



DATABASE: 6700 WHANAU CARERS

From the National Office



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- 1 1/3 cups of very hot water
- 1 ¼ Tbsp glycerine
- ¾ Tbsp soap flakes
- ½ Tbsp sugar & food colouring

Pour hot water into a pint jar. Add soap flakes and let dissolve. Add glycerine, sugar and a few drops of food colouring.

Shake until everything is dissolved. Strain thru cheesecloth and let cool. Do not use until all the small bubbles

have settled down. Have fun, but do not let the children drink, supervise them.

8 Ways to Prevent and Discipline Stealing

How to Address Stealing

Little fingers tend to be sticky, allowing foreign objects to mysteriously find their way into little pockets. Before lamenting that you are harbouring a little thief in your house, take a moment to understand why stealing is a common issue and how to handle this problem.

1. Understand why kids steal

Like lying, “stealing” is an adult term that may not mean anything to young children. Candy found clutched in a sticky fist after going through a checkout line or a toy car that turns up in the pocket of a four-year-old after a visit to a friend’s house is not proof that your child is already a delinquent. To the preschool child, possession means ownership. In a child’s mind he has a right to anything within grabbing distance. Children under four have difficulty distinguishing between “mine” and “yours.” Everything is potentially “mine.” They don’t know that palming a piece of candy at the grocery store is stealing until you tell them so. In the child’s mind he has done no wrong until the parents pass judgment.



Many preschool children can’t curb their impulses. They see the toy, feel they must have it, and take it without any judgment as to the rightness or wrongness of the action. Instead of guilt, they feel relief that their craving is satisfied. The more impulsive the child, the more likely he is to help himself to things.

Around five to seven years of age children develop a hazy notion of the wrongness of stealing. They can understand the concept of ownership and property rights. They come to terms with the reality that the whole world doesn’t belong to them and begin to understand the rightness or wrongness of taking things that don’t belong to them — stealing. Also, by this age the child may become a more clever thief. Still his deterrent is more the fear of adult retaliation than an understanding of the immorality of stealing. Jimmy may recognize that it’s wrong for Jason to keep the baseball cards he “borrowed,” but the next day Jimmy may want to hang on to Jeff’s prized cowboy pistol and bring it home at the end of the play session.

Stopping petty stealing and teaching its wrongness may seem to some like a smallie, but learning honesty in small matters paves the way for biggies later. A child must learn to control impulses, delay gratification, and respect the rights and property of others.

2. Practice attachment parenting

Because connected children are more sensitive, they are better able to understand and respect the rights of others. These concepts sink in deeper and at an earlier age. Connected children feel remorse when they have done wrong because they develop a finely-tuned conscience sooner. It’s easier to teach values to attachment-parented children. These kids have the ability to empathize and understand the effects of their actions on others. And they have parents who are putting their time in, being with their children enough to realize when they stray into these gray zones. Connected kids have an innate respect for maintaining trust between people. Lying, cheating, and stealing violate this sense of trust.

Because attachment parents know their children so well, they can read facial and body language cues that reveal a child’s hidden misbehaviour. And because of the parent-child connection, the child is more likely to accept the parents’ advice and values. Because they trust their parents, connected kids are also more likely to come clean when confronted. They find it harder to lie about their actions because they feel wrong when they act wrong and they know that their parents can read that “suspicious look.”

3. Lead them not into temptation

Children will take money from family members almost as though it is community property. They may even rationalize “I’ll give it back when I can.” Teach your children to keep their financial affairs private. Money

should be kept in a locked box which is stored in a secret place. Anytime money is lent, an “IOU” should be required to help them remember who owes what to whom. You should also keep your money inaccessible, except for smaller amounts in your purse or wallet that must be asked for. Sure family members trust one another, but give them credit for being human and don’t allow temptation in the path. If someone comes to us and complains “Someone took my five dollars,” we ask “Where were you keeping it?” We don’t bother detecting the perpetrator — as we said above, we know conscience is at work. And, we will not be put in the position of being responsible for the safe-keeping of money for those old enough to do it themselves. Siblings, after all, are not the only possible suspects. Our kids have learned the hard way you can’t trust everyone. This is in itself a good lesson for life.

