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## “How to Get Your Kids to Take Your Advice Seriously”

**David Loy:** Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews, I’m your host David Loy. Andy, thanks for joining us again this week.

**Andy Andrews:** Thank you David. I appreciate being here, appreciate you being here. So this is always fun for me. And I hope people are enjoying it and passing them around. And once again let me just make a plea right at the beginning. If you find some value in this, please help us connect with some other people. We do these for you and as you know they are free. And so all we ask is, that if you can, help me with my mission and my mission is to help other people live the lives they would if they only knew how. And so, I’m into helping people solve some challenges or getting through some thinking issues. And we’re all in this together. I’m not putting myself out there, some kind of an expert, I’m a dad, I’m a husband, I’m a friend, and I’m learning as hard and fast as I can. So I enjoy this podcast because we’re able to learn together.

**David:** Absolutely. And Andy I’m glad you mentioned that and I think that everybody knows or if you’ve listened to this show, you know, but if you’re new, just a reminder that the purpose of this show is to explore topics together and to deal with life situations. And most of our shows are centered around questions from listeners. Occasionally we’ll talk about the personal things that are going on with Andy or a topic that he’s passionate about, or a new book that’s coming out, something along those line. Or occasionally, we’ll have a guest on. But for the most part, this podcast is designed for interaction, it’s designed for questions.

And Andy I know you love talking to people, you love hearing their story, and just having the opportunity to interject and to give your perspective on it. So that's what this is about.

So if you have a question, if you're going through something and you want to hear Andy's thoughts, feel free, jump in, we'd love to address that on a future episode. You can email us those questions [intheloop@andyandrews.com](mailto:intheloop@andyandrews.com). Or give us a call and leave that voicemail with your name, where you're calling from and your question, 1800 726 Andy. That's 1800 726 2639. And we might just hear your voice on a future episode. Well Andy, speaking of great questions, we're going to jump into another one that came in via email from Whitney, in Alabama. Let me read a part of Whitney's question and then we'll get into your thoughts and hear your perspective on it.

**Andy:** Ok, great.

**David:** Hi Andy, my name is Whitney and I live in Clanton, Alabama. My question has to do with parenting. I've been gymnastics and a cheerleading coach for 13 years. During that time, I've noticed that I can give the exact same advice or suggestion to a student that their parents have already given them. But unlike their parents, my words are accepted like they're worth millions. Now, my husband and I have two young girls and we are trying to raise great adults. But I can't stop thinking about one day being that parent who has given good advice to her daughters but they just ignore it because it's their mother. So Andy, how can I develop a relationship with my girls that puts me in a position where they will be open to my advice and even seek me as wise counsel instead of saying, uh, my mom, she doesn't know anything, she doesn't know what she's talking about. And of course there was some fun punctuation in Whitney's email, which I can't convey in a podcast but you can imagine. But Andy I can almost see Whitney as

she's describing this issue, animated, passionate, but most of all she just cares and she wants to figure out a way to make sure that her daughters are always going to listen to her as they grow up. How do you deal with that, how have you dealt with that with the boys?

**Andy:** Well we all know what she's talking about. That's a great question Whitney because we all know what you're talking about because we've all seen that situation where, you know, the kids say, hey let me tell you what I learned and the parent goes, I've been telling you that for two years. And like Joe Blow tells you one afternoon and now it's like words of wisdom to you? You know, we all know, that, the old thing, a prophet is without honor in his hometown. And so, there's something exotic and unusual about somebody else. However, I think there is an issue that many parents do not confront and that issue is, a part of it is, with themselves and other part of it, is with available part of the relationship with their growing child that they ignore. Now, and I don't mean to be a smart like when I say this but the part of this that I think a lot of people ignore about themselves and I'll just tell you right off the bat, I know that Whitney is not one of those people because she's asking this question. She's like thinking hard, ok. But one of the things that put parents in a bad position, and it's that they ignore the part of this that says, you want them to listen to you? Ok, well you better make sure that you're a person who is worth being listened to. You know, I mean, you really do want to make sure that you have something worth hearing, ok. Because, and again I hate to say this, but there are tons of adults who, they have been dead for years, they quit learning, they quit listening, they quit thinking, they just go about their day, they do what they have to do. I mean, dead for years. They ain't going to bury them for a while but they've been dead for years. And while people don't actively come out and you know, tag people like that, and a lot of times people don't even

know what they're sensing, but we all have been around people that we sense, they ain't thought about nothing in a long time.

