

The Little Girl

MODULE 3/4

Handout

One day, her mother had to be taken to the hospital and her grandmother accompanied her. Kezia was left alone in the house with the cook. The daytime was manageable for Kezia. But nighttime was a different story altogether as she used to have nightmares!

She woke up in the middle of the night screaming as she had a terrible nightmare.

(In the nightmare), a butcher was chasing her with a knife in his hand. She wept in fear.

When she opened her eyes, she saw her father beside her bed!

He lifted her and carried her to his bedroom, and made her warm and comfortable on his bed.

Father told her to rub her feet against his legs and make them warm in this fashion. She felt very safe and comfortable with him.

Soon her attitude towards her father changed.

Now, she realized that her father was such a fearsome giant after all. She realized that he loved and cared for her in his own way. She understood that he had to work the whole day to provide for his family and was hence too tired to play with her late in the evening, like Mr. McDonald.

WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT!

1. The importance of inter-personal relationships in the family- between elders and parents on the one hand and children on the other

2. For better relationship, the first and foremost factor is mutual interaction and regular communication among the members of a family. This is because it is only through communication that we can understand each other's aspirations, expectations, desires, strengths and weaknesses in a better way.
3. It is essential that parents should spend time with their children. They should give them freedom and opportunities to express themselves. Parents should give them respect and due attention to boost their self-esteem and self-confidence.
4. Children don't like it when their parents or elders force their view points and decisions on them. Such behaviour curbs their free thinking, creativity and independent decision-making ability.
5. Another important lesson is that children need more love and acceptance at home from everyone, especially the elders.
