

You're receiving this email because of your relationship with Senders Pediatrics. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



## Talking to Kids about Lebron

7/9/10

About two months ago, my 13 year old son, Joey, who is a basketball player, announced that he wasn't interested in playing basketball this coming season. No reason. I suspect that he was consciously or unconsciously protecting himself for what happened last night. Today, we have heard many comments from parents about how crushed their children were, asking for guidance in dealing with this issue. The following is a letter that I wrote last night to Joey who is away at camp. I hope that it will provide some insight as to the type of discussions that are appropriate to have with your children. Remember, crisis, health related or sports related, is always an opportunity for growth.

July 9, 2010

Dear Joey,

*Well by now you have heard that Lebron is going to Miami. I cannot tell you how angry and betrayed Mommy and I felt when we initially heard the announcement. We actually went walking around the block for about an hour, talking about what happened and why we felt so bad. And I think the main reason we felt so bad is that for a moment it made us feel like losers. If Lebron can reject you, then you must really be a loser.*

*But Joey, think about how silly that sentence sounds. Cleveland is no different now than it was before we heard Lebron was leaving. To be sure, there will be a huge financial impact on Cleveland. I feel sorry for the businesses that will lose a lot of money because the Cavs will not be selling out games. And I feel sorry for the salesmen who will lose money because people will not be buying his shirts and other memorabilia. I even feel sorry for Dan Gilbert who truly invested in his team, perhaps more than any other owner of a Cleveland franchise. But remember Joey, being rejected by a 25 year old person who puts a basketball in the hoop for a living doesn't make you any smaller or less important and it certainly doesn't make you a loser.*

*Despite what he said in his prime time, self-promoting interview on ESPN that he chose winning over everything else, in Mommy's and my opinion, Lebron did not choose to be a winner. If that were really true he would not have put himself first. He chose the easy route in Miami. A true winner would have stayed with his loyal fans even if it meant working harder. Maybe at 25, he is tired of shouldering responsibility. Maybe that is what happened in Game 6 of the Boston series. Maybe he doesn't have the fire in his belly that Kobe and Michael have/had. Although I started out feeling angry, as I think about it more, I feel sorry for him. Because what he has shown with this decision is that at least at this point in his life he doesn't understand what a true winner is. The fame and the grandeur that goes with winning a game or a playoff or a championship ring cannot buy loyalty and it often doesn't buy happiness. His face told it all during the ESPN extravaganza. He looked nervous and he almost gulped when he said he was*

going to South Beach, Florida. He knew he was abandoning his hometown but he wasn't able to look beyond himself and give back to those who supported him and who indirectly made him so famous. Betrayed Akron fans turned on him almost immediately and were burning his t shirts while Cleveland sportscasters quite correctly pointed out that over time, he may be one of the most hated people around Northeast Ohio, just a little bit ahead of Art Modell who brought the Browns to Baltimore. This morning's Plain Dealer quoted him as saying "...I wanted to do what was best for LeBron James and what would make him happy." He may have a lot of money but the people who paid for tickets and bought his shirts feel that he has been disloyal to them and all the money in the world won't be able to buy him happiness. I hope he finds happiness in Miami but I doubt it because true happiness doesn't come from what you get, it comes from what you give.

Until last night, LeBron was a hero to many here in Northeast Ohio. He brought 7 good years to the Cavaliers and by extension to the city of Cleveland. We all wanted LeBron to continue being a hero. Human beings want to believe in heroes. We need heroes because they challenge us to rise above our own weaknesses and soar. You may remember the Greek tragic story of Icarus who had wax wings and believed he was invincible only to find that when he flew too close to the sun, his wings melted and he came crashing to the ground. Since he was 13 years old, LeBron has been called the King and the Chosen One. He has been worshipped and adored and been granted every wish he could want. Just like Jafar, the evil sorcerer in the Aladdin movie. But the danger of living a life of privilege with no limits or boundaries is it may lead to a wish to become the most powerful genie and you end up getting put right back in the bottle, you fly too close to the sun and your wings melt. A true hero quietly and modestly works to make the world a better place. Even one person at a time. At times like this, we have to remind ourselves more than ever to be on the lookout for the true heroes in our life, the firemen who risk their lives to save others, the police who keep our cities safe, the doctors who heal people, the teachers who nurture the next generation, and maybe just the person who, with a kind word, puts a smile on someone else's face.

Joey, you know that one of my favorite lines in all of literature is the Peter Parker quote in the Spiderman comic book that with great power comes great responsibility. LeBron has great power. I don't believe he used it with great responsibility. Remember, however, that you too have great power, in some ways as much or more than LeBron. Learn from tonight's experience to use your great power with great responsibility.

Love,

Daddy (and Mommy)

As always, thank you for your continued support of our practice. We look forward to taking care of your family's needs this summer.

Sincerely,  
Senders Pediatrics

2054 South Green Road  
South Euclid, OH 44121  
Phone (216) 291-9210  
Fax (216) 291-9422  
[senderspediatrics.com](http://senderspediatrics.com)

Join Our Mailing List!

[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to [kids@senderspediatrics.com](mailto:kids@senderspediatrics.com) by [kids@senderspediatrics.com](mailto:kids@senderspediatrics.com).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by

