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So You want to be a *Prince?*

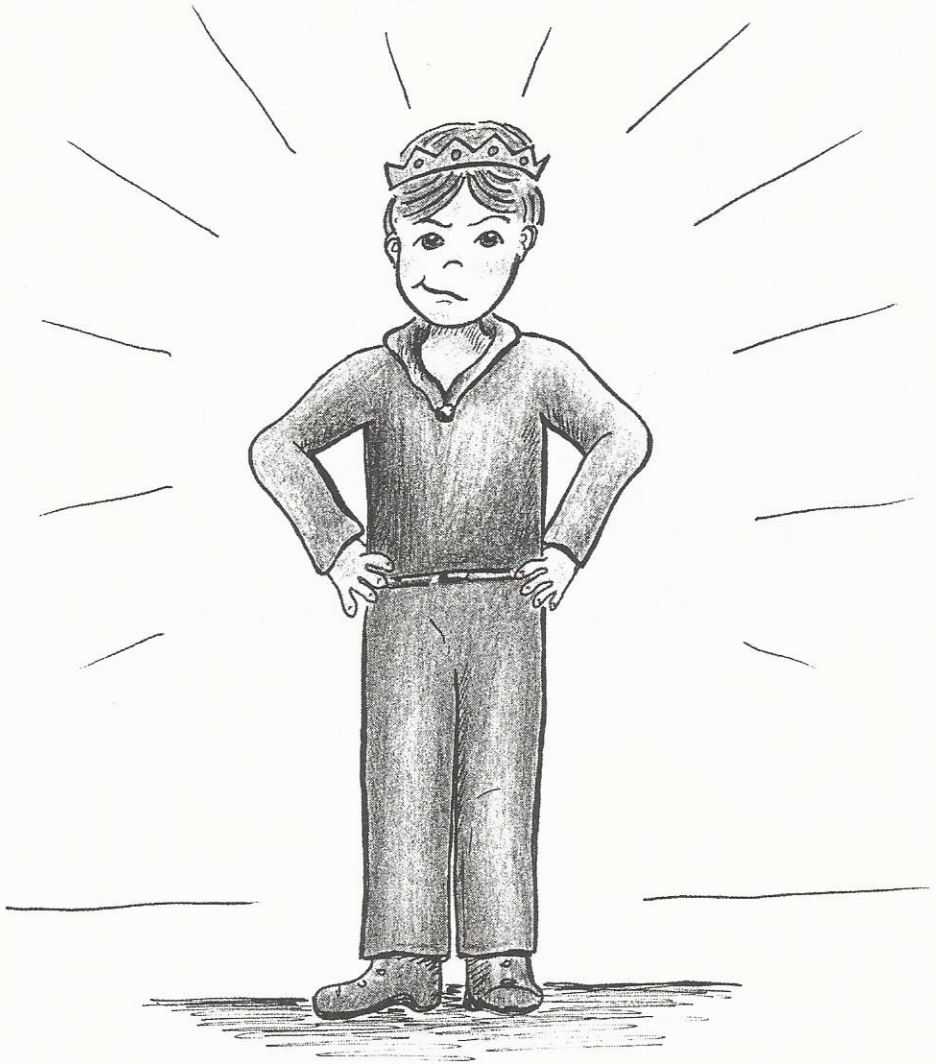


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Deborah Hage, MSW

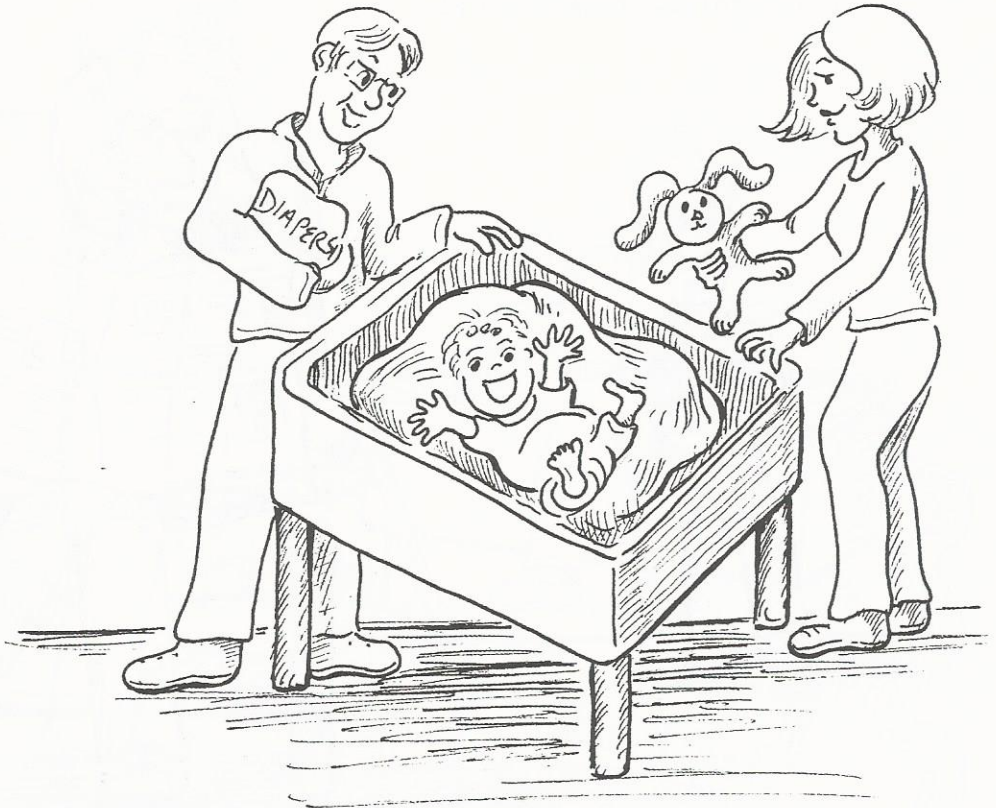


So You want to be a
Prince?



