

WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT ANYWAY?

[BY LISA PERRECONI](#), MCPC MAY 1, 2011

If our goal as parents is to raise responsible citizens then it is our job to figure out how to make our children learn accountability. I guess it would be easy if we took a minute to think about who the problem belongs to when there is a problem. For example: If my kid does something that affects them and not me...it's their problem. If they do something that affects me, but not them...it's my problem. Some examples, Chores not being done, loud music, missing curfews, keeping me up late at night...these are examples of my problem. On the other hand, if my kid loses his books, clothes, gets bad grades, has a poor choice of friends, crazy bedtime schedules...that's their problem. This can get a little fuzzy. Some parents make the mistake thinking that they have to fix everything and that everything their kid does or doesn't do is their problem. Parents say, "What do you mean? If my kid loses his book then I have to buy him a new one, then that's my problem." Well, I disagree. It's only your problem if you buy him a second book and rob him the lesson in accountability. If the parent bought the first one, then I think it's only fair that the person who lost it replaces it. Isn't that how the real world works? If a parent can separate out who owns the problem then we will have a clearer mind on how to deal with it. Think REAL WORLD consequences. Isn't that what we are preparing them for anyway? Surviving and thriving in the REAL WORLD.

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