Written by Dr. Celeste Lopez Friday, August 02, 2013 12:16 AM -

When we become parents, we are all told about all the wonders and joys of parenthood. We are warned of the trials and tribulations that come with being a parent. But we are never told that when we become parents we will also develop super powers. Yes, I know it seems incredible but you do, in fact, have more powers than you realize. For instance, you have the power of invisibility. I discovered this when I started driving my teenage son and his friends to various practices and they would get in the car talk, laugh and goof around all while pretending I didn't exist. It's hard to maintain coolness when your mom is driving you around, hence the invisibility.

You have the power to destroy the world or at least the world as your teenager knows it. I had never realized how easy this could be. Simply by taking away a cell phone, not allowing various outings, or gasp, speaking to his friends while he is hanging out (see previous superpower), I can ruin his life and apparently all life as we know it on our planet. This is, apparently, not a power that should be taken lightly. It can cause a 140-pound teenager to collapse into a heap on a couch as if all the bones in his body have suddenly disappeared. I really think homeland security has it right. I don't think they are trying to invade our privacy; they are trying to find the friends of terrorists everywhere, so they can block them. I can hear the shrieks of anguish from terrorists all over the world when they realize they no longer have phone service. Young radicals all over the world collapsing in tears and screeching "It's not fair; all the other terrorists have phones!" Our government saying, "I'm sorry but until you can show me you know how to behave without trying to destroy the world, you cannot have a phone." You laugh but I really think it could work.

We have the super power of smell that allows us to not only smell the left over pizza that is hidden under your son's bed but also to block out the smell of your sweaty son and his equally sweaty hockey teammates while you drive them to a between-game lunch. A mere mortal would pass out from this olfactory assault but a parent can withstand this, barely, and successfully make it through a meal, although this usually requires sitting at a separate table (sorry waitresses, you're on your own).

These are all very important powers but our most important power is the power to shape a life and in so doing, change the world. The love we give our child teaches him to love others. The pride we have in our child gives him the power to achieve his dreams, to go forward and improve the world. The knowledge that 'nobody can help everyone, but everyone can help someone' is a powerful message. The things we do for our child, the things we do for other

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people's children, can change the world. There is no other power more important than that.

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