Ok, well, kids are the ultimate in that. I mean, you know they are. I mean, how many times have we heard people say, well you ain't gonna be fighting and screaming at each other mom and dad, your kids know that you're not getting along. I mean, kids have this radar. Kids also, they know because now, especially teenagers, now they're around other adults. And so they're starting to sense, ok. And somebody might say, now wait a minute Andy, wait, because you just said that, that parent had already told him that two years ago. And had been telling them that for two years. And now, the kid hears it and now it's wise. So you said that they had quit learning. Ok, yeah, I know. But let me tell you what that parent, that parent may have known an answer, that parent may have known what to do in a situation. That parent may have known what to watch out for, because of a personal experience, because of somebody else's experience. But let me tell you what that parent quit learning how to do. That parent quit learning how to communicate. Because maybe they told him the answer but they told him in such a way that either they didn't get it, or they didn't want to hear it, or they were in such a hurry to get out of the room that they weren't thinking about that. But you and I both know, that you can say the same words to somebody in two totally different ways. I mean, you can say, words to somebody that will have them, you know, falling all over themselves thanking you. And you can say the same words to people that'll make them want to punch you out.

**David:** Right.

**Andy:** And so, one of the things that we need to make sure that we do, be very aware of Whitney, is that we are growing. If we want our, I remember like, when David read this, he said that you want to be in a position where they would be

open to your advice and seek you as wise counsel. Ok, I agree. So if we want them to be open to our advice and to seek us as wise counsel, then we have to be wise counsel. We have to become wise counsel and we have to be, and being wise counsel doesn't mean just the answer. Wise counsel has to do, wise counsel also includes the timing of when you say it. It includes how you say it, right. I mean, we can say the answer in such a way that they don't hear it. We can say the answer in such a way that it's demoralizing. We can say the answer at a time that is not proper. There's a lot of things. I mean, Whitney said, if I'm remembering this right David, she said, even seek me a wise counsel. She didn't say, even seek me as a person who has the answers. She said, seek me as a person, she wants her children to seek her as a person of wise counsel. Well that's a totally different thing. Wise counsel is what you're after. And the other part, the other part of that, that we ignore, is or that I see a lot of parents ignore, and it just kills me, and that is, there is a line there. You know how you'll hear sometimes people say, well they don't want, you know, they're screwing up because they think they're supposed to be friends with their kid and not their parent. And we've heard that ok. And there is such a thing as somebody, and I think, well, let me say it this way. I am a friend to my boys. I mean, I asked Adam the other day, I said, hey Adam, who is your best friend? And he said, you. I said, really? He said, well you and Austin, and mom. And he said, but you know, kind of you, and Austin, and mom. And I said, now buddy, I appreciate that, I really meant kind of at school or at church. And he said, well. So we start talking. But they are my best friends. And so I am friends with them but I am also their parent.

Now let me tell you where this doesn't work, ok, because I've got a couple of friends and that's Joe Bullard, Sandy Stimpson, that's two good names to tell you, of people who are friends of mine. But they're older than me, they're wiser than me, and so, when we're together, they don't try to act like me. You know, I'm

trying to learn, I'm trying to become and I'm trying to get better, and I'm trying to help. And they are, Joe and Sandy are wiser than me. They are more accomplished in many areas than me. And so they are mentors to me, they're also my friends. But they don't let the friendship thing get in the way of telling me the truth and telling me in a certain way. And so one of the things that I guess what I'm referring to is that kind of thing where parents of a junior high school girl, you know, act like a junior high school girls. Now that's detrimental, ok. And I say all that to bring to light what we really want to do, is we want to be, we want to have, be friends, to have tons of conversations with them. Alright, we want to, to talk about what they want to talk about. We want them to have the opportunity to teach us, ok. Now what do you mean, the opportunity? Well I'll tell you what I mean. Adam has been tying flies, ok. He's a fisherman, he got a hold of this fly tying thing. And he is, he's like, I think Carver is scared to death of him because he's...