For wounded children everywhere, who,
while denying the facts,
have no trouble recognizing the truth.

Beautiful beautiful baby.
What a prince!



Does the prince need his diaper changed?

Does the prince want a toy?

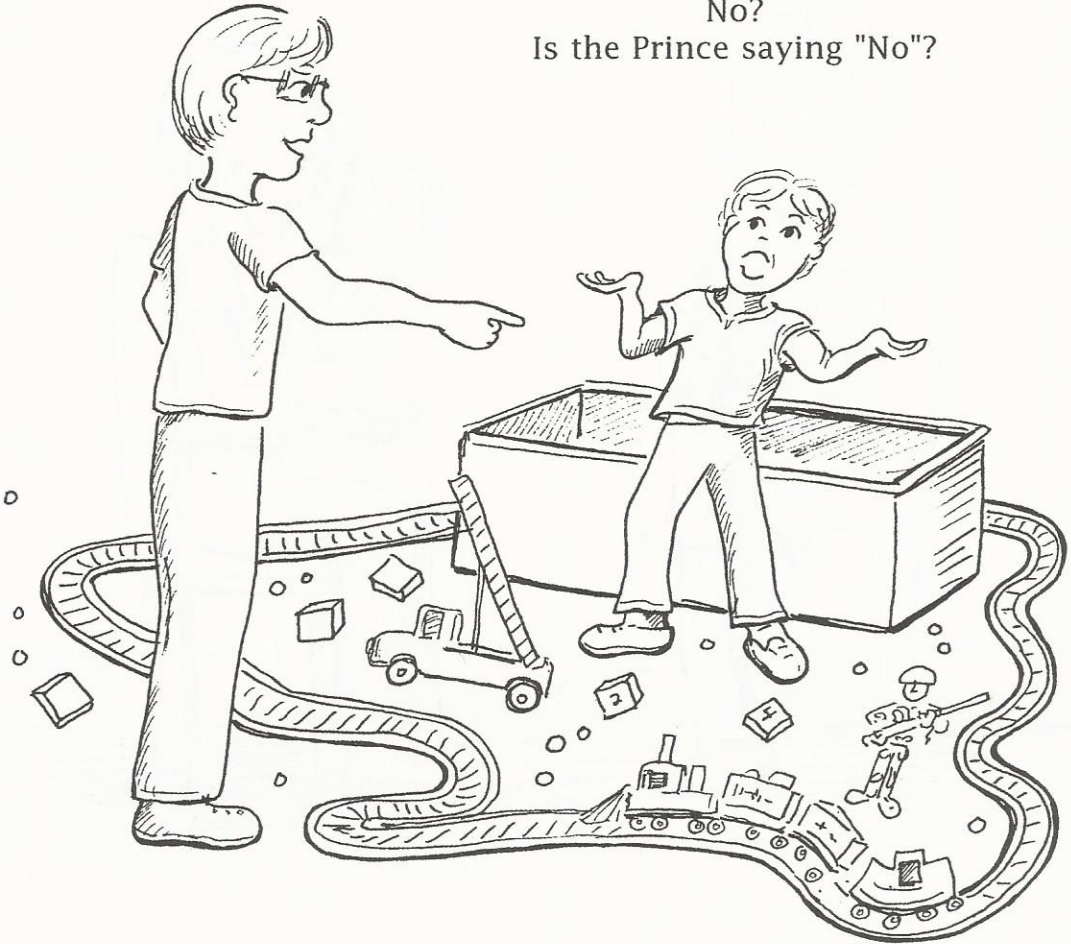
Peek a boo, prince.

