

some quotes on parenting

E. C. McKenzie, 14000 Quips & Quotes

- A “brat” is a child who acts like your own but belongs to your neighbor.
- When children get on the wrong track it’s time to use the switch.
- If the church neglects the children, it is certain the children will neglect the church
- We need tougher child abuse laws—parents have taken enough abuse from their children.
- It’s invariably the little devil in the neighborhood who starts the fight with your little angel.
- A boy loves a dog because it’s the only thing around the house that doesn’t find fault with him.
- You train a child until age ten; after that you only influence him.
- Teaching children to count is not as important as teaching them what counts.
- Psychiatrists tell us that discipline doesn’t break a child’s spirit half as often as the lack of it breaks a parent’s heart. The ability to say no is perhaps the greatest gift a parent has.
- One of life’s major mistakes is being the last member of the family to get the flu-after all the sympathy has run out.
- The trouble with owning a home is that no matter where you sit, you’re looking at something you should be doing.
- Home is where folks go when they get tired of being nice to people.
- Young people today have the disadvantage of having too many advantages.
- Remember when family meals were thought out instead of thawed out?
- There are three ways to get something done: do it yourself, hire someone, or forbid your children to do it.
- An alarm clock is a device for awakening people who don’t have small children.
- A small boy is a pain in the neck when he is around and a pain in the heart when he’s not.
- Too often an abandoned child is one who is still living with his parents.
- Reasoning with children is what gives you something to do while discovering that you can’t.
- Children always brighten up a home; they never turn out the lights.
- A child, like your stomach, doesn’t need all you can afford to give it.
- Babies are angels who wings grow shorter as their legs grow longer.
- if some children are as bright as their parents think, they should be looked at through sunglasses.
- One important way for us to help our children grow up is for us to grow up first.
- Children these days seem to grow up bigger and faster yet remain children longer than ever before.
- The chief trouble with children is that they are human.
- The best thing to spend on your children is time.
- Telling children that school days are the happiest days of their lives doesn’t give them much to look forward to.
- More children are spoiled because the parents won’t spank Grandma.

12 golden rules for raising children

Ann Landers, *Wake up and Smell the Coffee*

1. Remember that a child is a gift from God, the richest of all blessings. Do not attempt to mold him in the image of yourself, your father, your brother or your neighbor. Each child is an individual and should be permitted to be himself
2. Don't crush a child's spirit when he fails. And never compare him with others who have outshone him.
3. Remember that anger and hostility are natural emotions. Help your child to find socially acceptable outlets for these normal feelings or they may be turned inward and erupt in the form of physical or mental illness.
4. Discipline your child with firmness and reason. Don't let your anger throw you off balance. If he knows you are "air, you will not lose his respect or his love. And make sure the punishment fits the crime. Even the youngest child has a keen sense of justice.
5. Remember that each child needs two parents. Present a unified front. Never join with your child against your mate. This can create in your child (as well as in yourself) emotional conflicts. It can also create feelings of guilt, confusion and insecurity.
6. Do not hand your child everything his little heart desires. Permit him to know the thrill of earning and the joy of achieving. Grant him the greatest of all satisfactions, the pleasure that comes with personal accomplishment.
7. Do not set yourself up as the epitome of perfection. This is a difficult role to play 24 hours a day. You will find it easier to communicate with your child if you let him know that Mom and Dad can err too.
8. Don't make threats in anger or impossible promises when you are in a generous mood. Threaten or promise only that which you can live up to. To a child, a parent's word means everything. The child who has lost faith in his parents has difficulty believing in anything.
9. Do not smother your child with superficial manifestations of "love." The purest and healthiest love expresses itself in day-in, day-out training, which breeds self-confidence and independence.
10. Teach your child there is dignity in hard work, whether it is performed with callused hands that shovel coal or skilled fingers that manipulate surgical instruments. Let him know a useful life is a blessed one and a life of ease and pleasure-seeking is empty and meaningless.
11. Do not try to protect your child against every small blow and disappointment. Adversity strengthens character and makes us compassionate. Trouble is the great equalizer. Let him earn it.
12. Teach your child to love God and to love his fellow men. Don't send your child to a place of worship, take him there. Children learn from example. Telling him something is not teaching him. If you give your child a deep and abiding faith in God, it can be his strength and his light when all else fails.

