

Parents

I have been receiving many emails from parents with more and more concerns about their children and teenagers. My heart goes out to them all, and I keep questioning – why? Why so much anguish? Why so many children in crisis?

I encourage all parents and people who work with children to remember that children are children – they have immature emotional literacy, gaps in their social education, delays in their development, confusion about needs and wants, and all of them wish to be loved and valued exactly as they are, not how they could be. This is normal for children – and many of the concerns may stem from the pressures of living in our chaotic world. We all need to step back from judging and criticising how children grow and develop – even children with special needs are still children who need play, fun and laughter to help them enjoy life. There are no quick fixes to raising children to be decent human beings! No magic pills or potions – it takes time, love and tenderness – with apologies to Michael Bolton!!!

Children are quick to forgive, respond even quicker to nurturing love and kindness, and are just a moment away from being magical if we protect them from the shallow and superficial things in life.

“It doesn't matter who a child's parents' are
Where they live
How much money they have
What culture they follow
Children don't care.

What does matter in the lives
Of children,
Yours, mine and others
Is that we feel, we listen and we care.”

From “It doesn't matter” by Maggie Dent
(For full copy of poem go to free downloads on parenting link)

If you are worried about a child – slow their life down, connect with them from where they are, play with them or simply be with them in our natural world. Take the stress away for just a short time – and allow children to be immersed in the child-like imaginary world. They are only children for such a short time – let them be!!!

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Maggie Dent
quietly improving lives