



NO RULES FOR MICHAEL

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When the teacher gives Michael and his preschool class a day without rules, the children learn what it would be like if there were no rules to follow.

Sylvia Rouss provides the counter to that age-old childhood belief that the world would be a perfect place if only we could do whatever we choose. Michael and his classmates discover that without rules problems quickly ensue. What an astute teacher (or parent) who allows children to learn for themselves, as did the youngsters in this book, the natural consequences of various behaviors.

Young children can consider the importance of rules. Share these questions with your little ones and enjoy the creative ideas that emerge!

- Why are rules necessary?
- Who makes rules?
- Are some rules more important than others?
- Do rules ever change?
- What happens when people break rules?
- What should you do if you break a rule?

Based on your family talks, together create a pictograph that shows the most important rules in your home; post it in a prominent place and refer to it at opportune times.

In the Biblical book of Exodus, Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying stone tablets with laws, sent as a gift from God for the Israelites. The Children of Israel, like this story's Michael, were not keen on rules. On returning from the mountain, Moses became so angered by the actions of the people -- who, impatient, had created a golden calf to worship -- that he shattered the holy tablets. Later, Moses ascended Sinai again, where God, having forgiven the Israelites, offered the Ten Commandments a second time.

For a loving adult to relate this account to children at their level of understanding can help them see that errors in judgment and behavior, while not desirable, can lead to learning, forgiveness and the opportunity to become wiser people.