

Spin - Family as Care Providers

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

parent, grandparent, conversation, laws, matching, child, listener, talk, family, care provider, dave, topic, work, episode, thayer, paying, uncomfortable, home, love, family member

SPEAKERS

Deana Thayer, Future Focused Parenting, Kira Dorrian

- K** Kira Dorrian 00:04
What happens when two parent coaches, one a Christian and the other an agnostic Jew, sit down to talk about parenting?
- D** Deana Thayer 00:10
I'm Deana Thayer,
- K** Kira Dorrian 00:11
and I'm Kira Dorrian.
- D** Deana Thayer 00:12
Welcome to Raising Adults, a podcast about Future Focused Parenting.
- K** Kira Dorrian 00:18
Hi, everyone. Welcome to the fourth bonus episode of Raising Adults. This is spincycle number four. We're going to answer a listener question and talk about actually a really important topic, which is dealing with your family and your partner's family. And we may end up doing a whole episode on this. I don't know but this question kind of pertains to

that. So we will talk about that a little bit today. And so the question comes from Tracy, and Tracy says that she uses her family and I believe her partner's family for childcare on a pretty regular basis. And what do you do when they won't parent on the same page with you? When they're a regular care provider and they are seeing your kids day to day, but they're not matching the routine or the expectations that you have in your home. Such a great question. So good. So I want to just speak to that really quickly because I have my father living in our home. And we definitely, when he moved in with us bumped up against this. And it wasn't for lack of trying. He, I think some some parents or grandparents really don't feel comfortable implementing something that's different, maybe generationally, right. That's not how we did it in my time. And that can feel kind of threatening. And I think we need to remember that sometimes when we parent differently, it's easy for the generation above us to maybe see that as a comment on the way they parented and that may or may not be the case. But it can feel a little uncomfortable probably for them. But some parents like my dad really do want to match but aren't always successful. And so my dad and I ended up sitting down and having this really good conversation where I said to him, look, you live here, so you're not a grandparent, you're a co parent. And that means you have to parent like we do. That is the expectation in our home. However, I said, I know that that sucks, because you want to be a grandparent. So what we ended up doing was setting up special grandparent days where he gets to take them out for ice cream and pizza and do all the things that he was doing, like every week, twice a week. Instead, he gets to do that and have that time, but not on the days where he's in charge.

D

Deana Thayer 02:30

I love it. So he gets a break from matching you guys.

K

Kira Dorrian 02:33

Yeah, because he deserves one, and he should get to be grandpa sometimes. But I also need him because he lives in the home. I need him to be a co parent. So that's kind of how we did it. I have more to say, but I'm gonna let you pop in your thoughts.

D

Deana Thayer 02:49

Yeah, well, my thought is not going to be popular, I don't think, because particularly if you're, if you're reliant on a daycare facility and maybe it was hard to find one that was near you and the right price and all of those things. This can be really hard, but I really am okay, just like we talked about changing a pregnancy care provider with saying, I'm gonna have to jump ship because I need this to match. Because the truth is, especially if

you're a working parent, whoever is with them while you're at work really has them the bulk of their awake time. And so it will impact if they're not matching your philosophies.

K

Kira Dorrian 03:21

Well, and I also think there's a huge difference between when you're paying somebody and you're not. So a family member, I think what becomes really complicated with family members, aside from the fact that they're family, is that you're not paying them. So they're sort of doing this kindness. And now you're gonna criticize how you do that kindness. But with a daycare, to me, it's super clear cut. It's like, I am literally paying you possibly for some people the bulk of their paycheck, right, right. So I know when I, when I went back to work, because I worked part time in my private practice. And Dave was like, you just need to earn enough money to keep your practice open so that when they go to school, you're not starting over again. And I think a lot of families are in that position where like, I just have to keep my career going. So there were days where like, literally, we'd get paid in cash, I would come home and I would hand all of the cash over to the nanny. Oh, brutal, right? It was, but we had a great nanny. But all that is to say that if you have a, you know, your child in a daycare center, you are paying for that.

D

Deana Thayer 04:20

You're a consumer, you can take your business elsewhere. What I meant with that being challenging, though, is for some people location is a big thing with commuting or they had a certain budget for it. And that was the place that or even space, there's so, there's sometimes really long waiting lists for daycares.

K

Kira Dorrian 04:37

I think that's a really fair challenge. And and it may be that a parent has to weigh those and go, is it worth it? It depends on what the issue is, I suppose. Is it worth it? Can I live with it? Is it acceptable? Unacceptable? If it's not acceptable, we got to get out.

D

Deana Thayer 04:51

Yeah, you still have to make a move. And I, I'm really blessed in that my parents loved the way I handled infancy and early childhood with my kids and so they were like yeah, we'll do it this way. But it's not always like that for people. So what are your thoughts on when there might be some conflict and it's a family member, you can't just kick them to the curb?

K

Kira Dorrian 05:11

I think so depends on the relationship that you have because I would say, and this is just based on my own relationship with my parents, it was really easy for me to be loud mouthed about it, but that's the kind of relationship that we've always had. I've always been loud mouthed unsurprisingly. So that was never an issue, but with my in laws, it's, it's harder because it's..

D

Deana Thayer 05:31

That's a little more delicate.

