

They said they were giving it to him,

8. **But kids go more by what they see than what they hear,** by the action more than just the words, especially when upset! So he didn't see the potato coming, all he saw was the beans, and that made him really mad because he didn't get what he wanted.

9. **Instead of getting a potato he got some beans!** He was so mad he just pushed them off his plate! It was almost like an involuntary reaction. But just the same, he cannot be allowed to yield himself to those temper tantrums and just uncontrolled violence—that's about what it amounted to in a mild way.

10. **I felt that I just had to slap his mouth** because of the way he was acting so rebellious. I felt real bad to have to do it, but I thought it necessary that he learn he can't just always have his own way and can't do as he pleases and get away with little tantrums like that.

11. **But I think if you guys had been a little faster with the potato the whole scene might have been avoided.** He was in kind of a contrary mood for some reason when we were with him all this afternoon. I don't know, maybe we weren't paying enough attention to him or something.

12. **If you don't pay them enough attention, then they know one sure way of getting your attention.—Do something you don't like!** (Sara: But yet, they're begging for your attention, your love, so even if they get a spank, they feel that at least they got your attention. If we could avoid the scene from the beginning, by just giving them the love and attention they need, that is what they're after.)

13. **Yes, they don't like to be ignored,** especially in the little time we spend with them, and we were talking with you. Now that's another thing he seemed to particularly resent: He's particularly jealous of you and the time we spend talking to you—that's another thing that just occurred to me. He always does that when you're around. Yes, we were talking together & ignoring him.

14. **It seems like that one potato could have prevented the whole thing!** You've got to remember how a child thinks. He concentrates on one thing and that's what he's got on his mind.

15. (Sara: The people in the Family go exactly by the past

letter of the law and what's been drilled into them under Deb's Childcare methods. So then the kids get whacked immediately, rather than even warned or reasoned with, and it's not stressed to love them up afterwards.

16. (Whereas I know with Davidito, we respect him and his gifts in the Lord, and besides that, we treat him as a person and try to understand his way of thinking, so we try to reason with him and warn him and love him into obeying.

17. (But last night was a good example of how he really needed a punishment for outright defiance! He was warned, he was given opportunity to change, and he knew it was coming. But after he got it, he repented, which showed the "peaceable fruits of righteousness."—Heb. 12:11.

18. (From past experience he knew you would love him up afterwards if he repented. He knew that we were doing it in love.) PTL! The love & mercy bore good fruit.

19. It just almost makes me cry thinking about how he was so broken-hearted!—Everything went wrong! It wasn't the way he had planned it at all. I didn't realise about the potato, so I can see the whole thing now: He had that all figured out how he was going to show us how good he was with a potato. I was so relieved when he got the victory so quickly and easily, so relieved to see him come back! He didn't want to be excommunicated. He didn't want to be exiled from the table to the bedroom.

20. (Sara: I hope other parents reason out and pray about why it happens and how they can avoid it, you know. Respecting the child is a big part of it.) Putting those beans on his plate without his consent was really interfering with his program and insulting his right of choice. He didn't want anything to do with them. Nevertheless, it was very naughty to shove them off on the tablecloth, and he knew it.

21. That just shows that if the child is brought up the right way with a lot of love, you can reason with him more and he doesn't need so much physical chastigation.

22. Davidito's so sensitive and so thoughtful, and usually so good. He is entirely a whole different case from my first four kids, who were such high-powered personalities that we really had to be on their cases. He never did need a lot of corporal