Time to go to bed, Prince.



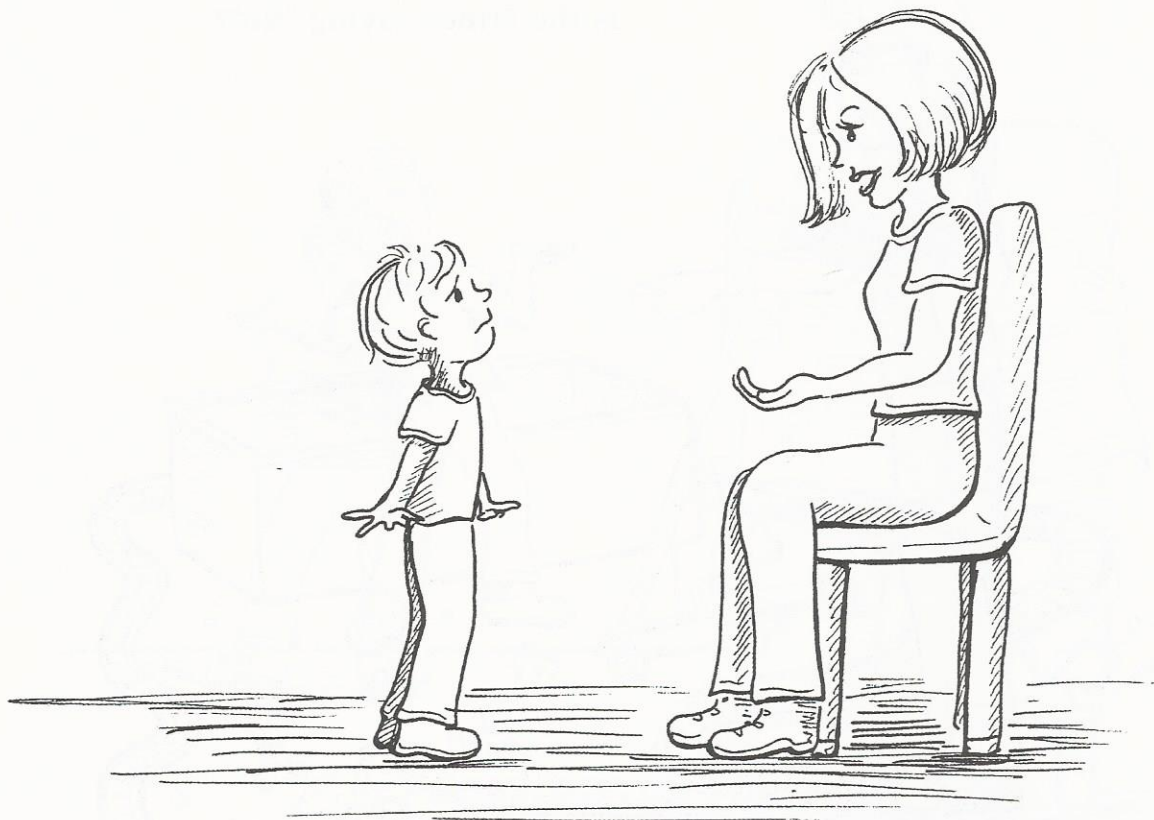
No? Is the prince saying "No"?

Put away your toys, Prince.
No?
Is the Prince saying "No"?