Christian Birth Control Options

By: Pastor Mark Driscoll

<http://marshall.com/2008/01/06/christian-birth-control-options>

As part of the Religion Saves and 9 Other Misconceptions sermon series, I answered the ninth question chosen by voters on January 6, 2008: "There's no doubt the Bible says children are a blessing, but the Bible doesn't seem to address the specific topic of birth control. Is this a black and white topic, or does it fall under liberties?"

The entire sermon can be found for free at www.marshallchurch.org or at iTunes. Furthermore, a greatly expanded version of the sermon content will be published in 2009... Until then, I wanted to briefly summarize some the main points of the sermon and give some recommended resources for those Christians wanting to further study the issue of birth control.

This blog will summarize the various options that a Christian couple has to consider regarding birth control. I will distinguish between no birth control, contraception, which literally means "against (contra) conception" (such methods prevent conception whereby a sperm fertilizes an egg), and abortion, which terminates the life of a fertilized egg.

There are five levels of birth control, ranging from no birth control to abortion. Levels 1-3 should be considered acceptable for Christian couples, level 4 is more complicated and requires prayerful consideration, and level 5 is forbidden and sinful.

Lastly, there are sixteen undergirding aspects of a Christian worldview (such as the Bible's teaching on creation, life, gender, marriage, sexuality, and the blessing of children, including adoptive), which were included in the sermon but are not included here for the sake of brevity.

[see details at the web site]

nursing

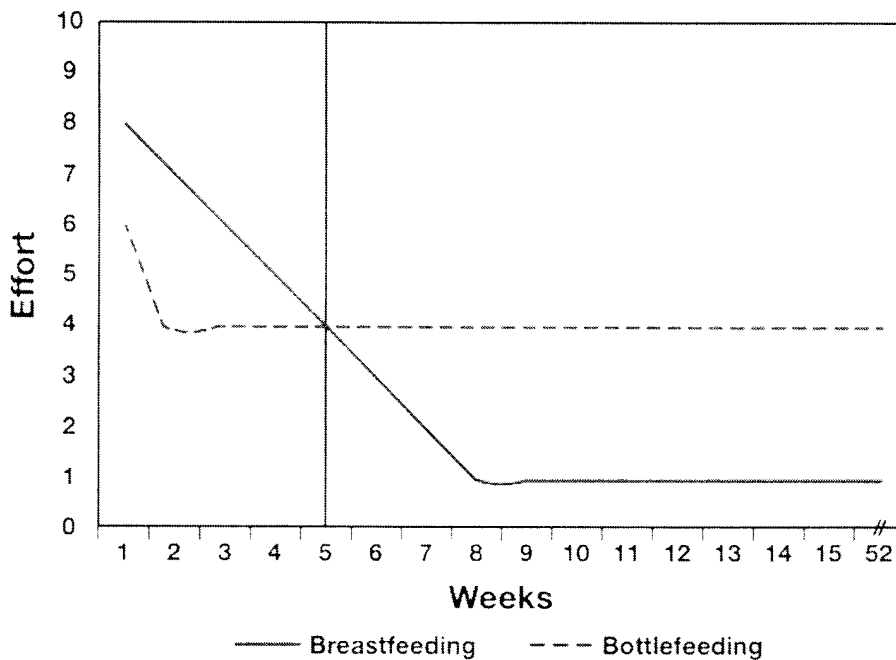
CDC: Breast-feeding rates rise to 77 percent of U.S. moms.

Breast-feeding rates are on the rise in the United States. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's 2013 Breast Feeding Report Card found that 77 percent of new mothers are breast-feeding their babies, up from 71 percent about a decade ago. And almost half of breast-feeding moms are continuing to do so for at least the recommended six months.

