

## IT ALL STARTS AT HOME

*by:*

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It is easier to just see children who come to school as students who want to learn, play, and have fun all day than to see past all that and dig deeper. Instead of treating them as students who simply need to have a passing grade, we should consider them as gentle souls who are trying their best to manage academic pressure on top of other problems. We often think that the ones responsible for the success and wellbeing of the student are the teachers but also on the proactive participation of the family. Children spend more time at home than they do at school and more often not, what truly molds them is what happens behind closed door.

Their families have the bigger influence and impact on their lives than the people they interact with at schools for what happens inside their home is what has been shaping them into the person they are today. Children usually say what they often hear from their parents or siblings. They imitate the actions that they usually observe at home. As they connect with other people, the values and standards that they absorb from the place they reside in become evident. When we see bullies at school, the first thing that comes into our minds is that they are simply bad people who have nothing productive to do but if we look at their background, we will find that most bullies grew up in a toxic environment and were deprived of love, acceptance, and guidance; and this might be one of the reasons why their default mindset is to hurt and pick on others. If we observe their behavior, thought patterns, and personality, we will be able to understand where they are coming from and this will help us deal with them and operate from a place of understanding than judgment.

Also, there might be an instance when something is unusual with the appearance and behavior of a child. Oftentimes, children wear a mask and pretend in front of people that everything is alright even when it is not. Some of the signs of possible trouble at a child's home are sleep deprivation, sudden change in behavior, lack of cleanliness, visible signs of injury, lack of preparedness, inappropriate or inadequate clothes, and mention of neglect or abuse. It is very important that we take a closer look and take action to prevent negative multi-generational impact. It is sad and scary to think that some criminals we see today were once the innocent children we used to meet at school and things could have been different for them if someone chose not to be a bystander and provided them with support and guidance.

When parents give their children the affection, attention, and affirmation they deserve especially in the development stage when they need it the most, they will learn how to be comfortable in their own skin, embrace other people's differences, and treat others the same way they are being treated at home.

*References:*

<https://www.thoughtco.com/7-signs-of-trouble-at-home-child-depression-or-abuse-2081929>