

While attending a conference a couple ago I learned that my parents, my children and I are very different! Not that I haven't been learning through my own personal experiences with each of these groups, but I felt the speaker really summarized the differences well. His topic? Generational Differences!!

He defines a generation is an identifiable age group with a shared historical experience. So we the following groups: The Silent Generation (1924-1942)...my parents. The Baby Boomers (1946-1964).....me. Generation-X (1965-1981)...my son. And Generation-Y.....my daughter. Generation-Y was a new one for me (not my daughter, the Gen-Y info !)

How are they different? The Silent Generation has a strong belief in consensus and compromise, they learned to live with their problems and were very loyal to their schools and to companies, they worked to support the family and have respect authority. Baby Boomers have a distrust for authority, loyal to an industry versus a company, not overly tech-savvy and live to work. Generation –Xers tend not to have many boundaries or limits. They were latch-key kids, have survived divorce, their worlds move fast, they set goals, not rules and are less loyal than previous generations. The most education-minded group, Generation-Y plan to attend college, believe in work, has high financial and personal goals and will meet goals in exchange for rewards they want..

I find that this general information lays a strong foundation to help families and people that work together to better understand each other. We all grew up in very different worlds, with very different experiences. And it all impacts the way that we make decisions, the way we relate to others and determine what is important to us.