K

Kira Dorrian 05:32

It's very delicate and as I've talked about, they're in England, so there is a really different paradigm around parenting. And at the same time, I know some some people with their in laws, there's just so much discord there that it just fuels that. For us, I really love my in laws. So really wanting to preserve that relationship but still have to have hard conversations. For me what it all comes down to is you are your child's advocate. The end. So at the end of the day, really parents, I don't think have the luxury of not saying something.

D

Deana Thayer 06:07

Got to speak up.

K

Kira Dorrian 06:08

You do. And it's really uncomfortable sometimes. And I have been there. I've been in that situation where I had to really push myself to have a conversation I didn't want to have, but I had to have it because I am trying to raise an adult and I would not have someone undermine how hard I work. And we all work not just me, right? Parents out there are busting their butts to raise good kids. And I'm sorry, but if someone is involved in that child's life and isn't willing to participate in that, to me that warrants a big conversation. You know, like, also I think, especially when you're dealing with mother child, Father, child, you know, your parents ultimately most likely love you and want to care for you. And I know certainly for my in laws where there's been, you know, maybe some discrepancy around how to handle something. It always comes from love and from really wanting Dave and I to be healthy and well and not work too hard, and you know, all this kind of stuff. And so I think sometimes posing it as when you don't support this, it's really hard on me,

right? It actually makes my job harder, or I'm up in the night and then I'm tired. Because parents so often want to care for their children, if they understand that it's not a judgment on their style. It's more about how that is impacting their child.

D

Deana Thayer 07:25

And the other nice thing you do when you do that is you're not addressing them as the grandparent, but as the parent of an adult child.

K

Kira Dorrian 07:31

Yep, exactly. So I think you have to sometimes be willing to have those tough conversations and I know when I was teaching childbirth classes this came up all the time. Like I'm, what are you most nervous about? I'm most nervous about my mother in law coming to stay for, you know, a month. Or I'm most nervous about my own mom, I couldn't, it broke my heart how many times that was the case where someone's own mom was the source of stress, stress and judgment. And so I think that it really just, it's a growth opportunity. You're a parent. You're the grown up, we got to act like one. And sometimes that means being uncomfortable and having hard conversations and not being afraid to flex those advocacy skills, because you are the only advocate that little person has.

D

Deana Thayer 08:11

And if you're a Future Focused Parent, you're about doing what's best for your kid.

K

Kira Dorrian 08:17

Not what's expedient, or easy. And it is easier to not have those hard conversations it is, but it's not necessarily what's best. But I think we do have to weigh where we can get into trouble is when do you need to let things go? So I think there's, you really got to be clear, if you're going to sit down and have a conversation like with my dad, there's some stuff we let go because you know what, it just wasn't worth getting into an argument about.

D

Deana Thayer 08:40

And not every issue is worth an uncomfortable conversation, right? Right. But there are some basic foundational principles that were very important to us like not eating ice cream twice a week. So you know, those kinds of things did actually need to be addressed. But a lot of the times and I've said this before, you know if we go to England and there's maybe a difference of opinion around dessert, well for two weeks, you know what? They

can have dessert, you're on vacation. Yeah, that was a huge revelation for me like, stop fighting this battle. It's not fun for anyone and all you're doing is causing yourself more stress and hurting the feelings of your, you know, your in laws, right? It's better to let that one go. And also be flexible, and maybe reflect a little bit on like, well, what is that about? For me? Maybe I'm being ridiculous, because sometimes I'm ridiculous. Sometimes we're the stinker.

K

Kira Dorrian 09:26

Totally. I am often the stinker. Dave would, Dave would 100% agree.

D

Deana Thayer 09:31

I'm sure my husband would too. And so I think there's a balance there.

K

Kira Dorrian 09:35

But ultimately, I would say to Tracy, that that's a conversation you have to have if, if they are going to be involved on a regular basis. There has to be an expectation that certain foundational principles and values within your family are being met.

D

Deana Thayer 09:47

Yeah, by and large, we say have the chat.

K

Kira Dorrian 09:50

Yeah. So if you have any listener questions and you want to write in, we love hearing from our listeners, so please, oh, please send in an email to info@FutureFocusedParenting.com. Or if you have a topic that you would like us to address in an episode, we would love to hear about that. I will tell you, we have just the world's longest list of topics so many a season is coming your way. And but we do really love to hear from our listeners. So go ahead and send your questions to info@FutureFocusedParenting.com. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @RaisingAdultsPodcast. And for more information, you can go to RaisingAdultsPodcast.com or our bigger brand, which is FutureFocusedParenting.com. On FutureFocusedparenting.com you can find out more about our private coaching, you can find out about our ebooks and purchase them there. And you can get in touch with us. And you can also listen to the podcast there, though we encourage you to listen through iTunes or one of those because then we get credit for it. And that helps our relevancy. It's a thing. It's a thing. Relevancy is a thing we've

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Deana Thayer 11:03

We're getting used to hearing it, which is great.



Kira Dorrian 11:06

Thank you. Raising Adults is produced by Kira Dorrian and Deana Thayer and recorded in my laundry room. Music by Seattle band Hannalee. Thanks for listening.



Future Focused Parenting 11:14

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