

*fathers are not raised to be good dads, but we're trying*

It's just not fair. Someone told me recently that men make lousy fathers. Well excuse me, but if you really want to be honest about it, men have never been good father material. They were not raised to be good fathers.

From the moment they are born, females are being prepared for motherhood. Their first toy is almost always a cute little doll. And in this wonderful world of modern technology, they have created dolls that will give a little girl first hand experience with every aspect of child rearing. She will learn how to change diapers, handle feedings, burping, tantrums, bathing, fixing hair, kissing owies, and many other tasks that will come in handy many years down the road when the dolls become the real thing.

Females are well prepared for motherhood. It's no wonder that a young man, who has spent many years playing catch with his Dad in the back yard, will smile at the camera during a national telecast and say, "Hi Mom!"

Females play mother all through their childhood. By the time they get married and begin the process of splitting chromosomes, they have had many years of practice. Females make great mothers, no doubt about it.

But what about Dad? He spent his childhood crashing cars, bulldozing the back yard with trucks and tractors, saving the world with an assortment of inter-galactic weaponry and learning the fine art of turning a single into a double.

By the time a boy becomes a man and earns the privilege of passing out cigars, he is no more prepared for fatherhood than Hitler would be for Passover.

Com'on, let's lighten up on fatherhood already. I think most of us do a pretty good job considering we haven't had much training for the job. Men may not be able to hold a stick to women when it comes to parenting, but we certainly do much better than we are given credit for.

Would you condemn a woman for not being able to fix her car if she had absolutely no

training in auto mechanics? Of course you wouldn't.

Would you condemn a woman for not being able to hit to the opposite field and advance the runner to third, when she had a childhood that told her that girls should not be found on a baseball field? Of course not!

Sure there is a lot of room for improvement, but let's be fair to the men of the world. How good would you be if you were hired for a job you had no training for?

Raising children is the most demanding, toughest job that we will ever take on in our lives. Men are certainly handicapped from the time they begin to pass out those cigars, but they are not hopeless.

Fatherhood is easily the greatest challenge a man will face in his lifetime. How sad it is that it will also be one of the few challenges he faces with so little preparation for. He is raised in a macho world of rough, tough, tumbling toys and then thrown into a world of gentleness, compassion and patience. It's a wonder that men get as far as they do, if you ask me.

There are many men who take a lot of pride in their roles as fathers. Yes there are far too many men out there that do more harm than good. But those of us who are trying, feel bad about these cases too, and become frustrated with the image that has been built against us.

Most of us are really trying. We may fumble a lot through diaper duty, mess up our feeding assignments and create a number of blunders in our efforts to become good dads, but in all fairness, I think we do a pretty good job. You simply don't learn much about fatherhood when you grow up playing with Tonka Trucks.

Just A Thought