

Skip It

When I was younger, my parents bought me a Skip-It. I was so excited to bring it to the playground at recess. Out there, I was having the time of my life, whirling it around and skipping along, when a male classmate came up and, without warning, kicked my Skip-It so hard that it broke. The ball went flying, and just like that, something I had been so excited about was gone.

I told the teacher, hoping for help or fairness, but nothing was done. I was devastated for the rest of the week. At the time, it felt like an isolated injustice. Looking back years later, I realize it was part of a much larger truth: when harm isn't acknowledged, when people aren't held accountable, something important is lost—not just for the person who was hurt, but for the community as a whole.

If that boy had been held accountable, if his parents had stepped in to replace the toy or at least to help him understand what he had done, I would have learned that fairness mattered, and he might have learned humility and gratitude, as I would have been happy to share. Instead, I learned what so many of us learn too young—that harm often goes unchecked.

Today I believe this lack of accountability, humility, and gratitude is at the root of so many of our world's problems. When people are not asked to make amends, the cycle of disregard grows stronger. But when we do hold each other accountable with compassion, we create space for healing, for responsibility, and for a better world.