The latest CDC report shows that in 2010, 49 percent of mothers were still breast-feeding when their child was six months old, and 27 percent were still doing so when they kid was 1-year-old.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/cdc-breast-feeding-rates-rise-to-77-percent-of-us-moms/>

Breastfeeding: An Investment That Saves Time



http://www.breastmilkcounts.com/article_pdf/BFAnInvestSavesTime.pdf

Discussion Questions

1. What pressures are there for moms to nurse or not to nurse?
2. What are the pro's and con's of nursing?
3. For those who have nursed, what advice would you offer?

working moms

The share of married-couple families with children where both parents worked was 59.1 percent. In 2013, the labor force participation rate of mothers with children under 6 years old (63.9 percent) was lower than the rate of those whose youngest child was 6 to 17 years old (74.7 percent).

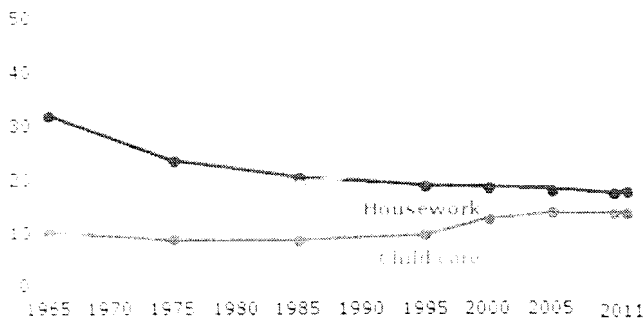
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.nr0.htm>

Moms are working as hard as ever -- but they're spending more time in offices than at home ...

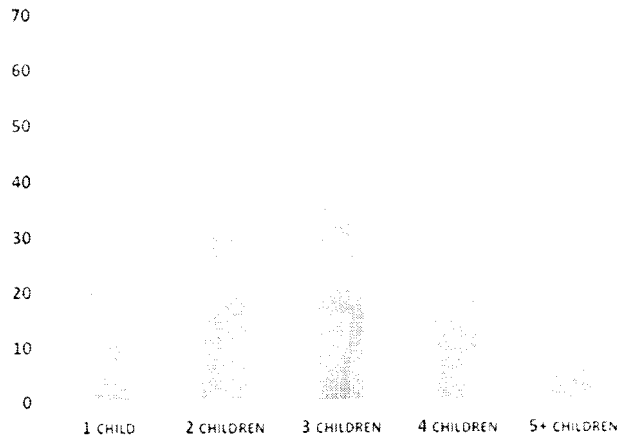
- 43 percent of married mothers are employed full-time, compared with 88 percent of married fathers.
- The more kids you have, the less likely you are to work.

Mothers' Work Time at Work and at Home, 1965-2011

Hours per week



How Kids Affect Likelihood to Work:
Mothers' Participation Rate (%) by # of Children



<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/05/how-motherhood-is-changing-dramatically-in-11-graphs/275778/>

Discussion Questions

1. What pressures are there for moms to work?
2. In our current economic times, is it a foregone conclusion that moms have to work?
3. If it's optional, how do you decide? What biblical principles apply? Have you had intentional conversations with your spouse about this?
4. What are the pro's and con's for moms to work?
5. What are the long-term consequences of both parents working?
6. Most working moms feel guilt at times. What does this mean? How do you handle it?

Children Won't Wait

by Helen M. Young

<http://www.dfwareamoms.com/forums/showthread.php?t=60070>

There is a time to anticipate the baby's coming, a time to consult a doctor;
A time to plan a diet and exercise, a time to gather a layette.
There is a time to wonder at the ways of God, knowing this is the destiny for which I was
created;
A time to dream of what this child might become,
A time to pray that God will teach me how to train this child which I bear.
A time to prepare myself that I might nurture his soul.
But soon there comes the time for birth,
For babies won't wait.

There is a time for night feedings, and colic and formulas.
There is a time for rocking and a time for walking the floor,
A time for patience and self-sacrifice,
A time to show him that his new world is a world of love and goodness and dependability.
There is a time to ponder what he is - not a pet nor toy, but a person, an individual - a soul
made in God's image.
There is a time to consider my stewardship, I cannot possess him.
He is not mine. I have been chosen to care for him, to love him, to enjoy him, to nurture him,
and to answer to God.
I resolve to do my best for him,
For babies don't wait.