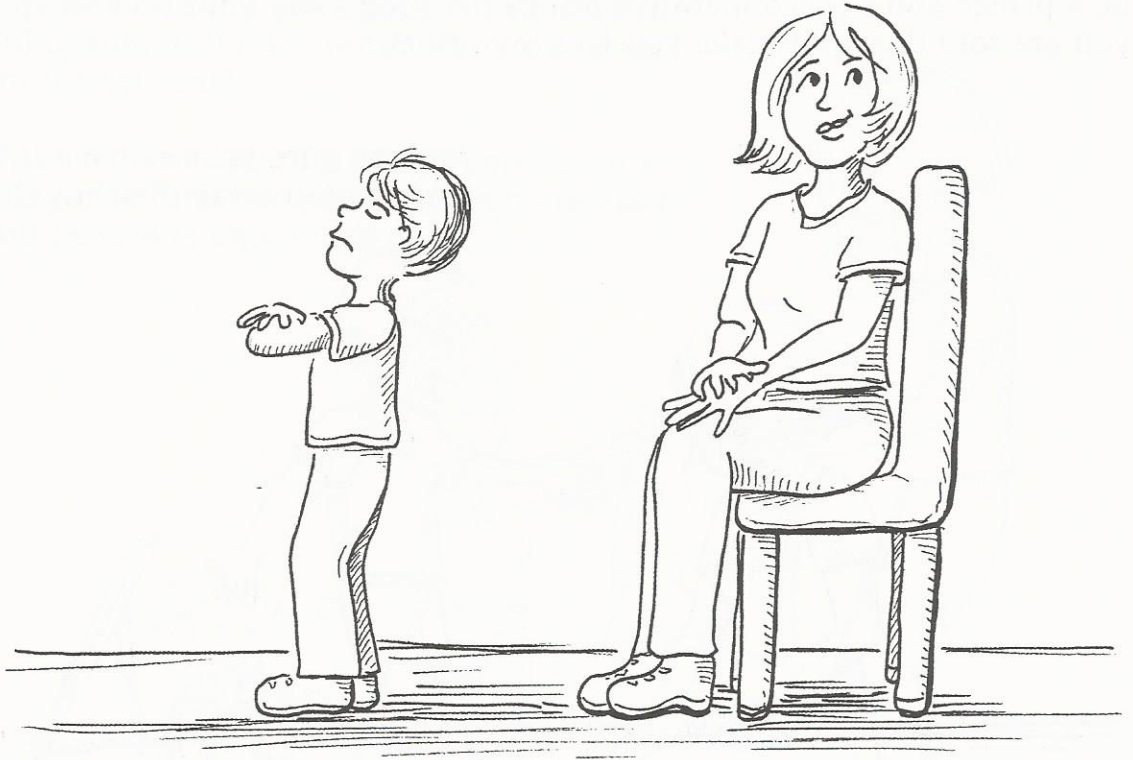


Princes don't have to do anything anyone else tells them to do.
That is what makes them princes.

Well, Prince, it is not quite like that.



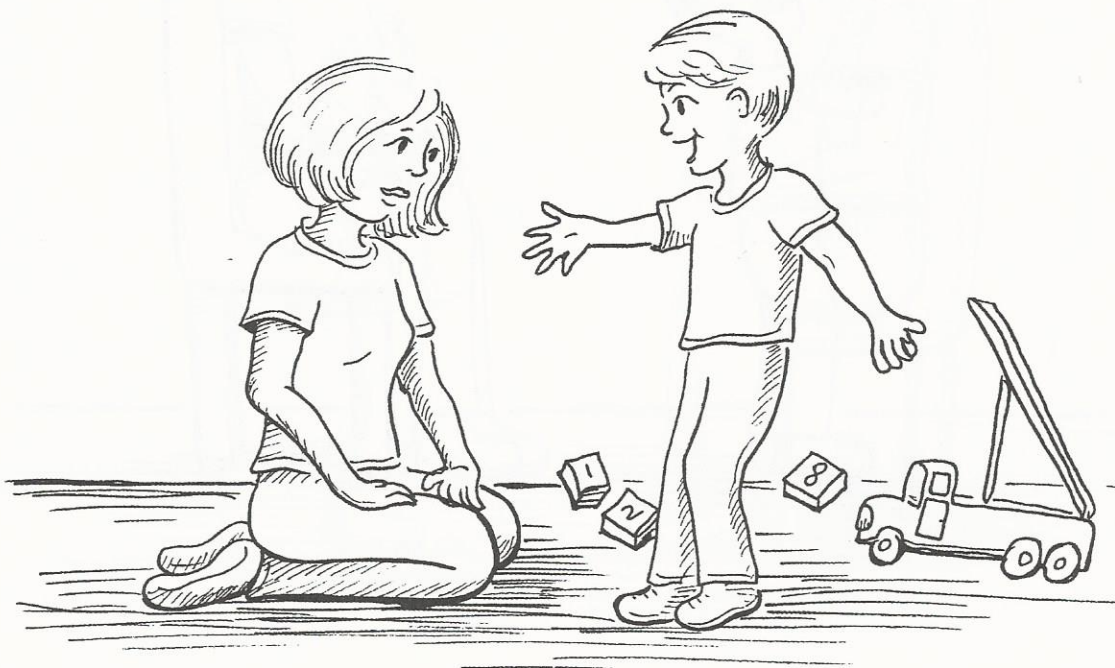
What makes a prince is that he is the son of a queen.
And queens are obeyed by everyone, even their little princes.



I am not going to do it your way. I am not that kind of a prince. I am the kind of prince that only does what he wants to do when he wants to do it.

You cannot be a prince unless I am a queen. It is my job to be a very good queen so you learn how to grow up to be a good prince. You can be a prince and be a cooperative prince. Putting away your toys when you are told does not make you less my prince.

