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**Friends, Fish, & The Future**

**By Valerie Zilinsky**

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As a parent, have you ever secretly thought to yourself that maybe it was wrong of you to bring your children into a world like ours? I have had that thought cross my mind fleetingly over the years, particularly when I turn on the evening news, or read the headlines of each day's newspaper. For a brief instant, I wonder if it was selfish of me to give birth to a child who will have to grow up in a world so scary and unpredictable.

I have been living in a prolonged version of one of those moments for the past few weeks, as our nation recovers from the disastrous attacks of September 11th, 2001. In a world where such hatred and evil exists, how can the innocence of my children fit in here?

My children are responsible for bringing me back to reality just yesterday, as I watched them go on with their lives at a church picnic we attended.

I saw my daughter make a new friend, and play arm-in-arm with her for hours. They discovered things together, played side-by-side, sang and ran and laughed together, and learned from each other. Those two could have taught the world a lesson about the importance of making new friends, and enjoying the uniqueness of each individual.

My son also had something to teach our world yesterday – if you don't see a solution to a problem, don't give up! Frustration won't help, and neither will anger. Instead, use your imagination to explore new ideas and find a way to make it work. All this came from watching him progress from being bored, to moping around in frustration, to catching a fish with a contraption he pieced together from a styrofoam cup and a branch he found on the ground. He was so proud of himself and showed everyone what he did, even those he didn't know.

These are just two of the many reasons that I know parenting isn't a selfish act. Today's children will be the adults of our future, and they will be making friends AND finding solutions. As we've heard many times, they will help to make the world a better place. We shouldn't spend our days with our children worrying about the bad things that could happen to them. Instead, we should help them grow and

experience all the good in the world. We should help them to be a part of that goodness, and to show them how to create more of it for the benefit of all.

Even more importantly, my children reminded me yesterday of the need to go on with our daily lives. If we don't, we are giving up and giving in. There is still many inventions for us to dream up, and many friends that we just haven't met yet. It's time to move forward, and to makes things better in the process.

Valerie Zilinsky is a married mother of two young children, and 'WebMom' of <http://www.RaisingOurKids.com>

## **Maintaining your Fish Bowls**

**By Mike Yeager**

Maintaining your fish bowl can be difficult sometimes. However, your fish bowl should be kept as hygienic as possible. Doing so should help prevent any health care problems for your fish. When you are cleaning your fish bowl, do it as quickly as possible, because it is dangerous for your fish to be out of its fish bowl. Only clean your fish bowl with a cleaner that is safe for your fish. Also, be sure to let the water return to whatever temperature is right for your fish before you put your fish back in its fish bowl. Make sure that any special equipment that your fish bowl has is working properly before you put it back in the fish bowl. If you maintain your fish bowl properly, you will be able to fully enjoy your pet fish.

Fish bowls are the single most important factor in your fishes happiness and health. No other decision you make as a fish owner will be as important as what fish bowl you get for your fish. Therefore, it is critical to choose the fish bowl that is right for your fish. Consider what type of fish you have when you buy a fish bowl. Some types of fishes require larger fish bowls than others. Also take into consideration any special needs that your fish might have. For example, some fish bowls are built for only fresh water fish. Others are built to provide warmth for your fish. If you are unsure of what kind of fish bowl to buy, consult your veterinarian. Also be aware that a fish bowl that is suitable for one fish may be too crowded for more than one fish.

Mike Yeager  
Publisher

Maintaining your Fish Bowls

Finally, You've Caught The Perfect Fish. Now, Do You Know How To Fillet Your Fish?

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