BEST QUOTES ON PARENTS AND PARENTING

It’s not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It’s our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless.
—L. R. Knost

Deciding to have a child is to decide forever to have your heart walking around outside your body.

--Elizabeth Stone

If I wanted a special doll, and I begged my mother for it, she would give me a speech about how I had three dolls at home and I didn’t need another one, and remind me of how fortunate I was compared to all the poor little girls all over the world who didn’t have dolls. And when she finished telling me why I shouldn’t want what I wanted, I still wanted it just as badly—only I felt ashamed of myself for wanting it.
—Nancy Samalin

My hands were busy through the day,
I didn’t have much time to play
The little games you asked me to,
I didn’t have much time for you.
I’d wash your clothes, I’d sew and cook
But when you’d bring your picture book
And ask me please to share your fun,
I’d say, ‘A little later, Son.’
But life is short, the years rush past,
A little boy grows up so fast!

Now the picture books are put away,
There aren’t any games to play
No good night kiss, no prayers to hear;
That all belongs to yesteryear.
My hands once busy, now lie still,
The days are long and hard to fill,
I wish I might go back and do
The little things you asked me to!

--Alice Chase
A baby born today stands roughly a 50-50 chance of keeping his father. This is the first generation of American kids who must face not the sad loss of fathers to death, but the far more brutal knowledge that, to their fathers, many other things are more important than they are.

--Maggie Gallagher

Certain it is that there is no kind of affection so purely angelic as the love of a father to a daughter. He beholds her both with and without regard to her sex. In love to our wives, there is desire; to our sons, there is ambition; but in that to our daughters there is something which there are no words to express.

--Joseph Addison

To cease to be loved is for the child practically synonymous with ceasing to live.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

No man can possibly know what life means, what the world means, what anything means, until he has a child and loves it. And then the whole universe changes and nothing will ever again seem exactly as it seemed before.

--Lafcadio Hearn

The night you were born, I ceased being my father’s boy and became my son’s father. That night I began a new life.

--Henry Gregor Felsen

There are many kinds of success in life worth having. It is exceedingly interesting and attractive to be a successful business man, a railroad man, a farmer, or a successful lawyer or doctor; or a writer, or a President, or a ranchman, or the colonel of a fighting regiment, or to kill grizzly bears and lions. But for unflagging interest and enjoyment, a household of children, if things go reasonably well, certainly makes all other forms of success and achievement lose their importance by comparison.

--Theodore Roosevelt

In considering the ledger equal, understand the greatest gift you have given your parents is the opportunity to raise you. The things a child gets from parents can’t compare to the things a parent gets from raising a child. Only by experiencing this can you understand the degree to which children give meaning to parents’ lives.

--Frank Pittman
There are no illegitimate children—only illegitimate parents.

--Judge Leon R. Yankwich

There are no raises, promotions or awards for good parents. In fact, if you earn the title, most people won’t even notice. The only evaluations that matter will come from your children, and the jury could be out for years. But if you’re a bad parent, the effects will be obvious and felt long after you’re gone. As your children go through life, they’ll be like a human billboard that announces your parenting ‘score’ to the world.

--Ruben Navarrette

Joy is the secret code of all parents, including adoptive. Mysteriously, the inevitable pain, suffering and sacrifice of parenthood are also part of that joy. What is a rose without thorns? Indeed, what makes parenthood so relentlessly amazing—both the beauty and the beast of it—is the possibility of losing the thing you love more than your own heartbeat. Putting someone else’s interests above one’s own is the alpha and omega of parenthood.

--Kathleen Parker

I’m not a naughty brat. I’m little and I’m still learning. I get overwhelmed and frustrated just like you do. Because nobody is perfect. Help me. Guide me. Love me.

—The Learning Station

When the milk is splattered all over the floor, and those little eyes are looking a you for your reaction, remember what really matters. It takes 5 minutes to clean up spilled milk. It takes much longer to clean up a broken spirit.

—Rebecca Eanes

Before you were conceived I wanted you.
Before you were born I loved you.
Before you were here an hour I would die for you.
This is the miracle of life.

—Maureen Hawkins

The child-rearing years are relatively short in our increased life span. It is hard for young women caught between diapers and formulas to believe, but there are years and years of freedom ahead. I regret my impatience to get on with my career. I wish I’d relaxed, allowed myself the luxury of watching the world through my little girl’s eyes.

--Eda Le Shan
My Dad

If I could write a story,
It would be the greatest ever told.
I'd write about my daddy,
For he had a heart of gold.
My dad, he was no hero
Known around this world.
He was everything to me,
For I was his baby girl.
I'd write about the lessons.
He taught me right from wrong.
He instilled in me the values
That one day I'd be strong.
He taught me to face my fears,
Take each day as it comes,
For there are things that we can't change.
He would say what's done is done.
He would say hold your head up high,
Carry yourself with pride.
Thanks to him, I am somebody,
I will never run and hide.
If I could write a story,
It would be the greatest ever told.
I'd write about my daddy,
For he had a heart of gold.

—Vicky Frye

The Perfect Parent

Do everything right, all the time, and the child will prosper. It's as simple as that, except for fate, luck, heredity, chance, the astrological sign under which the child was born, his order of birth, his first encounter with evil, the girl who jilts him in spite of his excellent qualities, the war that is being fought when he is a young man, the drugs he may try once or too many times, the friends he makes, how he scores on tests, how well he endures kidding about his shortcomings, how ambitious he becomes, how far he falls behind, circumstantial evidence, ironic perspective, danger when it is least expected, difficulty in triumphing over circumstance, people with hidden agendas, and animals with rabies.