Are you sure princes have to learn to put away their toys?

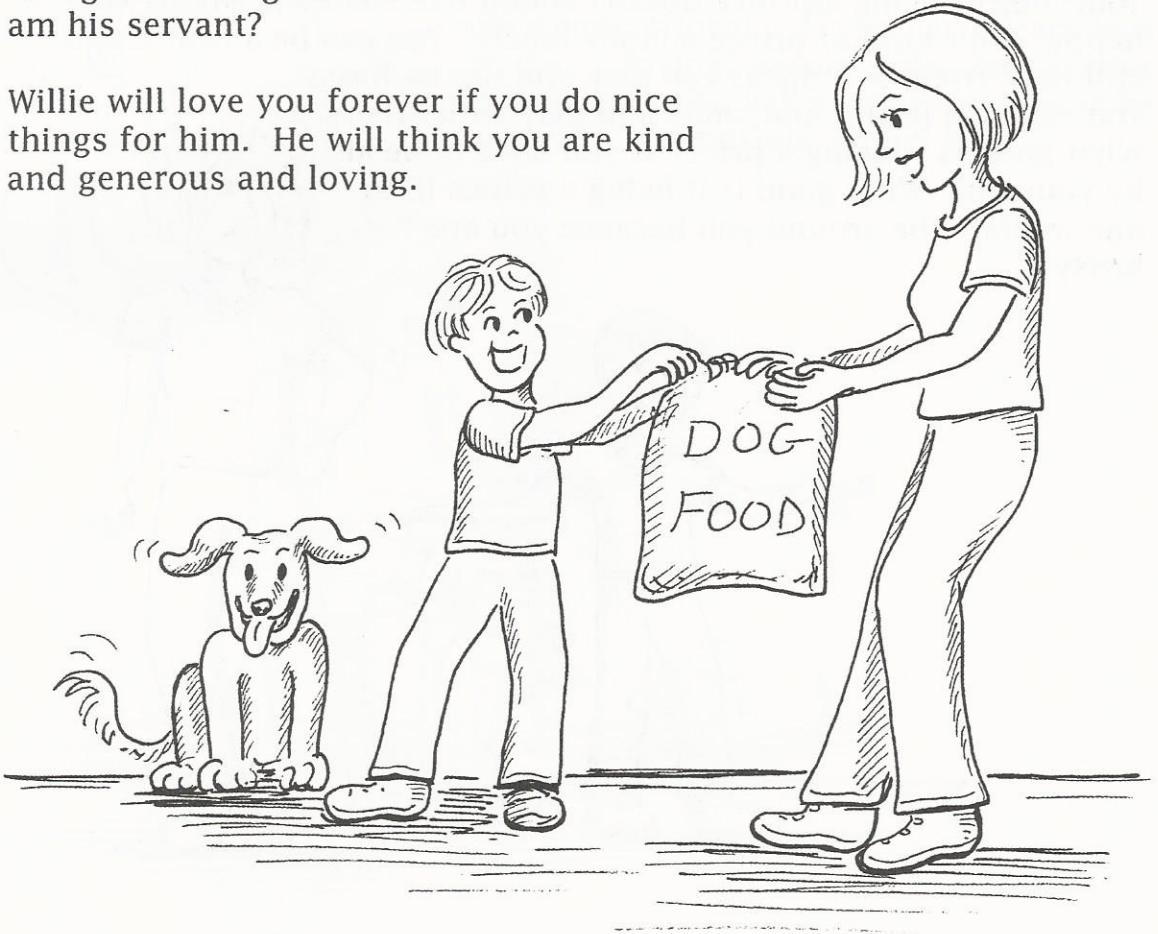


Positive!

You can be a prince and be a responsible prince. Feeding Willie (the dog) does not make you less of a prince.

Will Willie think I am a prince if he sees me doing something for him? Won't he think I am his servant?

