saying, "Do what you are told, when you are told, how you are told, with a good attitude." Thus, disobedience math is not childishness but outright disobedience.

It is not childishness when a child is given a direct command, and he does something different than he is told. It is not childishness when a child is given a direct command, and he waits and does it on his own timetable. It is not childishness when a child is given a direct command, and he only does part of the command. It is not childishness when a child is given a command, and he complies but does it with a bad attitude. All of those are disobedience and should be punished.

Benchmarks for Determining Disobedience and Childishness

Through our years of parenting seven children (currently ages seven through twenty-three), we have established a few benchmarks that have helped us determine if a behavior is disobedience or childishness.

One benchmark is the age of the one violating the command. If I tell my seven-year-old son to go unload the dishwasher right now and when he comes into the dining room to put some knives away, he starts watching his brother play a computer game and forgets about his dishes, he is being childish. Seven year olds get distracted! He doesn't need severe punishment for his infraction. He needs reminding and, perhaps, consequences if he is characterized by getting sidetracked by computer games.

However, if my thirteen year old is told to go take the trash to the corner and then come back and help his brothers straighten the family room, and he stops to shoot baskets for fifteen minutes, he is more than likely disobeying. He should be mature and responsible enough by that time to consider his brothers' feelings as they do his portion of the work. He should be obedient enough to go do the job he is told, then come back inside and do the next job.

Another benchmark is whether the violation was of a direct command just given or a routine or schedule type command. For instance, when I tell my seven year old to go unload the dishes right now, and he decides he would rather go upstairs to play Legoes, he has directly disobeyed me and needs punished. However, when he

finishes his morning routine and is supposed to (according to the schedule) go directly to the dishwasher and start unloading, and he sometimes starts looking at books instead, he is more than likely displaying childishness and probably needs consequences (or a chore chart, etc.) to turn that childishness around.

Reality Discipline

In I Corinthians, Paul says that when he was a child, he thought as a child, but now that he is grown, he thinks differently. This tells us that children do not have the capability of thinking things through like adults have (or should have). (Piaget didn't have anything up on Paul!)

That's why Jacob (age seven) stops to watch the computer game when he is supposed to be unloading the dishes. It is why my thirteen year old son forgets to kennel the dog some nights. It is called childishness, and every child has it! (After all, in part, that's what we love about them!)

As parents, it is our job to help our children transition from childhood to adulthood, from childishness to responsibility. We do this by making them responsible for their behavior. We make them responsible for their behavior by giving them consequences for inappropriate irresponsibility.

Notice I say *inappropriate* irresponsibility. I always try to remember that I sometimes forget to kennel the dog when the boys are at church and it's my responsibility. I try to remember that I sometimes do not run the dishwasher before I go to bed when I tell the kids not to worry about it, for I'll take care of it. I try to remember that there have been times when I have had a stack of checks in my purse to deposit for days only to discover that I forgot to deposit them---and my checking account was overdrawn. I try to remember that I sometimes let my "junk drawer" accumulate until the drawer can hardly open--and it breaks.

I love what I learned twenty years ago in Kevin Leman's book, *Make Your Kids Mind Without Losing Yours*. In that book, he describes reality discipline. I was a very young mother (just over twenty) with only one child at the time that I read it. I remember thinking that reality discipline made so much sense. In part, I think I saw it as so appropriate because I was still an irresponsible kid myself in many ways!

Regardless of why it made sense to me, it did, and my husband and I pored over that book until we understood the concepts Mr. Leman presented. We began implementing it immediately---as much as we could. (The majority of infractions committed by a three-year-old are disobedience and require punishment.)

Reality discipline says that the consequences of a child's behavior should match the behavior. We should strive to make the consequences of our children's childishness to

be as natural as the consequences that an adult might encounter when he or she commits a similar infraction.

Basis of Reality Discipline

For example, when we forget to deposit checks into our checking account, we get charged for being overdrawn (and incredibly embarrassed). When we don't clean out our junk drawer, it gets full, the drawer won't shut completely, we can't find anything, and it takes longer to clean out later when we finally get around to cleaning it. These are natural consequences.

For children, reality discipline means setting up consequences (unless they naturally occur like in the case of forgetting to study for a spelling test) that are appropriate for the infraction. For Jakie who looks at books instead of unloading the dishes after his morning routine, he might not get his computer time (his free time; he already took part of it), or he might not get to choose two stories during story time (he already looked at his books). For Jonathan forgetting to kennel the dog three times in a row, he, perhaps needs more kenneling practice. Maybe he should have dog responsibility for an entire week instead of two days a week.

Of course, there are instances in which grace is extended. Just like the bank occasionally calls to tell us that we are overdrawn and asks us if we would like for them to move money out of the newspaper-delivery-business account into the family account, we extend grace to our irresponsible children. Just like when my husband surprises me by cleaning out the junk drawer while I'm at a meeting (thwarting the natural consequences I would have endured), I extend grace to my childish little ones.

But just like in real life---too much grace for my irresponsibility, and I become lax---and more irresponsible. Too much grace for my seven-year-old's disregard for the dishwashing schedule, and he becomes more childish rather than less childish. Sounds like the Lord's prescription for working with us---a balance of grace and justice---grace because He loves us and justice because He loves us too much to let us remain as we are.

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Watch this space in July's E Newsletter, Part III (final part): Large Family Discipline; Taking Back Control; A Baker's Dozen Discipline Tips