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Everything I Know About Relationship Success I Learned At The Playground

By Stanley J. Leffew

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by: **Stanley J. Leffew**

It happened again!

I was enjoying an evening with my little 2-yr. old son at the playground when, BAM, it happened. You ever have one of those moments in life when you know you are being taught an important lesson?

Picture in your mind a chaotic atmosphere of over fifty little children battling for their turn to play on a handful of playground rides and objects.

Recipe for disaster, huh? That's what I thought, too, until my observations quickly picked up something else.

Sure, they were running into one another, crying and trying to get ahead of each other for the rides. They were walking across other children who had fallen down in front of them and were pushing one another to get their turn. They were running to their parents for comfort after getting their feelings hurt.

As I stood there taking in the scenery before me, those little blessings of life showed me some important lessons about relationship success. If you will indulge me a moment, I will share with you what I found out.

Relationship Success Lesson #1 – The Principle of Fun:

Not much to say here! It's simple; these kids loved to have fun.

In adult relationships, life throws curves at us constantly. Responsibilities come at us from every angle. It takes conscious effort to remember to have fun together in life. I emphasize the word, "together". I'm not talking about the type of fun where the husband plays golf and the wife shops.

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The "heavy" takes its toll on relationships, and we do well when we give our relationship a time-out from the heavy and lighten up.

Couples who play together, stay together.

Relationship Success Lesson #2 – The Principle of Fascination:

As I stood there watching, it was interesting to see how the younger children reacted to the older kids. It didn't take much observance to see that they were taken by and fascinated with them.

Fascination! While it is not a word often associated with relationship success, if you want thriving relationships, you may just want to give it some precedence.

I was blessed earlier in life to have a couple who had been married over twenty-six years model this for

me. Whenever anyone saw them together, they were holding hands and playfully giddy as if they had just started dating. When I asked what caused her to be this much in love with a man after so many years of marriage, she responded, "He fascinates me."

Let that sink in a moment.

Are you an interesting person? Would you consider yourself intriguing? Do you have interests in life that cause other people to want to be around you, or are you often bored?

A few things to note: Bored people are boring people. Having interests will help make us more fascinating in life. In the world of relationship enrichment, "Couch Potatoes Need Not Apply".

Relationship Success Lesson #3 – The Principle of Forgiveness:

As I stood and watched, two children were running on the playground in opposite directions, and I saw it coming before they did. They each circled the same object until they literally met in the middle. Two more kids came around and did the same thing.

Tempers flared, emotions ran high, tears ran down their cheeks and feelings were hurt. Less than two minutes later, they were off running and playing together, and all was forgotten.

What would happen in adult relationships if we learned how to do that? Instead of internalizing everything, we learn not to take it all so personally. Instead of holding grudges, we learn to hold hands.

Children have soft hearts – life can sometimes harden them.

Sheds a little light on the phrase, "Except you become like little children", doesn't it?

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Stanley J. Leffew is the Author of, "How To Be Wanted For a Lifetime of Nights and Not Just a Night of a Lifetime". His website is based on this same theme. His site's intriguing Newsletter, "Sugar For My Coffee", takes its readers into a make-believe Coffee Shop for life and relationship empowerment. The Coffee Shop is OPEN at

Wood Or Metal Playground Equipment

By John Marcus

What better surprise for a child than a fantastic playground in your own backyard. There are few things children love more than slides, swing sets, and playgrounds in general. Instead of making the trek to your neighborhood park, installing a playground in your own backyard is a great solution. There is a spectacular selection of quality playground equipment on the market, but the main choice you will have to make is between the actual materials. There many reasons why to make a backyard playground, but evaluate the differences between metal and wooden sets carefully before your purchase.

Regardless if you choose a piece of wooden or metal playground equipment, be sure that it follows all the proper safety standards. Also, keep in mind that children each year are injured by improperly playing on playground equipment without appropriate supervision. Even though this playground is in your own backyard instead of at the neighborhood park, your children should still play under adult supervision.

Years ago, most playground equipment was made from metal. Even today, most swing sets are still made from metal tubes attached to which is a chain. Metal equipment, although still available, has been far surpassed by wooden equipment. The main reason for the rise in popularity of wooden playground equipment is the customizations options. Also, many individuals choose wooden playground equipment since it can be built for less money than the purchase of a metal play set.

If you are the handy type looking to build your own fantastic outdoor playground creation, then wood is the best way to go. There are numerous kits that allow you to combine different types of slides, swings, climbing walls, and a variety of other aspects to customize the set. The planning and construction process required in creating wooden playground equipment is a great project for the entire family. Involve your children and allow them to express themselves in creating a custom set. Let your imagine roam wild!

Picking up a hammer and nails not sounding so attractive? Look to pre-made sets instead. Although you will not be able to customize the equipment, there are many fantastic options available in both metal and wood. Keep in mind that metal equipment should be regularly inspected to avoid and prevent rusting. If necessary, apply a rust-preventative paint or topcoat. Also, wooden playground

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equipment should also be evaluated for potential splits or splinters. Just like metal equipment, those made out of wood should have the proper weather coatings to keep the wood looking fresh.

John Marcus Specializes in Playgrounds

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