

## *Counselors' Corner*

Parents, go ahead and read this scenario:

**“Can you imagine being lucky enough to win two front row tickets on the fifty yard line to watch the Super Bowl? The top two NFL teams are playing for the championship. You arrive at the stadium with your child and there are no lines, just masses of people swarming around the entire sports complex trying to get inside. You see people pushing and shoving while others are yelling obscenities at the gatekeepers. It takes several hours just to get inside. You are a little troubled by the lack of organization at the gates, but you’ll manage, because you are at the Super Bowl for free and you have the best seats in the house! You walk down toward your seats and stop in your tracks as you observe two individuals attempting to obtain their seats next to where your seats are located. There is an intoxicated mob of strong men, World Wrestling Federation material, with painted faces that grab the two individuals and throw them over the railing to the ground below. You contact the stadium security to inform them about what you just witnessed as well as your desire to obtain your prized seats. The stadium chief security officer laughs at you. He says, “It’s first come first served, Mac! Go find some empty seats!” Suddenly, you realize that you won’t be watching the game from the best two seats in the stadium.**

**You’re finally seated in the last two open seats at the top of the stadium behind one of the goal posts, when the coin toss occurs. The captains of the team calling the coin toss didn’t guess right and decided to beat up the officials. The sidelines clear and a brawl ensues. It takes an hour to get both teams back to their sidelines, and the injured players off the field....After ten more minutes of observation, you quietly exit the stadium because you and your child want to leave alive and unharmed. You have had enough of chaos. **Organization and structure would have made your Super Bowl experience much more enjoyable.”** *Positive Parenting With A Plan*, Johnson, Matthew.**

This story is a reminder to us about how vital and necessary RULES are. Mr. Johnson is a parenting coach/therapist and he argues that parents are the boss and they need to create an environment that is safe and organized. How can we do that? By setting rules! It is hard when your child says, “But Johnny’s dad lets him stay out late!” There is no cookie cutter design for rules. Do what feels right for *you* as parents. But make sure you evaluate your values. List what you value or discuss it with your spouse. Do you value education? God? Family time? Work ethics? Do not let your home feel out of control. Kids will argue against rules, in fact, we all do. Make sure your child KNOWS the rules. You cannot expect your child(ren) to be compliant and follow rules that was not communicated to him/her. Make the expectations crystal clear, and explain the consequences for following and *not* following instructions. That way, there will be no surprises. *“Remember when we discussed that you will not go on Facebook if your grades dropped. So do you understand you won’t have Facebook for a week?”* If you need tips or other ideas, please feel free to contact me! It is very stressful to have your home feel out of sync and chaotic. Good luck and enjoy your children, they grow so fast!!

**“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6**

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