

Independence

Whenever we do something for a child which he can do for himself, we are showing him that we are bigger than he: better, more capable, more dext, more experienced, and more important. We continually demonstrate our assumed superiority and his supposed inferiority. Then we wonder why he feels incapable and becomes deficient!

Doing for a child what he can do for himself is extremely discouraging, since it deprives him of the opportunity to experience his own strength. It shows our complete lack of faith in his ability, courage, and adequacy, robs him of his sense of security, which is based on the realization of his own capacity to meet and solve problems, and denies him his right to develop self-sufficiency — all in order to keep our own image of our indispensability. Thus, we show an immense lack of respect for the child as a person.