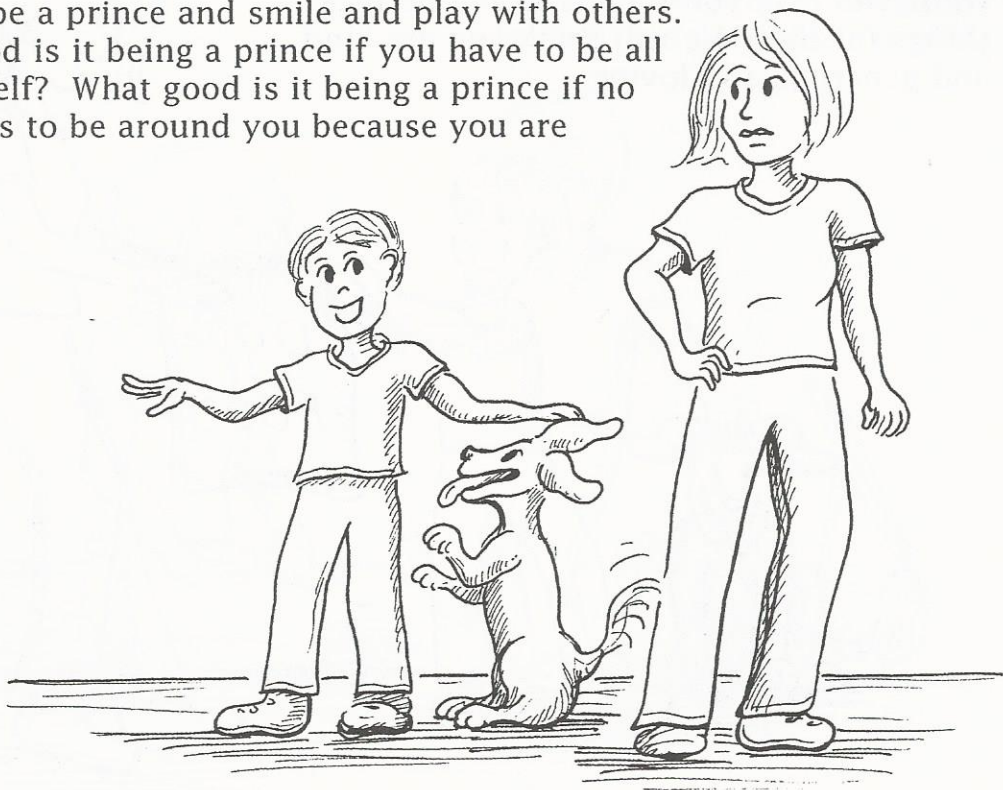
Willie will love you forever if you do nice things for him. He will think you are kind and generous and loving.



He will not think you are his servant, but a very good friend.

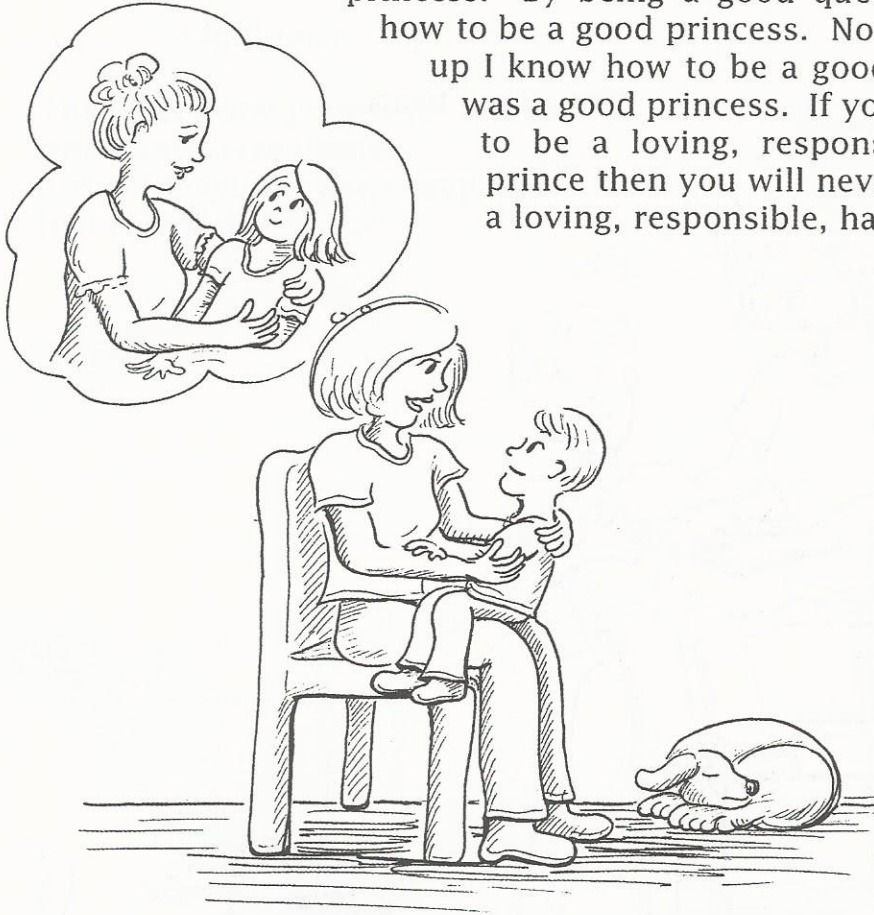
Friend? Princes don't have friends unless they are other princes. Other people won't know they are princes unless they tell them what to do. Princes are always in charge. That is their job.

