

Fourth Grade: Year Of The Mean Girl?

Description

4th Grade: The Year Of The Mean Girl?

Iâ€™m part of a great monthly parenting group run by Betsy Brown Braun. It seems every meeting, I bring up issues my daughter is having with other girls at school. Rumors, secrets, lies, broken friendships, tears, nastiness and on and on. Everyday seems to bring a new hurt or upset for my daughter. She is funny, nice and smart. But, sheâ€™s not tough.

My daughter also made a faux-paux recently. She gossiped about some of the â€œmean girlsâ€• to her friend and her friend promptly went and told them what my daughter said. They came and confronted her. My daughter is no longer friends with her former good friend.

The Willows School has periodic conversations with the 4th grade girls about acceptable and unacceptable behavior. It just doesnâ€™t seem like itâ€™s having the desired impact. But, as a mom, I canâ€™t intervene. The school doesnâ€™t encourage parent involvement in kidsâ€™ disputes and at some point, my daughter has to learn to deal with this stuff.

In the parenting group, Betsy assures me these are typical 4th grade girl antics. Whew! Call me crazy, but I thought this was middle school behavior. No! Itâ€™s arrived early and with a bang. Every day brings a new challenge. Iâ€™m optimistic, but lately my optimism is dashed when I pick my daughter up from school. Another incident! My friend and guest blogger Jenny Heitz, put it well when she said, everything youâ€™re dealing with is still better than having the mean girl for a daughter. Sheâ€™s right. I love my daughterâ€™s sweet, trusting nature. But, she does need to learn, as the school said, to the girls to â€œwatch what they say.â€•

Yesterday, I had one of my toughest parenting days in a long time. My daughter, after talking with me for more than an hour about how she was feeling, sent me an email. She signed it, â€œyour sad daughter.â€• I instantly broke into tears. I knew how she was feeling, but I didnâ€™t know how to make the hurt disappear. We talked some more and she settled down for the evening. I assured her tomorrow would be a new day and thereâ€™d be an opportunity for good, fun things to happen.

Sure enough, just at the right time today, an invitation to a classmateâ€™s birthday party arrived. My daughter will be attending!

Category

1. Beyond The Brochure

Tags

1. bullying
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Author

admin

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