4. Teach Ownership

Toddlers have no concept of ownership. Everything belongs to a two-year-old. Between two and four a child can understand ownership (the toy belongs to someone else), but may not fully believe that the toy doesn’t also belong to him. Even as young as two, begin teaching “mine” and “yours.” During toddler toy squabbles the parent referee can award the toy to the rightful owner, but don’t expect this concept to sink in fully until around the age of four. Look for other opportunities to reinforce the concept of ownership: “This toy belongs to Mary,” “Here’s Billy’s teddy bear,” “Whose shoes are these?” As the child grasps the idea of ownership and the rights that go along with it, teach the logical conclusion that ignoring these rights is wrong.

Correct wishful ownership. “It’s mine,” insists the four-year-old whose detective parents discover a suspicious toy in his backpack. “You wish the toy was yours,” replies the parent. “But now tell daddy who this toy really belongs to.” “Johnny,” the child confesses. Capitalizing on this teachable moment you reply, “If Johnny took your toy, especially if it was one you really liked, you would feel very sad that your toy was missing. What would you want him to do?” The best way to teach lasting values is to draw the lessons out of a child rather than imposing them. You want the “give it back” idea to come from the child if at all possible.

5. Correct The Steal

Getting the thief to give back the goods sometimes requires masterful negotiating. Encouraging and helping the child to return stolen goods teaches not only that stealing is wrong, but also that wrongs must be made right. If you find an empty candy wrapper, go ahead and trot the offender back to the store with payment and an apology.

6. Identify The Trigger

Find out what prompts the child to steal. The child who steals habitually despite your teaching about honesty usually has a deep-seated problem that needs fixing. Is the child angry? Does he steal to vent the anger? Does the child need money and feel that stealing is the only way he can get what he believes he needs? If so, offer an allowance. Help him get odd jobs. Help the child learn work ethics so that he

can earn the toys instead of steal them. Most of the time a child who habitually steals is suffering from a poor self-image and needs to steal to boost his worth or get attention. As in handling all behavioural problems, it’s often necessary to take inventory of your whole family situation. Does your child need more supervision? Perhaps, some redefining of priorities and reconnecting with your child is in order.

7. Identify the child at risk to steal

Watch for these risk factors:

- Poor self-esteem
- Impulsiveness: strong desire, but weak control
- Generally insensitive to others



- Not connected
- Angry
- Change in family situation, for example, divorce
- generally bored
- alone a lot

If you focus on helping your child deal with these risk factors, lying and stealing should subside.

It's important to get to the bottom of stealing. If the problems behind chronic stealing and lying are uncorrected, they tend to snowball. With repeated misdeeds, the child convinces himself that stealing is not really wrong. He desensitizes himself to his own conscience and to your teachings. The child without remorse is at high risk for becoming an adult without controls. With attachment parenting, even if a child is not "caught in the act," he will punish himself sufficiently with the remorse he will feel. He won't want to repeat wrong actions.

8. Praise honesty

The five-year-old finds somebody's wallet and brings it to you. Praise him to the limit for his action! "Thank you for bringing Mommy the wallet you found. Now let's see if we can find out who it belongs to. I'll bet that person will be very happy you found it, just like you would feel if you lost something special and someone returned it." Avoid saying, "Thank you for telling the truth." Some children may not even have thought of keeping the wallet, and you don't want to plant in their minds the option of being dishonest. Whatever praise you give, convey the message that your child did just what you expected.

<http://www.askdrsears.com/topics/parenting/discipline-behavior/morals-manners/stealing-8-ways-prevent-and-discipline-stealing>

Has Your Child Ever?

HAS YOUR CHILD EVER screwed up Easter egg foil paper and stuck it up his nose? And then started jumping up and down in a frenzy. The end 'happy' result being a quick trip to the doctor who retrieved the Easter egg paper with long tweezers while giving YOU a lecture about the dangers of putting things up kid's noses! As if I put it up there!!

HAS YOUR CHILD EVER told a lie but really didn't tell a lie? Like when my child cut his own hair because he wanted to look cool. And you look at him in shock and make a quick trip to a hairdresser who tries to fix it up. And the child goes to school with this weird haircut not quite fixed up and the teacher asks him WHO CUT YOUR HAIR? And he points to a girl in his class and says 'HER MOTHER CUT MY HAIR'. Which was the truth, but not the whole truth? The girl's mother being the hairdresser who was only trying to make things right but who comes out looking like a bad hairdresser!

HAS YOUR CHILD EVER embarrassed you by dancing and pulling faces in front of a blind lady you were visiting as part of a school project on guide dogs for blind people? And you can't reprimand him because if you did the blind lady would know what he was doing? CRINGE BIG TIME.

