

Rebbetzen's Corner



"Words"

As children, most of us have chanted the old saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." And we believed it then, or at least we tried to. It was a way for us to cope in a world that at times could be cold and unkind. I believed that saying when I was a child because it helped me to survive. The years have passed and hopefully I have gotten wiser. Now I know better. My new version of that old saying goes something like this: "Sticks and stones CAN break my bones, BUT WORDS CAN DESTROY THE

Las Vegas Israelite

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WORLD AS WE KNOW IT..."

Words are the most powerful weapon in the world. Just a word or two can start a feud that could last for generations. We've heard about families that have been fighting for many generations. The feud was started by an unkind word or two from each side and after hundreds of years, the words are not remembered, but the pain is.

An unkind word can make a child feel inferior, inadequate or cause him or her to carry a "com-

plex" deep inside for a lifetime. While on the other hand, a gentle, kind or loving word can help a child feel beautiful, secure, self-assured and loved. Many child psychologists believe that parents words, in large part, help to form a child's basic character and personality. For example, if a parent is constantly telling a child that he or she is bad or stupid, soon the child begins to believe what is being said and role plays to fit into the mold that has been cast by the parent's words. On the other hand, if parents focus in on the good behavior of a

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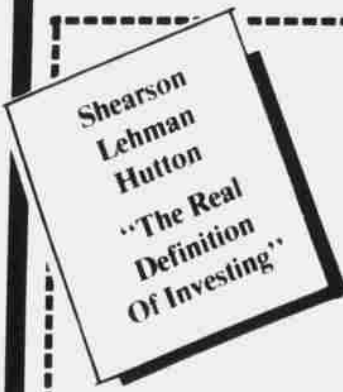
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