

Homework Lesson #3

1. Kate defines Emma as the fragile one even though she's older simply because of her being a girl. The things she says to her are very discouraging such as, "Careful, honey. Don't go any higher. You could fall and hurt yourself." She also says "Emma, I told you that is dangerous. Time to get down..." These are all examples of direct definition. These words can grow on her and make her feel like she can't do certain things because of her gender. It is very negative for her mindset, hints why they call it negative labeling. On the other hand, Kate defines her son as independent and tough. He says things to him such as "You're a brave little man.." and encourages him to climb even higher. She directly is labeling him as strong and brave. This encouragement feeds his brain and gives him the mindset of the sky's the limit, which is how both of her children should feel. If she treats them the same and gives them that positivity, their minds will naturally believe the same as hers and they both will be able to grow to reach their full potential.
2. One example of reflected appraisal in this scenario was when Kate asked Jeremy to push Emma on the swing and allow her to use it first. This then led to Jeremy falling in the dirt. When this happened, Kate only brushed the dirt of Emma and not Jeremy. This shows Emma that her mom thinks she is weak because of how she treats her, like a baby. This will eventually cause Emma to act like a little kid because her mom sees her as a little kid who's fragile. Another example of a reflected appraisal was when the kids moved to the jungle gym set and Kate encouraged Jeremy to climb to the top but then discouraged Emma when she wanted to try and get the same attention. She tells her to get down and play on the swings. Her negative evaluation of Emma when she said that puts Emma's dreams and goals down. With Jeremy, her positive reflected appraisals of encouraging him to climb up higher makes him believe positive in himself. The way Kate admires both her childrens either strengths or weaknesses affects how they are going to think and act about themselves.
3. Based on Emma and Jeremys responses to Kate shows that they in fact perceive themselves as the labels she gave to them. When she was encouraging to Jeremy and called him brave, he in fact took this encouragement and did climb to the top. His success was then applauded. On the other hand, when Emma was trying to achieve what Jeremy did, she is punished for not listening and gets taken down from the bars. After this, she responded and left the jungle gym to go back to the swings. Jeremy and Emma's responses show that they accept what their mother says to them. Jeremy reflects the courage and bravery that is said and shown of him and Emma reflects the frail and fearful that is said of her.
4. Kate's communication with her children reflect greatly on the reflective normative gender expectations in Western culture. Kate expected Emma to be cautious and not get dirty because she is a girl. She showed this when she went over to Emma and brushed the dirt off of her. She also didn't want her climbing as high up as her brother because she views her as weak. Kate expected Jeremy to be masculine and take care of Emma. She wanted him to be the strong and brave one. She showed this when she asked him to push Emma on the swings first and then appraised his independence when she

encouraged him to climb higher. In no way does she communicate equality in both of them which, back then, was the exact expectations of male and females in the Western culture. The men were considered to be the caretakers and women were expected to be the fragile and clean ones.