At last he's grown up and turned out to be caring, loving and responsible with a great sense of humour, making all the sacrifices and worries absolutely worthwhile. So worthwhile, that you would go through it all again. Well good luck my grandparent friends, because we are all doing just that. We are going through it all again with our grandchildren. Keep smiling.

Overseas Travel

We have had a lot of enquiries about overseas travel with the children we raise. There are a number of issues to be considered.

If you have/do not have additional guardianship through the Family Court: You must consult with the other guardians about taking children overseas. We advise you get permission in writing from all guardians witnessed by a JP or Registrar of the Court. If other guardians do not agree you have the option of taking this through the Family Court (which will involve further cost) to get a decision from a Judge. You will have to produce flight return tickets.

Do not overstay your visit! We know of a grand that did this and the parents invoked the Hague Convention and the grand had all their passports confiscated by the Federal Police and the children were returned to NZ. Take any Court or consent documents with you on your travels.

Passports: Applying for children; parents of children have to sign for these. If you have a guardianship order (or you have been appointed a testamentary guardian by a deceased parent) you can apply, but you must provide the original orders from the Family Court or in the case of testamentary guardianship a copy of the parent's will.

Please Note: A parenting order (also known as a custody or access order) does not give you legal guardianship. A step-parent is not a child's legal guardian unless they have been appointed through a court process or in a parent's will. The Care of Children Act 2004 requires that, where possible, all the guardians of a child must be consulted when making decisions about important matters affecting the child and this is one of them.



UCB/Benefit payments/ Pension payments. You must notify Work & Income. They have a reciprocal agreement with customs and if you have not notified them they will stop UCB. Child/ren included in your benefit, there are new rules about

beneficiaries traveling overseas. It is usually a no, unless special circumstances prevail.

www.workandincome.govt.nz/on-a-benefit/tell-us/overseas-travel...html

Border Alerts: In some cases, the parent/s of children place Border Alerts on children so they cannot be removed from NZ and even though you may have a passport for children, this can still be done.

www.fyi.org.nz/request/4516-how-do-i-found-out-does-my-son-have-a-border-alert

Be sure to check your passports and your charges' passports to see if they are up for renewal this year.

Finger Paints

- 1 cup cold water
- ½ cup talcum powder
- 1 cup soap flakes
- 7 cups boiling water
- 1 cup laundry starch
- Food colouring.

Mix cold ingredients into a paste. Slowly stir in the boiling water. Cook mixture for 5 minutes or so or until it is thick

and glossy. Pour into small jars. Add ½ teaspoon of food colouring to each jar. Shake well and store in covered containers.



Grand's reflections...

Jealousy Rears It's Head

Do you as grandparents have to deal with jealousy (envy) from the children you raise and those you do not? I have noticed this swings both ways. Raising two and having another 5 who do not live with us is both a joy and tribulation. Over the holidays we had two 6 year olds to stay. The teenager we raise, reverted down to their level so in fact we had 3x 6 year olds. She became extremely jealous if I spent any time with the two young ones. Even something as simple as reading them a story brought about temper tantrums. Asking her to do this did not work, nor did including her. At times she was downright mean to them. Then at other times if we say bought a bike for the ones we raise, questions are asked why did we not buy bikes for all of them. Sometimes one cannot win..... Sighing Grandmother.

Will You Marry Me?

My Grandson aged 4 told me the other day that he loved me so much and when he gets big he will marry me. I replied, "well by that time I will be really old and have lots of wrinkles" His reply, "I will just buy you a beautiful mask then!

Raising Twins!

When the little boys first came to us, I shuddered. At eight months apart, they were as close as I was going to get to raising multiples. The youngest wasn't yet walking, both were in diapers. Their vaccinations weren't current, and the noise level in our house tripled overnight although there were only two more children. They weren't just twice the trouble. They were brains and brawn. One child would make the plan, and without seeming to communicate, the second child would put it in motion. One knew where the cookie jar was, the second knew how to get it and where to hide the

broken pieces. The first knew just what words to use to disarm the irate granny and poppy that ruled their roost.

To those of your raising or having raised multiple births, I salute you. If you have grey hair, congratulations, you have earned every one of them. If your home is still standing, I congratulate you. If your furniture is still on one piece, I am in awe of you, and if there is only one set of crayon tracks on the toilet seat, I am amazed. You are a miracle worker, and really should be studied by National Geographic or The American Medical Journal or some other investigative magazine. Perhaps you could analyze your techniques and become a national consultant on the subject of managing and raising multiple children sanely....you are, aren't you?

