

PARENTING MATTERS



When you become either three, four or may be even five from being two, the world seems, feels and looks different. I am not talking about numerical calculations but parenthood. So, what is parenting and does it matter at all?

Here is a conversation between a mother and a son: Taken from “Good Enough Parenting” by John and Karen Louis (2012)

Mother: Hi son! I am just curious to know what you would do if one of your peers called you an idiot?

Son: (spontaneously) I would tell him that he was an idiot.

Mother: What if one of your teachers called you an idiot?

Son: (thoughtfully and reluctantly) Well, I probably would not tell him he was an idiot, but I would think about it.

Mother: Okay. What would you do if I told you that you were an idiot?

Son: (slowly, with sadness in his tone) Well, I would probably get angry, (pause) but I might believe you.

This is the impact of parenting. In the conversation above, the boy responded in a polite manner expressing how he would be deeply impacted by his Mother’s comment, but is it the case always? Some children can respond arrogantly, angrily, throw a fit, get into a shell or feel totally depressed. Parenting is an investment through our behaviour, body language, words, actions, in all our interactions with our children. What they receive over time, slowly, becomes a part of their being, involuntarily. Our words can either build our children or shatter them completely. Let us consciously consider what comes out of our mouths when we speak to our children!

By Sheeba John