

Lying to her children would make them manipulative adults



Family >

NOTHING THAT THE TRUTH - A very serious study suggests that children who have been frequently lied to by parents during childhood would tend to be more manipulative in adulthood.

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Lying to his children would have repercussions on the mind and significant consequences on their behavior as an adult. A study by researchers at NTU of Singapore in collaboration with the Universities of Toronto (Canada), San Diego (USA) and Zhejiang (China), published recently in the journal, reveals this. *The Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

The principle of this study is simple: to interview 379 young adults aged 21 years on average by submitting them to four questionnaires with precise angles. In the first one, they were asked to indicate the frequency with which they felt that their parents had lied to them when they were children, with replicas like "if you do not come with me now, I will leave you here alone" "or" I did not take my wallet on me, we will come back another day ". In a second, the frequency with which participants today lie to their parents. Before the last two questionnaires devoted to the prosocial behavior of respondents, their propensity to lie and / or to behave in a selfish and impulsive way in society.

In analyzing the results, the researchers found that young adults whose parents acted as liars in their infancy were significantly more likely to socially adopt intrusive and manipulative behavior.

When the lie becomes an emotional threat

For Peipei Setoh, assistant professor at the School of Social Sciences at NTU and lead author of the study, these findings inspire reflection that parents "should be aware of these potential implications and consider alternatives to lying ". In other words, "parents, lie less, or else lie differently".

Perhaps it would have been necessary to ask the offending parents of young adults, those who lied in the past, why they showed such tricks on their offspring. Still, this study gives to measure the extent of the consequences of a lie in a child, especially when it is scary like the very common "If you do not come right away, I leave you alone in the park". For Dana Castro, clinical psychologist and author of "Small silences, little lies" (Albin Michel, 2012), answering the question of the parent's lie for the site MagicMaman: "More than a lie, it is a question of threat, blackmail that plays on fear, but fear is not a good educational tool. The child will obey because he is afraid, not because he understands the issue."

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