

Kourtney Kardashian and Nicole Richie are only the latest in a line of “celebrity” parents. The only difference now is that these “celebrities” aren’t really celebrities and we shouldn’t look up to them as role models, as we have done with celebrities in the past.

Just a few decades ago, family life was portrayed quite differently than today. The Huxtables from “The Cosby Show” were viewed as a humorous take on domesticity while President Reagan was re-elected due, in part, to his good old-fashioned family values.

Now, it’s actors and reality starlets who are our parental role models. How did this change happen and why are we supporting it?

Since the first reality show hit the airwaves, “regular” people have been given the opportunity to achieve their fifteen minutes of fame. These “normal” people, like Kourtney Kardashian, have been catapulted to incredible levels of fame where paparazzi follow them to capture pictures for the tabloids. Followers of their show begin to follow not only the show, but because of the show, their lives as well.

Much attention is given to baby bump speculation, pregnancies, and the children of famous parents. This cycle continues through generations, as is the case with Nicole Richie. She is famous for being the daughter of singer Lionel Richie. Because of her family associations, she has been given a reality show with another starlet famous solely because of her rich parents, Paris Hilton. Now, Richie’s children are given undeserved fame and scrutiny.

While Kourtney Kardashian became a parent in December of last year, Nicole Richie has been blessed with two children (and if you’ve been following the gossip, a new engagement!). While gossip magazines and websites tend to follow the lives of these new parental “role models,” it’s up to us as regular parents to find our role models in people more deserving of our admiration. It’s up to us to choose whether to pay attention and to not support the intense scrutiny of these “role models.”