

Talk Topics for Teachers

Deborah Fry, Ph.D., has been leading workshops, conducting seminars and working with couples, parents and families as well as corporate American since 1990. A certified instructor for the International Network for Children and Families, much of her training is based on the work of Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs. Deborah's graduate work at Southern Illinois University was in Child Language Acquisition and Human Communication. Her undergraduate work was in Elementary Education. A part-time teacher of "young 3's" at Westminster Weekday School, she also teaches two six week parenting course, Redirecting Children's Behavior and Common Ground, here in Houston and conducts parent support groups for graduates of the course.

Here is a list of the talks Deborah can present to your group. Each talk can be tailored to your group's needs and time considerations. Deborah also is available to create a talk specifically for your group.

Classroom Management For Teachers

Consequences That Work – Many discipline books talk about consequences but few teachers really understand what they are. Find out what natural and logical consequences are and how they can make teaching a lot easier, while instilling valuable life lessons in children.

Creating Cooperation In The Classroom – Discover some easy ways to create a cooperative atmosphere in your classroom, where every member is a willing participant on the team. Also learn what to do when the atmosphere isn't cooperative.

Effectively Communicating With Children – We always seem to know how to tell children what to do and how to do things, but we don't always know how to talk to them. You will learn how to listen, acknowledge, encourage, give genuine attention to and appropriately handle the feelings of children.

Enhancing Children's Self-Esteem – The most talked about concept regarding children today is self-esteem. Find out what it is and how to increase a child's self-esteem while teaching them to be respectful and responsible.

Effective Teacher-Parent Communication – Listening so parents can talk and talking so parents can listen is accomplished by utilizing a series of communication techniques. Learn to recognize when to use these tools and how they are used most effectively

Handling Aggressive Children, Ages Birth Through Six – Learning how to be in the world with others is one of the biggest tasks that young children face. First you will learn the hallmarks of developmentally appropriate aggression and how to tell when it is becoming a problem. Next, you will find out 15 actions you can take to correct this behavior.

How To Turn A Terrible Two Into A Terrific Two – The “terrible two’s” is the stage of a young child’s life that is most feared by adults. It actually lasts from 18 months to four years of age. Learn why this age is so important for the child and so difficult for adults and how to make it easier on everyone. Hitting, biting, saying “No”, temper tantrums, sharing, whining and all the great hallmarks of this age will be covered.

Making Peace: Teaching Children How To Handle Conflict – Conflict is a part of life. Discover how to bring peace to the fights and conflicts that arise between children and how to teach children the skills they need to resolve their conflicts in a peaceful manner.

“No I Won’t and You Can’t Make Me!” How to Effectively Handle Power Struggles – Having our authority challenged is one of the biggest (and most infuriating) moments we have as a teacher. Learn what to do and how to disengage from a power struggle as well as what to do so they happen less frequently.

Positive, Effective Discipline – There is so much information available today on the “right” way to discipline children that it can be confusing and overwhelming. Learn the roots and causes of children’s misbehavior, how to diagnose the misbehavior and apply the proper remedy to redirect behavior.

Cultivating Character and Teaching Children Kindness – Violence in our culture and in our children is a topic of concern. Developing kindness and compassion in our children starts at an early age, and is developed through what they see and what we do. Learn the tools which will plant and grow the inborn nature of compassion in ourselves and our children.

Teaching Children Self-Control – Children are not born knowing how to control their emotions and reactions. Find out how to teach children appropriate ways to handle and express themselves, especially in times of upset and turmoil.

Tell Them What To Do, Not What To Don’t! – Find out how making one small shift in your speech can make an incredible difference in a child’s life. Learn how to create more cooperative, responsible children by re-training yourself and what you say to children.

“If You Don’t Stop Crying . . .!” How to Handle Children’s Feelings- Handling the emotions of children in a positive way is one of the biggest challenges of parenthood. Find out what are the feeling stoppers and feeling encouragers and how to work with children’s feelings in each developmental stage.

Tame Those Tantrums – Learn how to diagnosis tantrums and strategies to help redirect them when they occur. Also become aware of what helps prevent them... less power means more!

For Staff Development And Of General Interest

Asking For What You Want (And Saying “No” Without Guilt) – Most people do not know how to directly ask for what they want and negotiate to a win-win. You will come to understand why this is so difficult and how to become proficient at identifying what you want, asking for it and successfully negotiating for it.

Creating Teamwork – A team consists of two or more people who have a common goal. Find out what you do to disrupt the teamwork and ways to enhance the teamwork in your family, at work and in any situation where you are working together with another.

Improving Communication – Whether it’s at work, in the family or with friends, effective communication can require a lot of effort. Discover some of the keys to improving the way you communicate so you achieve better results, often with less effort.

Keeping Yourself Encouraged And Spreading It Around – The world can be a very negative and discouraging place. Learn how to keep yourself encouraged, encourage others and create a more positive and motivating atmosphere in your life, family and work.

Making Peace With Your . . . (Father, Mother, Parents, Ex or Children) – It can be easy to carry resentments from past relationships or events that have occurred in the past for a long time. It also can be exhausting and emotionally draining, especially if the person is still in your life. Discover how to “let go” and make peace with the past and how to create the relationship you want with that person.

Resolving Conflicts – Most people will do anything to avoid conflict – including giving up, giving in, going along and finally being resentful. Whether it’s with a friend, spouse, co-worker or child, learn how to effectively resolve conflicts, big and small, and make agreements with consequences that can be applied to fend off future conflicts.

“Try and Make Me” - Power struggles is the one childhood behavior that most adults still continue to use. Many of our conflicts come from power struggles and no one ever wins a power struggle. Find out how to identify them, get out of them and what to do to decrease the amount of struggles you have in your life.

Working Effectively With Groups – Being the leader of a group can be fun, exciting, frustrating and a lot of work. Learn about group dynamics and what you can do to make the group as successful as possible. Find out how to manage difficult or challenging people and how to be the most productive leader.