

BACK TALK

Visiting with her friends, Sandy complained, "I don't know what's wrong with my kid. Even the smallest request ends up getting me a load of back talk. I tell him that he's not going to talk to me that way, but it just seems to make it worse."

This stimulated a discussion with Vickie saying, "Oh, I have the same problem, but when Paul back talks me about anything, I just thank him for reminding me that he's still hearing and communicating."

"Oh, I just have fun with it," remarked Bree. "I tell my daughters that if they really mean that back talk, to send me a text message."

Bev had a suggestion. "I like to have some fun with it too. I usually say, 'Jon, if that's really back talk, let me turn my back so you can talk to my back. Thanks.' I usually get some complaints, but it's hard for my kid to talk back when I'm walking away and going to my happy place."

"Yeah, I get that kind of back talk too," responded Veronica. "My husband and I find it helpful to thank Jeremy for helping in spite of the fact that he hates it."

"Yesterday, I asked him to empty the trash and he said, 'I hate emptying the trash. I have to do everything around here. It sucks!'

"I could tell that my husband wanted to lay into him, but he held his tongue and said, 'I know it's a bummer to always have jobs to do. Thanks for doing it anyway.' Then he gave him a hug. I was so proud of him."

You can learn more about adolescent back talk on page 180 in *The Love and Logic Journal Tenth Anniversary Collection*.