**David:** Ok, I've got to ask, I'm not a fisherman at all, what is this tying flies?

**Andy:** Flies are like lures. They're little lures and they have a hook in them and they have some kind of fur or hair or feathers. And they're like, you take, there's a thread and it's wrapped around and these are attached to this hook.

**David:** Got it.

**Andy:** And so, anyway, Adam is tying flies, and so, Carver, I was laughing, because Carver's like looking over his shoulder at Adam and Adam had tied several Carver flies. He's like, dad, look, I cut some piece out of Carver's fur and I've tied it. And I go, ok, no wonder he's scared of you. But here's what I'm saying, I'm not a fly fisherman. And I'm not really, overly interested in tying flies. But I have a son who is really interested in it. And so, what I do is, when he shows me

something, I'll say, now Adam, now this looks really intricate here, how did you do that? And he says, well, what I do is this and this. I said, where did you figure that out? He says, well this and this. And I said, Adam, now this part of it, how do you do that, can you show me? And he said, sure, come on with me dad and I'll show you. And so he's giving me this lesson. So all of a sudden, you know, we're spending time together that is not, oh let me sit here with dad and he'll give me a lesson. Now let me sit here with dad and have him tell me what to do. But most parents, a great majority of parents I'm afraid, most of the time they spend with the kids, is either total play or it's total discipline or it's warning them. Now you don't do this, watch out for this, now look. And kids get tired of it. You know, they don't get tired of the play, but when it's not playtime, when we're not on vacation and dad walks into the room, they know, ok, if I stay here, I'm going to be lectured about something.

And so, we want our kids, you know, one of the things I talk to a group of people about marketing recently and I said, one of the worst things you can do in marketing, is to market all the time. I said, your product may be valuable, I said, but if they look at you and go, oh God, here he comes again. They're going to delete every email; they're going to delete every reference. Just because it's like, ok, if I want it I know where to get it, so God, just leave me alone. And I said, one of the best things you can do with marketing, is to give value, help somebody, help them with this, help them with that, give them that. And then every now and then say, hey we got a special on this, we're selling this. I said, you know, if you put value in there, they'll listen to the other stuff. Well the same is true with our children. You know, if they think, every single time she opens her mouth I have done something wrong, or I'm going to do something wrong, or I might do something wrong, or here's a better way to do it. Or golly just let me out of here. Ok, I'm just

saying, it's creating conversations about things that they're interested in and allow them to teach us occasionally so that it is a back and forth.

**David:** Right. And I think that there's value, there's always value in hearing the outside opinion. That'll never change, that's, on a bigger level, that's similar to somebody reading a book. Well you want to hear from an expert, you want to hear from somebody else, that's like hearing a speaker at your corporate event. There's always value in hearing that outside person. So I think it's also important that we don't discredit that completely. But the ways that you're describing, finding a way to continue to maintain that ability, to be the wise counsel that your kids are seeking, that's huge, that's very good. I hope that, that answer, I think that answer the question in my mind but I hope.

**Andy:** Let me, can I lay one more thing here. And this is something that we can all do for each other. Because we know this challenge exist, we know that kids tend to listen to somebody else before they listen to their parents, a lot of kids do. And you know, how many times have we heard that old cliché about when I was 14 years old, I thought my dad was dumb as dirt but then when I turned 30, he just got really smart. And you know what I'm saying? That time, that distance, allows some perspective here. So kids do tend to think that everybody else is smarter than their parent or something. I guess that would be a tendency. But there is something that we can do for each other and here's what it is. And I do this all the time, every time I meet, every time I'm introduced to a kid and their parents, or their mom or their dad is there, you know, if somebody says, this is Joe and Joe is 14. And you know, he's wanting to meet you. If I meet them on the airplane, they already know who I am. You know, I'll say, is this your mom? Is this your dad? Is this your mom and dad? And they'll go, it is. And I'll say, wow, you take care of them buddy. I mean, you've got a great mom and dad. And if I know them, you know, or if I'm, you know, if the kid knows that I know them a



