Right and Wrong

Do you think children are naturally good and have a sense of fairness?

Or do you think they are little devils, given half the chance?

Whatever you think about what’s ‘natural’ for children, one way or another they are going to have to learn to live with the sets of rules in our society. Learning about right and wrong, and translating it into action is a challenge, and one that lasts through our whole life, so helping children how they consider their ‘moral’ choices is good for their future.

We have to remind ourselves that children’s worlds are very different to ours. What can go on in the playground is quite different to what we may experience in work. It’s worth encouraging your children to explain why it wasn’t ‘fair’ for someone to cut them out of a game, or call them a ‘boo’ (even if they don’t know what that meant!). It’s also worth talking with them about what they could do in such situations.

Most children do have principles, but it can be hard for them to apply them in the daily rough-and-tumble of their lives. Talking about them with parents can help to reinforce them and make them easier to follow through.

Visit open2.net/childofourtime to find out more about these themes and for you and your family to add your views to our national survey