19. SUBJECT: Conflict Help: Natural Consequences

I tend to do a lot of talking as a parent—too much talking, really. I get the sense sometimes that my kids are just hearing “blah, blah, blah” when I speak. Can you relate?

And unfortunately, all the talking, reminding, and correcting creates a lot of conflict between me and my children.

I’ve discovered a better way, and I want to share it with you.

Here’s today’s *Tip for Modern Parents*:

**Natural consequences are a much better teacher than all the lectures in the world.**

I’m trying to let things play out a bit more in our home. Didn’t get your homework done on time? You’ll have to talk to your teacher about that. Didn’t get your assigned chores done? No worries—you can just pay me to do them for you.

Natural consequences have two great benefits:

1) They function in the same way the real (adult) world works.

2) They take a lot of pressure off parents to do all the talking, reminding, etc.

Natural consequences help with conflict resolution because this approach takes responsibility and places it squarely on the child’s shoulders. The question for the child then becomes: “What am I going to do about this problem I’ve created?”

Onward to better parenting,

ADD NAME