There is a time to hold him close and tell him the sweetest story ever told;
A time to show him God in earth and sky and flower, to teach him to wonder and reverence.
There is a time to leave the dishes, to swing him in the park,
To run a race, to draw a picture, to catch a butterfly, to give him happy comradeship.
There is a time to point the way, to teach his infant lips to pray,
To teach his heart to love God's Word, to love God's day,
For children don't wait.

There is a time to sing instead of grumble, to smile instead of frown,
To kiss away the tears and laugh at broken dishes.
A time to share with him my best in attitudes - a love of life, a love of God, a love of family.
There is a time to answer his questions, all his questions,
Because there may come a time when he will not want my answers.
There is a time to teach him so patiently to obey, to put his toys away.
There is a time to teach him the beauty of duty, the habit of Bible study, the joy of worship at
home, the peace of prayer,
For children don't wait.

There is a time to watch him bravely go to school, to miss him underfoot,
And to know that other minds have his attention, but that I will be there to answer his call
when he comes home,
And listen eagerly to the story of his day.
There is a time to teach him independence, responsibility, self-reliance,
To be firm but friendly, to disciple with love,
For soon, so soon, there will be a time to let him go, the apron strings untied,
For children won't wait.

There is a time to treasure every fleeting minute of his childhood.
Just eighteen precious years to inspire and train him.
I will not exchange this birthright for a mess of pottage called social position, or business or
professional reputation, or a pay check.
An hour of concern today may save years of heartache tomorrow,
The house will wait, the dishes will wait, the new room can wait,
But children don't wait.

There will be a time when there will be no slamming of doors, no toys on the stairs, no
childhood quarrels, no fingerprints on the wallpaper.
Then may I look with joy and not regret.
There will be a time to concentrate on service outside my home;
On visiting the sick, the bereaved, the discouraged, the untaught;
To give myself to the "least of these."
There will be a time to look back and know that these years of motherhood were not wasted.
I pray there will be a time to see him an upright and an honest man, loving God and serving all.
God, give me the wisdom to see that today is my day with my children.
That there is no unimportant moment in their lives.
May I know that no other career is so precious,
No other work so rewarding,
No other task so urgent.
May I not defer it nor neglect it,
But by the Spirit accept it gladly, joyously, and by their grace realize
That the time is short and my time is now,
For children won't wait!

common gender-related weaknesses in parents

All parents, both moms and dads, can exhibit certain weaknesses, such as being perfectionistic, or believing that yelling at kids helps. But at the risk of over-generalizing, many parental weaknesses I have seen follow a gender-specific pattern, as shown below.

