

One day, Kezia's mother had to be taken to hospital and her grandmother accompanied her.

Kezia was left alone in the house with the cook. The day time was manageable for Kezia.

But she was afraid of night because she used to get 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 warm them 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 not such a fearsome giant after all. She learnt too 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.

Kezia also understood that her father was too tired to play late in the evening with her, the way Mr. McDonald did.

WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT!!

The importance of inter-personal relationships

Good communication between family elders and the younger members of the household is a pre-requisite for ensuring a smooth and successful life and for establishing a conducive family environment.

For establishing a good 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.

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.

Children don't like it when
parents/elders thrust their views
and decisions on them.

This attitude curbs their free
thinking, creativity and
independent decision-making
ability.

Another important factor affecting relationships is that every member – be it the child or the parent – should feel the need for fulfilling responsibilities towards one another so as to create a congenial ambience in the family.

