

12 Tips for Helping Your Children

1. **Accept the role of parent as your responsibility** – Let others be their friend.
2. **Make parenting a priority** - Be there.
3. **Educate yourself about the problems facing today's children** – They are different from the problems you faced.
4. **Give clear messages about expectation** – Be specific about how you expect them to behave.
5. **Enforce stated consequences when family rules are broken** – Children who don't follow family rules today may break society's laws tomorrow.
6. **Clearly state consequences of failure to follow family rules** – Consequences are not negotiable.
7. **Be aware that many in the community put children's buying power above children's well-being** – Don't expect the community to reinforce family values.
8. **Don't assume that the parents of all your children's friends have the same rules you do** – Some have different rules, some have none.
9. **Believe that children want rules to guide them** – Allow them to paint you as the "bad guy".
10. **Remember that teenagers need parental supervision as much as toddlers do** – It's just a different kind.
11. **If necessary love your children enough to let them hate you** – For a while.
12. **Know that children are never too big for a hug** – Even when they are grown.