Moms

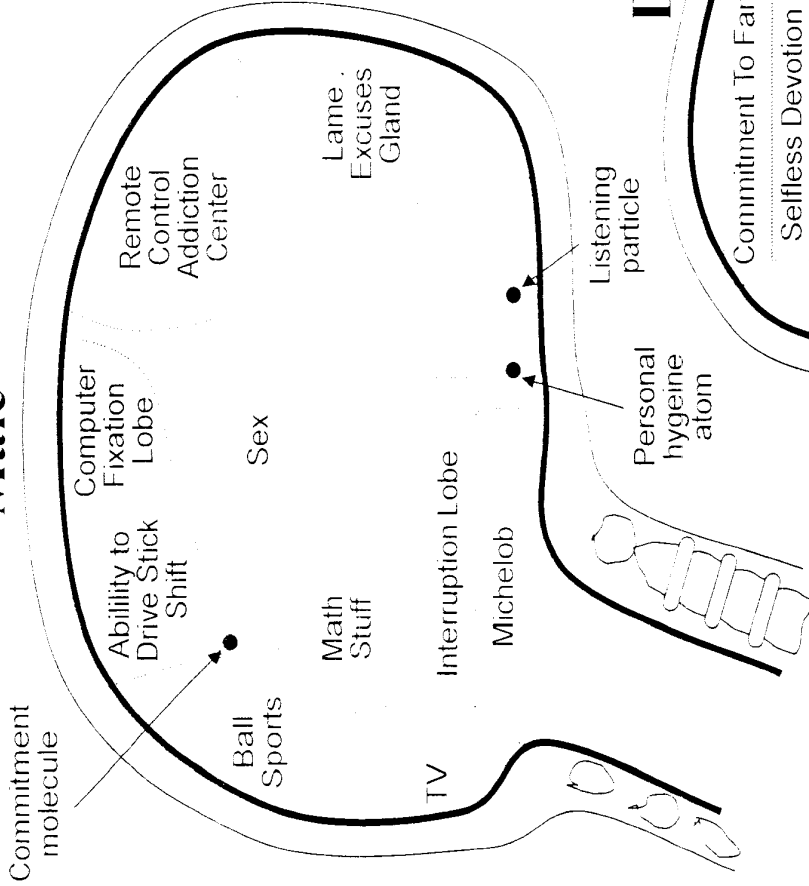
- Trying to be a super-mom; doing it all: risking burn-out
- Letting dad discipline the kids
- Holding too tightly; not risking enough
- Crying; Screaming: Losing emotional control; Disciplining with emotion showing
- Begging for better behavior ("Why are you doing this to us?")
- Laying guilt-trips on kids
- Babying: spoiling
- Imposing wimpy consequences
- Seeking comfort or emotional support from kids
- Overemphasizing the appearances of things ("it's so nice when we all sit together in church.")
- Seeking warm fuzzies/togetherness from teenagers: living in the past
- Not expressing her own needs
- Tolerating bad behavior too long: overreacting when the pot boils over
- Withdrawing when hurt: pressuring others with the silent treatment
- Expecting dad and the kids to read her mind
- Insufficient suspicion of kids dating
- Communicating her opinion of kids dating partners; Pushing relationships
- Addictive behaviors such as shopping on spending money as an emotional outlet

Dads

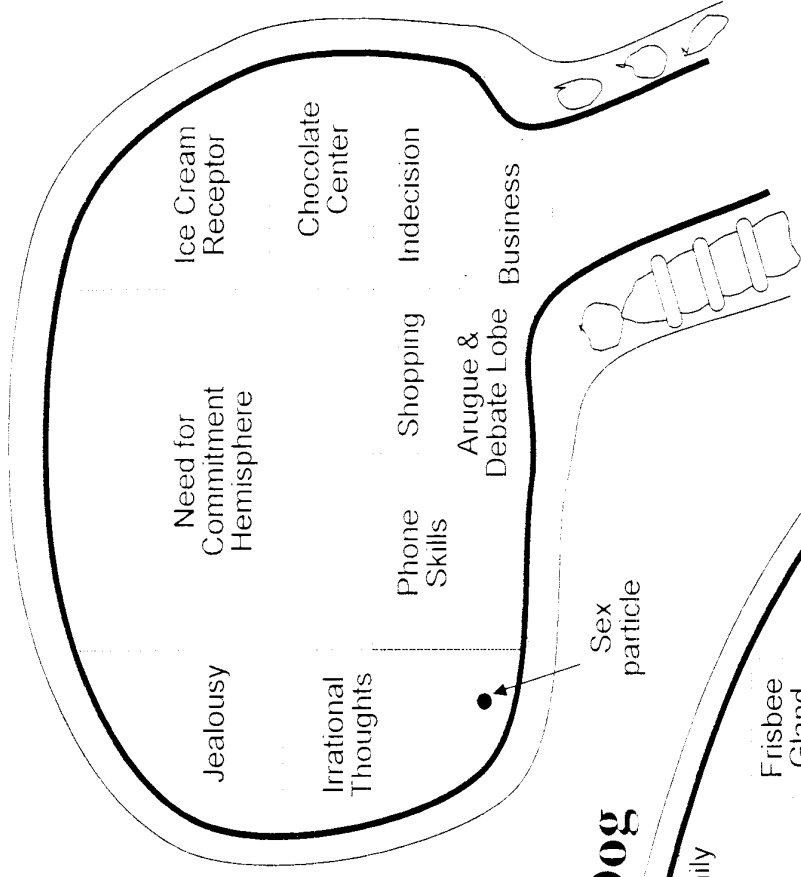
- Abdicating responsibility for the kids to mom
- Tolerating the bad behaviors that he did as a kid; Assuming that "boys will be boys"
- Expecting perfection
- Being overly-critical
- Imposing overly-macho consequences
- Being king of the castle; being dictator-like
- Avoiding unpleasant realities (e.g. admitting your kid is a slow-learner or drug-addicted!)
- Pride; Unwillingness to change
- Giving up too-quickly on a rebellious teen
- Stop showing affection to a daughter developing physically
- Relying too much on physical discipline (corporal punishment)
- Undue suspicion of kids dating
- Unnecessary criticism of dating partners
- Sexual snide remarks; Sexual advances
- Applying of rules and consequences "by the book" without regard to the kid, situation, or mitigating circumstances
- Being too logical
- Addictive behaviors such as workaholism, gambling, drinking, pornography, sports, games, or hobbies

