

Conference Keynote Speaker



Saturday April 27 10:45 am

Barbara Coloroso

Just Because it's not Wrong, Doesn't Make it Right

"Just because it's not wrong, doesn't make it right - teaching kids to think and act ethically."

A presentation packed with solid practical advice on how to use the stuff of everyday life to teach children to act with integrity, civility, and compassion. Beginning with the idea that it is in us to care, that we are born with an innate capacity for compassion, Barbara Coloroso shows professionals, educators, and parents how to nurture and guide children's ethical lives from toddlerhood through the teen years using everyday situations at home, at school, in social settings, and in the world at large.

- How to develop an ethic rooted in deep caring with principles, virtues, and values that are in the service to and at the service of that caring.
- The why and how to teach our children to think and act ethically.
- The possibilities and pitfalls of character education programs.
- Nurturing in children the three antidotes (care deeply, share generously, help willingly) to the virulent agents that are ripping apart the fabric of our human relationships (hating, hoarding, and harming ourselves and others).
- How rigid moral absolutism and shifting moral relativism interfere with raising ethical human beings.
- Media: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly, and the Indifferent—how we can help children use these tools and not be used or consumed by them.
- The difference between punishment and discipline—why one works and the other only appears to.

The story about our human nature in today's social and cultural climate is part and parcel of our human nature and our social and cultural climate. Our story is also guided by our compassion and loving kindness, which recognizes that there is no I without Thou, no We without Community and no way to survive without honoring both our unique individuality and our common humanity.

Barbara Coloroso is an international bestselling author and for the past 53 years an internationally recognized speaker and consultant on parenting, teaching, school discipline, positive school climate, bullying, grieving, nonviolent conflict resolution and restorative justice.

She has appeared on Oprah, CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR and has been featured in the New York Times, Time, U.S. News & World Report, Newsweek, and other national and international publications.

Her uniquely effective parenting and teaching strategies were developed through her years of training in sociology, special education, and philosophy, as well as field-tested through her experiences as a classroom teacher, laboratory school instructor, university instructor, seminar leader, volunteer in Rwanda, and mother of three grown children. She is the author of four international bestsellers: *kids are worth it!*, *Giving Your Child the Gift of Inner Discipline*; *Parenting Through Crisis—Helping Kids in Times of Loss, Grief and Change*; *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander—From Pre-School to High School, How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence*; and *Just Because It's Not Wrong Doesn't Make It Right—From Toddlers to Teens, Teaching Kids to Think and Act Ethically*. Barbara's latest book is *Extraordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide...and Why it Matters*. She also has two critically acclaimed video programs *Winning at Parenting...without beating your kids* and *Winning at Teaching...without beating your kids*.

www.kidsareworthit.com