Your idea of being a prince doesn't sound like someone who is very happy. Your kind of prince sounds lonely. You can be a prince and still have friends. Princes can play and not be bossy. You can be a prince and smile and play with others. What good is it being a prince if you have to be all by yourself? What good is it being a prince if no one wants to be around you because you are bossy?



Are you sure? What makes you think you know so much about being a prince?

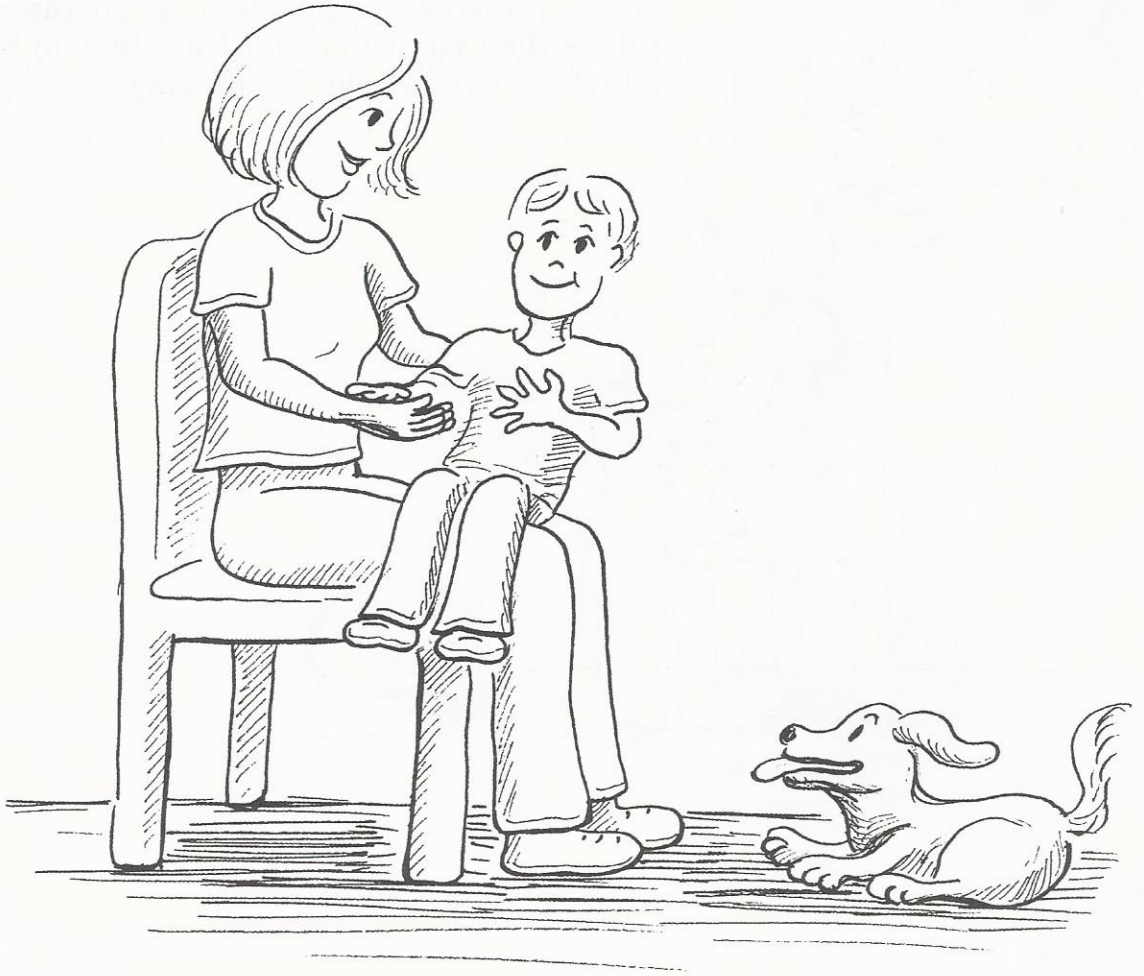
Because when I was a little girl, I was my mother's princess. By being a good queen she taught me how to be a good princess. Now that I am grown up I know how to be a good queen because I was a good princess. If you never learn how to be a loving, responsible, cooperative prince then you will never learn how to be a loving, responsible, happy king.



Are you really a queen?

To you I am. Because if I am not a queen then you cannot be a prince.
Do you want to be a prince?