little bit or something like that, I'll say, man, you would not believe how cool everybody thinks your dad is. I am a big fan of your dad. I'm a big fan of your dad. Your dad has made a real difference to me in several areas of my life. Or you know, I'll say, man I am a big fan of your parents. And you would, it's hilarious to see the look on kids faces. You know, because the kid's like, seriously? It's like, you're a fan of my dad? And so when we edify those parents to those kids, we're giving credibility to them with their kids. And we can do that so easily, so easily. I see kids sometimes that I don't know and I'll, and even if their parents aren't there, I will see a little bit of disappointment or boredom in what their parents do. Because I'll say, tell me where are your parents? And they say, well my dad lives in Rowley, my mom and I live in so and so. Or well my parents are this, whatever it is. But I'll say, now, what they do? And this is just an example here, but I've seen, oh my dad, he's a mechanic.

Now I understand, this kid's talking to this guy who has his name on books and he's waited in line or whatever. And he thinks I'm some big deal or something, I mean, only because he doesn't know me. And so, and I say, so what does your dad do? Oh you know, he's a mechanic. Or he just, he sell stuff. But when they say that, my response is, usually, when they say, oh my dad is a mechanic, I say, oh, like a smart person ha? And I'll see him kind of, what? And they'll say, what do you mean? I'll say, what kind of a mechanic is he? Well he works on cars. I said, right. So he's like a very smart person. And they'll say, why do you say that? And I'll say, well let me ask you something, can you work on cars? And they go, well no. Yeah, I can't work on cars. I'm lucky I know how to put gas in my car. Or something's wrong with my car, I say, let me tell you something, you and I, we tend to think that a guy who does a heart transplant, he's very important, that, that surgeon is very important person. Well let me just tell you something, if his car don't work, the guy waiting on a heart transplant is going to die because the

car has to work. I said, you dad knows something and is an expert in something that makes our society work. I said, very few people in our world today can get along without people like your dad. And there's very few people like your dad who can understand something that intricate and who has enough focus to actually sit there all they long and actually deal with it. I can't do it. And so I want to send those kids away with appreciation for their parents. And we can do that for each other.

**David:** That's huge, wow. That's very cool. Andy thank you for, again, sharing your thoughts and your perspective on this. And that is just, it's very unique. And it's very interesting as not a parent to hear parents talking about these issues and I'm taking notes, trying to figure out that I've got my stuff together when the time comes, that I can put all this into action. And Whitney, thank you for sending in a great question.

**Andy:** Absolutely.

**David:** That was really good. Feel free to send any follow ups at [intheloop@andyandrews](mailto:intheloop@andyandrews). And Andy we're done for this week but we will look forward to talking to you again and addressing some other great questions next week.

**Andy:** Awesome. And David, let me close by saying, that I know your mom and dad. And Rick and Jen Loy, living in Dallas, Texas, are two, the most awesome people I've ever met in my life. There are very few people like your mom and dad who, when I'm in their presence, I just kind of go, huh. They have such calm spirits. Your dad has such an awesome smile and your dad, I mean, he, I can go up to your dad and I can say some stupid thing and your dad makes me feel smart because he makes everything I say, I look at his face and it looks like he's actually

interested in what I'm saying. Your dad, I mean. So I'm telling you buddy, I don't know what you think about your mom and dad, but I am a huge fan of Rick and Jan Loy.

**David:** That's fantastic. And for those of you listening, Andy just enacted everything he just taught which is fantastic, really good. Andy I appreciate it, I know they will as well, and we'll talk to you next week.

**Andy:** Take care buddy.

**David:** Thanks.

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