

18 Handy Tips for Family Education

Tip 4: When kids tell lies? (Dialogue Script)

Docudrama 1: DON'Ts	
Mother:	Siu-wai, come here. Why did you steal money this morning before you went to school?
Siu-wai:	I didn't./
Mother:	No more lies! Your sister told me that this morning you had stolen the 20 dollars I put on the table.
Siu-wai:	I didn't. It's sister who's lying.
Mother:	You'd better admit it. It's wrong to steal money, and even worse to tell lies and accuse others. What's wrong with you?
Father:	He said he hadn't. Anyway, 20 dollars isn't any big sum of money. Let it go.
Mother:	Let it go? How can you teach your boy honesty in this way? Stealing money, telling lies and passing the buck, all these being trivial? So you're not admitting it, right? OK, I'm going to beat you!
Expert Advice	
Prof. Wong Po-choi:	Why do kids lie? In short, fear. They are afraid of being scolded and punished. In fact, kids are both imaginative and forgetful. They think that if they do not admit anything, nothing has really happened. Therefore, when kids make a mistake, parents should ease their fear in the first place and then we can guide them to face mistakes. This is the way to enhance their honesty intelligence.
Docudrama 2: DOs	
Mother:	Siu-wai, come here. Siu-wai, you have more pocket money today, right?
Siu-wai:	No, just as usual.
Mother:	Mummy loves you. are you afraid that I'd scold you so there's something that you dare not tell me? Siu-wai, honesty is very important. If we make any mistake, don't be afraid. Admit it and the punishment will be light. If you don't admit it, Dad and Mum will get angry, and the punishment will be heavy. Let me ask you

once more. This morning, did you take away the 20 dollars on the table? You did take it but were afraid to admit it, right? Good! One must admit the mistake he has made. OK. I think you're really brave this time so I'm not going to punish you. But don't ever steal money again. Daddy, what do you think?/

Father: Siu-wai is so honest. Daddy won't punish you either. But next time if you make a mistake and feel scared, you must tell us. Also remember not to tell lies again. If you talk to us, even if we think you ought to be punished, the punishment will be lighter.

Siu-wai: I got it.