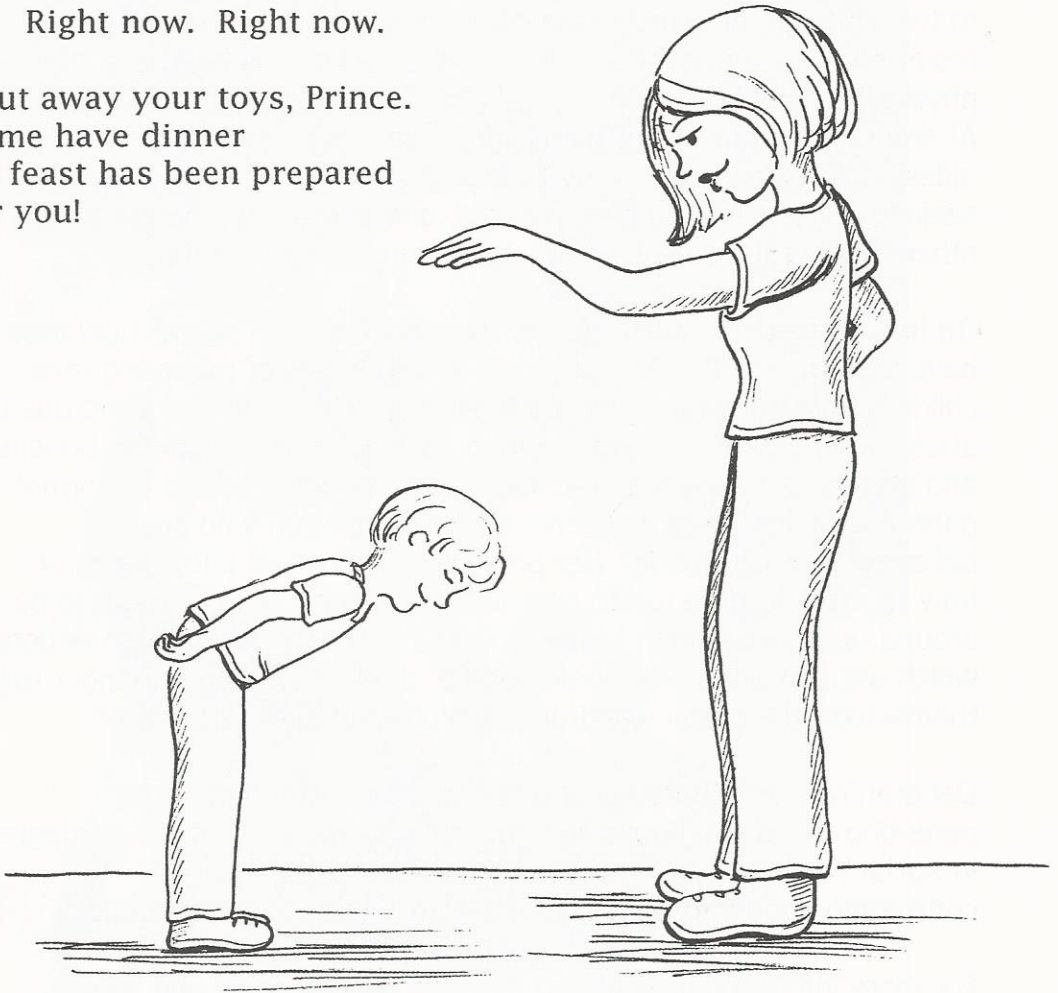
With all my heart.



When do you want to become a prince?

Right now. Right now.

Then put away your toys, Prince.
And come have dinner
A royal feast has been prepared
just for you!



With pleasure, Your Royal Highness.

About the Author

Deborah Hage remains happily married after 30 years and 14 children to Paul Hage. During their years of being parents they have given birth to two children, adopted seven children and have been therapeutic foster parents to five other children, Most of the children have been physically, emotionally, behaviorally, and/or intellectually challenged. At one point in time 10 of the children were teenagers at once! Their oldest children are now in the throes of emancipation, with several seeking out and finding birth parents, one becoming a parent and others finding the surest way to leave home is to go to jail.

In her "**Parenting with Pizazz**" lectures Deborah shares how they have stayed sane through the trials and triumphs of parenting their children, most of whom entered their lives with emotional scars due to abuse and neglect. She lectures nationwide and in Canada on bonding and attachment as well as techniques which, when added to normal parenting styles, have a positive effect on children who are behaviorally problematic. Her presentations include information on how to make it more fun to be a parent and children more fun to be around, as well as when to hang on and when to let go. Interventions which are appropriate at home and for children who are a danger to themselves, their family and/or their community are addressed.

Deborah has contributed chapters and articles on therapeutic parenting to several books and publications and has a master's degree in Social Work. She is in private practice and is available for consultation and intensive child and family therapy interventions.

For more information regarding therapy, lecture dates and fees contact:

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