

## In Dorothy's words:

I wrote '*Children Learn What They Live*' in 1954 as part of my weekly column on creative family living for a local newspaper in Southern California. At the time, I was 30 years old and the mother of 2 children.

"Writing this poem was my way of responding to parent's questions in my family-life classes. It speaks to their concerns about what it means to be a parent. Little did I know that it would seem to have a life of its own. Over its 60+ years, it has been modified, excerpted and adapted many, many times – usually without my knowledge. And yet, the poem survives to help generations of parents to better understand and guide their children."

"Children *do* learn what they live.  
Then they grow up to *live* what they've learned."