

# Children & Childrearing

Will raising children be a challenge in the age of Armageddon? Of course.

But as a parent, there are quite a few reasons for encouragement:

- If you view “kids today” as a pack of unruly monsters with no regard for law and tradition, you’re not an old fuddy-duddy like *your* parents. You’re a sharp-eyed observer!
- No positive role models in their lives? Sure. But hey, no negative ones either.
- *Everyone’s* family is “blended” now. To the child who protests, “You’re not my real dad!” there’s finally a good response: “Duh!”

When society as we know it crumbled to the ground, *so did its expectations of parents*. Forget grade point averages, college acceptances, career and spouse choices. If they make it to adulthood without killing each other and propagate the species, you’re Ward and June Cleaver.

But to keep them in line, you will need to draw upon a few proven post-apocalyptic parenting strategies:<sup>42</sup>

## Carrot & Stick

Literally. You can accomplish an amazing amount of discipline by withholding/offering carrots, and penalizing with sticks.

## Advanced Carrot & Stick

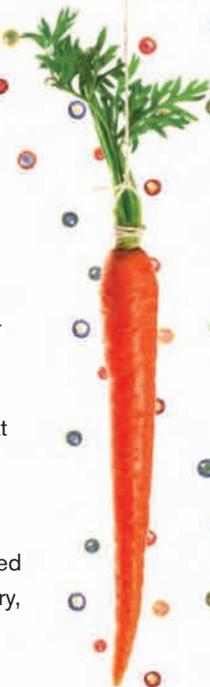
This new world offers a host of compelling rewards and punishments, many of which are right at hand. “Going to bed without supper” takes on a whole new force when supper is the only meal of the day. Likewise, when their only source of sugar is that which is boiled out of beet mash, a little goes a long way.

## Actual Bogeymen

Whether your world is now overrun by fearsome octopus-headed Rigellians, hyper-intelligent-yet-sadistic cloned sheep gone awry, or the very Hounds of Hell,<sup>43</sup> you now have a tangible threat at hand to incentivize your kids to behave, do their chores, or eat their vegetable.

## Time Outs

These gain a fresh potency when there is literally *nothing to do*. Five minutes feels like five hours, five hours like ten. And, under the new timekeeping conditions, who’s to say it isn’t?



<sup>42</sup> Well, they haven’t been disproven.

<sup>43</sup> To say nothing of Hell’s Sporting Class Dogs and Terriers.