

The Key Of Cooperation

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In this week's Free The Horses lesson, the characters learn that they must cooperate in order to find the last key needed to free the horses. Each character tries to solve the problem (move Merlin's Rock) by himself, but without success. In order to solve a difficult problem, the group learn that they can accomplish more if they cooperate. When they collaborate on the problem, they are able to move the rock, outsmart Zor and find the Key of Cooperation which was hidden under the rock. The group can now proceed to try to unlock the gate and let the horses run free.



Suggestions for the week:

1. When you want a family member to cooperate in handling responsibilities, chores or even belongings, start with a polite request. Sometime we wait until we are "boiling" before we make a request. The kind of interaction that results contributes to "child deafness" and our needs go unmet. A polite request, "It's that time of year and the leaves are on the ground. I need help raking them. Can you help me for an hour today?", can go far.
2. "None of us is as smart as all of us". If this statement is true, then the family working together to solve a problem will come up with better solutions than any one family member working alone. Children feel respected and appreciated when a parent enlists their brainpower in solving problems. The parent can say, "I have a problem and I would appreciate your generating some ideas with me to help me find a solution". The ideas suggested may be more valuable than you ever believed.
3. Encourage children to bring a family problem to a "Family council meeting". Use the outline below for finding and implementing a solution:
 - define the problem
 - Share any feelings about the problem
 - list possible solutions
 - judge the solutions and choose the best alternative
 - take action
4. Children are more likely to cooperate if they feel they have been heard. Reflect the feelings behind their words when they bring a problem to you; try withholding lectures and advice and see what effect it has on "winning their cooperation".
5. Finally, since teamwork is the theme here, try this idea for strengthening your family interactions: Think together, Act Together, Enjoy Together the satisfaction of a job completed or a problem solved.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Zadorozny & the grade 2 Teaching Team
Child Development Advisor