

When the father would come home, the son would shut himself in his room.



He couldn't even be bothered to respond when spoken to.

Except for weekends, the father lived away because of his work.



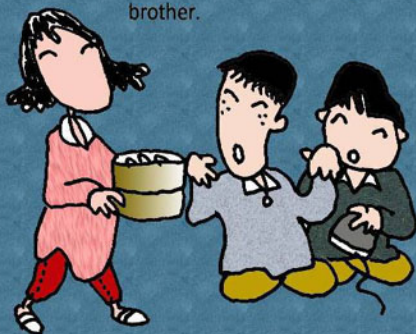
in the shadow of the family tree

Doors



Shiro Dan

During those times, the son lived in a household of three, with his mother and younger brother.



"You can't just force things like this."



"I'm not trying to force him to speak to me, but he won't even look me in the eye."



"He locks his door from the inside of the room..."

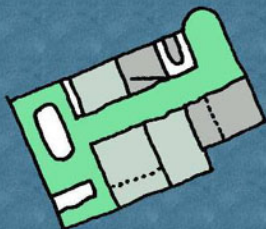


"So as his parents, did you choose to design the door this way?"



"I mean, did you two choose the layout and configuration of your home yourselves?"

Huh?



"No no, it's a condominium, so this is how it was to begin with"

"So you just left the layout and doors as they were?"

"So then you wouldn't be particularly attached to the way the doors and layout currently are, would you?"



Yes



"Then why not renovate your home so that it better suits your family's current needs?"

"This is your own home after all, why not choose for yourselves how to structure your home so that it better suits your situation?"



Well that's certainly an interesting way to look at it...

The parents went home with a doubtful look on their faces.



Thank you very much



The counselor heard something unexpected from the father at the parents' next counselling session the following month.



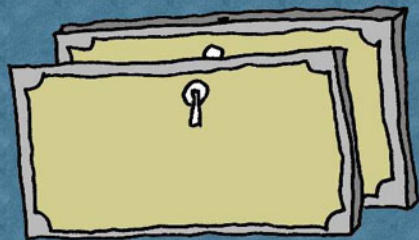
"I figured there was no reason to close off the children's rooms with a door."

"Right after our last session, I actually threw out both my sons' doors."

Huh?



"So I removed the doors from their rooms."



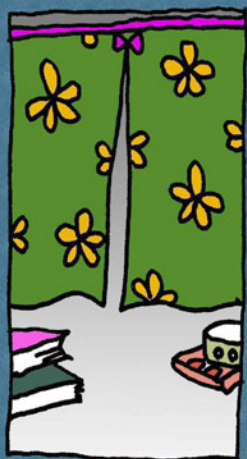
"I went to dispose of them with my son. There's really no place to keep them, and it would be a hassle if they just reattached them."



"Well that was a bit drastic, don't you think?"



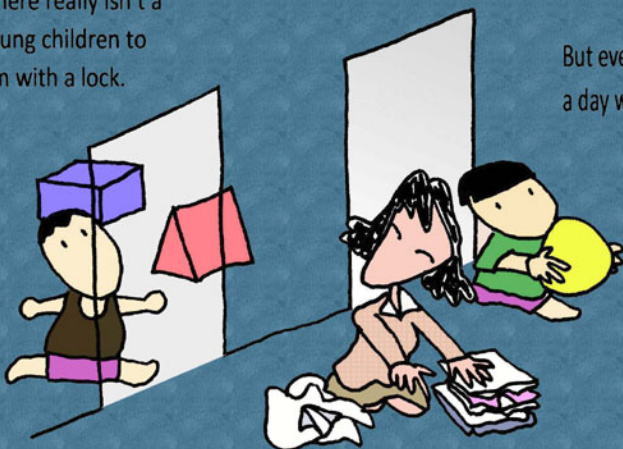
"So then what did you do?"



"I installed curtains in their doorways."



Of course there really isn't a need for young children to have a room with a lock.



But eventually there will come a day when he wishes for one.



When that day comes, you can simply talk about it between parent and child.



To give a young child a private, lockable room for no apparent reason is to neglect the supervisory responsibility of a parent.

