

Ally

Annie's Mailbox

Favoritism causes hard feelings

Dear Annie: I am 33 years old and fed up with how distant my family is. I am disappointed with my grandparents for the way they behave. I grew up around them, but they moved to Arizona when I was 19.



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Advice from
Kathy Mitchell
and Marcy
Sugar

I thought we were close, but it seems we are growing further apart. They recently came back for three weeks, and we didn't know they were in town until halfway through their trip. They took us out to eat and casually mentioned that they are taking my two aunts and two of the grandkids to a resort for three days. We weren't invited. In fact, whenever they are here, they

focus all of their time and attention on one daughter and her kids and forget the rest of us.

My grandparents are getting older and won't be around forever. I really want my daughter to meet all of her family while she has a chance. How do I change this? Is it even worth trying?
— *Donny*

Dear Donny: You should talk to your grandparents and tell them how much you miss them and how their favoritism is having a negative impact on

your feelings and their relationship with your daughter. It's not a "demand." They cannot change their behavior if they are unaware of it. Also, ~~don't hesitate to take the initiative~~ whenever you want to speak to them.

Dear Annie: My son is a university student. His major requires that he take several math classes. In every class, the professor is his worst teacher of the semester. They don't explain anything, and they don't give feedback on tests or quizzes. As a result, he does poorly.

I thought it was just my son or that university, but he now is taking a make-up math class at our local community college. He says the same thing is happening with the professor there. What is it about college math professors that makes them unfeeling, unhelpful and uncaring? — *Cape Coral, Fla.*

Dear Florida: While we are certain some math professors do not explain things as clearly as they could, when this happens with every professor, in every environment, we have to assume your son is more than a little math-challenged. As a college student, it is his responsibility to find a way to understand the material. Instead of blaming the professors, suggest to your son that he get some remedial math assistance. He should be able to find a tutor on campus.