



The Family Tech

Myyoungchild.org Teaches Children Values Through Online Stories

As a parent, do you get a sinking feeling when you turn on the television news and hear tales of children shooting children, of parents hiding their son in an attic to attract attention to their weather balloon invention, of famed performers and sports players spewing disrespectful comments? Myyoungchild.org provides just the resources parents and educators need to help teach children values and ethics in a world that sometimes seems adrift.

Sixteen beautifully illustrated online stories present situations that 3-7 year old children can relate to:

- learning right from wrong
- sharing at school
- respecting friends and grandparents
- telling the truth
- being fair and responsible
- developing patience
- dealing with bullies
- showing good manners

The stories on the easily accessible site use entertaining charac-

ters in situations that children can connect to their daily lives. Each story is followed by parenting tips targeted to specific social and ethical skills/tips that explain to parents at what age children can understand different moral concepts, how to talk to their children about these issues, and examples of how parents can help their children develop these values and ethics. A 3-minute online video illustrates through pictures and quotations the rewards of parenting, and is ideal to be used in a school setting with parents. Other educational sections on the website include suggestions for parents on how to teach literacy, suggestions for educators on how to teach values and social skills in the curriculum, and how to use the stories to develop literacy. All materials on Myyoungchild.org can be downloaded and used freely with children, parents, and educators.

Myyoungchild.org is a non-profit site developed by the Early Parenting Foundation. It was be-

gan by Wilbur S. Edwards, a recent retiree from a long career in the educational video production market, who felt strongly that certain values were lacking in our society. He enlisted Nancy Morgan, an educational consultant he had worked with before, and Holly Bell, a preschool teacher and illustrator, to create the online stories. "Our stories give parents and teachers the tools so they can discuss important values with children such as honesty, integrity, respect, and values that are so needed in our society today. Our goal is to help children make good choices and lead more satisfying lives," says Edwards.

Editor's Note: We tested this site on our own preschool children, and they loved it! Because it was on the computer, which we only allow them to use at special times, they thought this reading experience was really fun. The illustrations are so cute, and they really kept the kids' attention. Not to mention the awesome life lessons...