

Are you robbing your kids?

by Lisa McKimm



If you are a parent, it is pretty likely that at some stage or other you will have experienced the feeling of wanting to step in and protect your kids from the consequences of their actions.

It might be caused by your four year old who has insisted all day on picking the kitten up by the tail, and who has finally received a couple of claws of retribution.

Or maybe you have a heartbroken eight year old - who has spent all of her money on lollies. Because she is bereft as she has nothing to spend at the \$2 shop where her sisters are shopping up a storm - you find yourself digging into your purse for her.

Or maybe you've written a letter to the teacher excusing the fact that your son's assignment is incomplete - even though he has had three weeks to do it.

Or you have continued to clean your daughter's bedroom for her because 'they're only kids once'.

Or you apologise on behalf of your child because she refuses to do so.

I could keep going with a thousand examples. Having raised four kids, I recall only too well the temptation to be a 'life-guard' for my kids each time they jumped into the deep end of life.

My instincts would want to take over, and I would be driven to make everything alright! I learnt somewhere along the way though, that if I did this on a regular basis - I would be robbing them.

Cheating them of the opportunity to learn the valuable life lessons that these opportunities had to offer.

Think about the value of the lessons below that could have been missed out on.

1. If you mistreat animals, they start mistreating humans.
2. You can't spend your money twice.
3. Meet your commitments responsibly to avoid unpleasant outcomes.
4. If we mess it up - we have to clean it up.
5. When I'm in the wrong and I don't apologise, it damages my relationships with others.

When you think of it this way - how could a loving parent possibly deprive their children of such gifts and opportunities?

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