Functioning of the Male & Female Brain

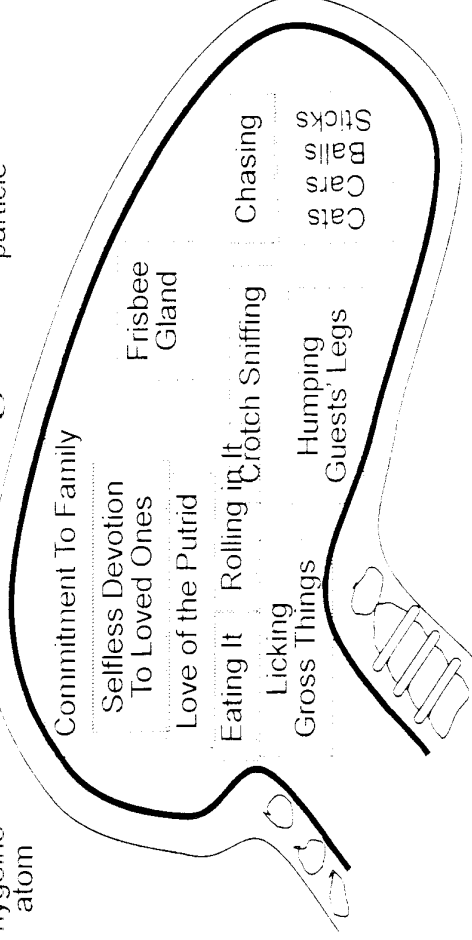
Male



Female



Dog



41 Steps of Discipline— Following God's Pattern

In the earliest chapters of Scripture, God acts as a role model for parents. He establishes an environment in which his children can learn—then he ensures that they do learn, even from their mistakes. This is the process of discipleship, or disciplining. In Genesis 3, God reacts to the first act of human disobedience, one with enormous consequences. We see how he confronts his children when they “messed-up big-time”—in a measured, loving way, without any over-reaction. When you discipline your own children, see that you do what God did:

1. Be committed to the task of parenting
2. Assure your children of your love
3. Create a “rich” environment
4. Meet their needs
5. Develop a relationship of trust
6. Be available to them
7. Stay in the parent role; Keep a proper distance
8. Insist upon respect
9. Instill a healthy sense of fear
10. Give them important responsibilities
11. Define your expectations clearly
12. Make the limits clear
13. Don’t regulate every behavior
14. Don’t explain the reason for all rules
15. When you do, keep the rationale short
16. Give them freedom to choose
17. Observe their behavior
18. Accept the reality of the disobedience
19. Address it promptly
20. Wait for a teachable moment
21. Get “cool”
22. Respect their dignity
23. Request the facts
24. Let them explain
25. Assess the explanation
26. Keep emotions in check
27. Speak calmly
28. Treat misbehavior seriously
29. Define the consequences
30. Keep loving throughout the consequence
31. Don’t blame yourself
32. Accept the apology
33. Let them feel the pain
34. Forgive them
35. Forget the event
36. Re-confirm your love
37. Re-establish a relationship of trust
38. Re-define any new rules
39. Restate responsibilities
40. Get your children back on task
41. Be natural, confident, calm, and relaxed through it all

Consequencing Bad Behavior: General Rules

When your kid misbehaves, there are a lot of issues present:

Kid			Parent		
<u>Past</u>	<u>Present</u> • behavior • feelings • self-esteem and dignity	<u>Future</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Present</u> • reaction • action • feelings • authority, respect, pride	<u>Future</u> • desires • needs • fears

General rules for consequencing adolescent behavior:

1. Stay in the present:
 - A. Don't bring up your kid's past. Don't exaggerate.
 - B. Don't address their future. Don't predict dire consequences.
 - C. Don't bring up your past.
 - D. Don't address your future desires, needs, or fears.
2. Act, don't react.
3. Act, don't talk:
 - A. Don't ask "Why" or other useless questions.
 - B. Don't beg for mercy, for better behavior. Don't cajole.
4. Consequent their behavior, without attacking their self-esteem (maintain their dignity).
5.
 - A. Keep your feelings out of it (don't vent your frustrations on your kids).
 - B. Don't placate or worry too much about their feelings.
6.
 - A. Act with authority.
 - B. Demand their respect.
 - C. Don't let your pride get in the way; Act in humility.
7.
 - A. Attack the behavior, not the kid.
 - B. Label the behavior, not the kid.
8. Don't compare your kid to anyone else.
9. Don't expose your "hot buttons." Don't give your kid a means to control you.
10. Recognize your kid's separate identity and freedom to make his own choices:
 - A. Don't try to control his decisions/actions.
 - B. Don't try to control his feelings.

quotations on parenting

to supplement The Book of Virtues for New Parents (numbers refer to pages in the text)

1. Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man. -Rabindranath Tagore
2. There is no possible method of compelling a child to feel sympathy or affection. -Bertrand Russell
3. It is only the intellectually lost who ever argue. -Oscar Wilde
4. Nothing is so confusing as good advice from a bad role model.
4. If you have never been hated by your child, you have never been a parent. -Bette Davis
4. "If..."
 - If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.
 - If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.
 - If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.
 - If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.
 - If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.
 - If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.
 - if a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.
 - If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.
 - If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.
 - If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.
 - If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find love in the world.

--Dorothy Law Nolte
4. Children are natural mimics—they act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.
4. All a child's life depends on the ideal it has of its parents. Destroy that and everything goes-- morals, behavior, everything. Absolute trust in someone else is the essence of education.
4. Children need models more than they need critics. -Joseph Joubert
5. How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it. -Marcus Aurelius
5. We never know the love of our parents for us till we have become parents. -Henry Ward Beecher
5. The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. -Joe Ancis
6. If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much. -Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
6. No success can compensate for failure in the home.
6. The growth of wisdom may be gauged accurately by the decline of ill-temper.
7. A shaky child on a bicycle for the first time needs both support and freedom. The realization that this is what the child will always need can hit hard. -Sloan Wilson
9. It is dangerous to confuse children with angels. -Sir David Maxwell Fyfe
9. Teenage means perpetual emotion.
10. If you plan for a decade, plan trees. If you plan for a century, teach the children.
10. Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.
10. The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things. -Plato

11. The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil. -Ralph Waldo Emerson
11. Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. - Robert Frost
11. Sometimes a fool makes a good suggestion.
11. A recent graduate handed his diploma to his father and said, "I finished law school to please you and mom. Now I'm going to be a fireman like I've been saying to you since I was six." -Gene Brown
11. The first duty of love is to listen. -Paul Tillich
11. The less you talk, the more you're listened to. -Abigail Van Buren
11. To listen well is as powerful a means of communication and influence as to talk well. -Chief Justice John Marshall
12. Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them. -Lady Bird Johnson
12. It is better to advise than upbraid, for the one corrects the erring; the other only convicts them. -Epictetus
15. Parenting is disruptive, with the possibility of harm, but also the possibility of growth. -Frederick Grossman
15. We are all crazy when we are angry. -Philemon, 300BC
16. Your children need your presence more than your presents. -Jesse Jackson
16. The only bigger fool than the person who knows it all is the person who argues with him.
16. Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child. - Danish Proverb
16. The mother who spoils her child fattens a serpent. - Spanish Proverb
16. The easiest way to convince my kids that they don't need something is to get it for them. -Joan Collins
16. You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. -Kahlil Gibran
17. It is no use saying, "We are doing are best." You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary. -Winston Churchill
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