Sadness & Joy

It's one of the lovely things about being a grandma. Dad refused to allow 14 year old to see her 14 year old boyfriend because of some trouble she had got into at school. There was a yelling match between them as he grounded her, there was defiance, anger, tantrums, throwing things and stalking off to bed in a furious huff. And then there was the hot, angry tears followed a little later by soft sobbing. I could hear it all and I listened to her weeping into her pillow for at least 10 minutes and could stand it no longer. Stepped softly out of my bed and crept into hers and dragged her into my arms like a three year old, rocking her as she sobbed into my nightie. Patted her back until she quietened, snuggling all warm and comfortable. The night passed quietly and I awoke to her rubbing my cheek, "Oh, Gran, I love you so..." and her eyes were smiling at me, thus this grown-up 14 year old (going on 25) has been fine all day. Magic what a grandma's cuddle can do. But oh, single beds are not built for two and my back is broken! ABSOLUTELY BROKEN! I also raise other grand's too.

Great Grandparents

We are actually great-grandparents raising our little great-granddaughter, and have just recently joined our local GRG Group. We have had our wee girl from the age of three months old and she is now 20 months. The help and advice we have had from yourselves and our local group has been absolutely wonderful! Constantly we are being challenged with new ideas and better ways of handling our grand-daughter - everything has changed so much from when we were bringing up our own children 45 years ago! Having said that, we are pleased to see that many of the old morals and ethics are re-emerging! A prime example is your article this month on Respect! Being in the age group we are, it is not an easy task bringing up a two year old (nearly!) and whilst we are very willing, we find it very hard on the body! Playing chasing after the evening bath whilst trying to dress her in her night clothes, is very difficult to bear after an already "full-on" day! We usually collapse into bed at 8.30! However, in spite of all that, we have a very bright 20 month old who can already count to ten, put small sentences together, distinguish circles and triangles, has a memory like blotting paper, and a little heart of gold! If she hears or sees another child crying, she races up to them to give them a "cuddle and a kiss". I guess this is where grandies are so useful! They have more time and love to give to these little people who did not ask to be born. We feel that although we may not live too much longer, we have given her the basics, and have planned for her welfare after we have departed this mortal coil. We have nothing but the utmost admiration for all of those grandparents caring and loving their children under the most difficult of circumstances in most cases. Even though you have days where you think you can't go on much longer, your little one keeps you going!

Can we help you?

Members ONLY services are available nationwide
Caregivers Toll free helpline
0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637)
For landline caregivers only please.

New members and general information please dial ext. 1

Members' Support Manager:

Di Vivian
Auckland/free callers:
(09) 480 6530
Email Di at: office@grg.org.nz

GRG Trust NZ
PO Box 34892
Birkenhead
Auckland 0746

Suite 4 (Ground floor)
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15 Rawene Rd
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Office Manager:
Kelly Vivian 09 418 3753
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kelly@grg.org.nz

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or you have changed address please update your details by contacting Kelly at the Trust Office as this is where the total mail out membership is kept.
Moved home or planning to? Be sure to let us know.

Disclaimer: Opinions or views expressed in this newsletter shall be understood as reflecting those of the author as quoted and are not to be taken as given or endorsed by GRG. This newsletter is subject to

Member Support Manager: Di & Team (as a caregiver you are part of our team)

Heoi ano, na. *E te Atua, aroha mai..... O God shower us with love.*

Ka kite Ka Whangaia ka tupu, ka puawai - That which is nurtured, blossoms and grows

We are respectful, we listen, we learn

He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou

Please pass this on to other grandparents/kin carers you know.

GRG Trust Head Office hours are 9am – 2pm daily. (We raise grandchildren too)

We are a Charitable Trust



[Anti-bullying](#)



0800 456 450



Give a Little for GRG

<https://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/grg>

www.powertoprotect.net.nz



SUPPORT GROUP CONTACT NUMBERS

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Whakatane **	Shirley Faulkner	07 308 8524	shirleyfaulkner@xtra.co.nz
Whangarei **	Janet Puriri	09 435 0044	

For the most up to date contact details please go to our website www.grg.org.nz

If you are a grandparent or whanau caregiver and need a referral to one of our Field Officers please call 0800 GRANDS (0800 472 637) or if you are in Auckland please call 09 480 6530