



An endeavour by Brighton International School, Raipur to reach out to Parents on the subject of Parenting & Child Care

WHY DO CHILDREN LIE?

“Mummy, I’m going to Shivam’s house for group study”, Rahul shouted in a hurry to inform his mother. Mother was very happy to observe that Rahul had started taking interest in studies and had become more responsible. Same evening Rahul’s mother met Mrs. Gupta and was surprised to know that there was a party organized at her house for her son’s birthday, Rahul and his friends were there to attend the party and did not go Shivam’s house for group studies, to her extreme surprise Rahul had conveyed wrong marks for his weekly tests too. It was quite unbelievable for Rahul’s mother as she had a belief that Rahul never tells lie and always give her right information.

If we observe carefully, these were petty things where telling lie was not at all required, then why did Rahul choose to tell a lie rather than conveying the right information? Was Rahul always like that? Don’t you think telling lie on these petty things may develop Rahul as a liar in future?

It’s not the case only with Rahul; we may also come across the situations where we feel shocked to know that our child conveyed the wrong information to us on minor issues too. Now the question arises how our child learnt to tell a lie while we never taught this to him/her, neither the school taught it.

Just ask yourself:

- Do I want to have a complete command over the actions of my child which includes eating, sleeping, going out, studying and many more regular activities where child seeks some freedom (especially for teenagers)?
- Do I scold or insult my child for his/her failures?
- Do I always seek perfection in every work my child does?
- Do I expect 100 % performance from my child in every situation?

If the answer to most of the above questions is ‘Yes’, then somewhere we are only responsible to force our children to tell lie, because according to the children we are not accepting them the way they are or we are not allowing them to do the things, as they want. Giving 100% freedom to children is not possible, we can’t leave them to do whatever they want but expecting their actions to be exactly according to our wish is also not appropriate. It’s fair to expect that child must study sincerely but spending time with friends once in a while does no harm. In case we don’t allow them, the results may be same as in Rahul’s case. It’s not wrong to expect good results from the child but at the same time we need to remember that our expectations must match with our child’s capability.

Let your child accept success and failure respectfully, let the child learn from failures. Always remember if praise gives motivation to perform better than criticism, anger and scolding may kill the willingness to do something for improvement. Support your children at the time of failure rather than scolding them, make them understand the importance of doing things sincerely. Your child badly needs a support at the time of failure in any endeavour.

The scolding and anger demotivates the child and hence the child starts hiding the truth with a threat of facing parent’s reaction as Rahul did by hiding the marks.

Our expectations, unnecessary scolding or anger just to keep a control over the child may force the child to convey wrong information out of fear. It’s not that the child will stop doing things, it’s only they will start hiding the things from parents, even being conscious of the fact that it’s not good to hide the information and tell lies. This will result into a guilt feeling in child’s mind which will no longer exist once it becomes a regular practice for child to tell lies and will definitely create a distance between the child and the parent, which is never a motive of constructive parenting.