—Ann Beattie
I thought I never wanted to be a father. A child seemed to be a series of limitations and responsibilities that offered no reward. But when I experienced the perfection of fatherhood, the rest of the world remade itself before my eyes.

—Kent Nerburn

Every one of my friends had a bad day somewhere in her history she wished she could forget but couldn’t. A every bad mother day changes you forever. Those were the hardest stories to tell….‘I could still see the red imprint on his little bum when I changed his diaper that night. I stared at my hand, as if they were alien parts of myself...as if they had betrayed me. From that day on, I never hit him again.’

—Mary Kay Blakely

A mother sets the tone for her daughter’s life, provides a roadmap and role model, and continues through the daughter’s middle and old age to be her example.

—Victoria Secunda

Children thrive in a variety of family forms; they develop normally with single parents, with unmarried parents, with multiple caretakers in a communal setting, and with traditional two-parent families. What children require is loving and attentive adults, not a particular family type.

—Sandra Scarr

This is what no one warns you about, when you decide to have children. There is so much written about the cost and the changes in your way of life, but no one ever tells you that what they are going to hand you in the hospital is power, whether you want it or not...I should have known, but somehow overlooked for a time, that parents become, effortlessly, just by showing up, the most influential totems in the lives of their children.

—Anna Quindlen

Children belong in families, which, ideally, serve as a sanctuary and a cushion from the world at large. Parents belong to society and are a part of that greater world. Sometimes parents are a channel to the larger society, sometimes they are a shield from it. Ideally they act as filters, guiding their children and teaching them to avoid the tempting trash.

--Louise Hart

Children are our hope for the future. We are the hope for theirs.

--Lee Canter
Hanging out with your grown-up kids is like visiting the best parts of yourself.
—Unknown

Mothers are likely to have more bad days on the job than most other professionals, considering the hours: round-the-clock, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year. You go to work when you’re sick, maybe even clinically depressed, because motherhood is perhaps the only unpaid position where failure to show up can result in arrest.

--Mary Kay Blakely

Have children while your parents are still young enough to take care of them.
—Rita Rudner

If, in instructing a child, you are vexed with it for want of adroitness, try, if you have never tried before; to write with your left hand, and then remember that a child is all left hand.

--J. F. Boyse

My daughter wanted a Cinderella-themed party so I invited all of her friends over and made them clean my house.

—someecards

It’s not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it.
—Betty White

You know what it’s like having five kids? Imagine you’re drowning. And someone hands you a baby.

—Jim Gaffigan

If I have no children, what would be the point of living?
--Sheena Easton

Unlike the mother-son relationship, a daughter’s relationship with her mother is something akin to bungee diving. She can stake her claim in the outside world in what looks like total autonomy—in some cases, even ‘divorce’ her mother in a fiery exit from the family—but there is an invisible emotional cord that snaps her back. For always there is the memory of mother, whose judgments are so completely absorbed into the daughter’s identity that she may wonder where Mom leaves off and she begins.

—Victoria Secunda
I am in the delivery room with my niece moments after she brought her baby girl into the world. She is sobbing, ‘I feel so sorry for men,’ she says. ‘They can’t have babies.’ She was drowning in hormones, obviously, but never mind. Mothers know of what she spoke. So do fathers, though perhaps in a less immediately physical way. It is the joy that passeth all understanding. And, as with love, you can’t explain it to those who haven’t experienced it. That’s the unspoken truth.

--Kathleen Parker

For a woman to be deprived of the Great Experience her body is formed to partake of, to nourish, is a great and wasting Death. After all, a man need physically do no more than have the usual intercourse to become a father. A woman has 9 months of becoming something other than herself, of separating from this otherness, of feeding it and being a source of milk and honey to it. To be deprived of this is a death indeed. And to consummate love by bearing the child of the loved one is far profounder than any orgasm or intellectual rapport.

--Sylvia Plath

What’s harder to raise, boys or girls? Girls. Boys are easy. Give ’em a book of matches, and they’re happy.

--Etta May

The way we know the kids are growing up: The bite marks are higher.

--Phyllis Diller

It would seem that something which means poverty, disorder, and violence every single day should be avoided entirely, but the desire to beget children is a natural urge.

--Phyllis Diller

When my husband comes home, if the kids are still alive, I figure I’ve done my job.

—Roseanne Barr

My husband and I are either going to buy a dog or have a child. We can’t decide whether to ruin our carpet or ruin our lives.

--Rita Rudner

We parents are always too busy for our children; we never give them the time or interest they deserve. We lavish gifts on them; but the most precious gift—our personal association, which means so much to them—we give grudgingly.

--Mark Twain
The commonest fallacy among women is that simply having children makes one a mother—which is as absurd as believing that having a piano makes one a musician.  
--Sydney J. Harris

Parents of young children should realize that few people, and maybe no one, will find their children as enchanting as they do.  
--Barbara Walters

The Golden Rule of Parenting is: Do unto your children as you wish your parents had done unto you!  
--Louise Hart

The good father does not have to be perfect. Rather, he has to be good enough to help his daughter to become a woman who is reasonably self-confident, self-sufficient, and free of crippling self-doubt, and to feel at ease in the company of men.  
--Victoria Secunda

Doing your child's homework is a bit like believing that they can get into shape by watching someone else exercise.  
--Lawrence Kutner

Every word, facial expression, gesture, or action on the part of a parent gives the child some message about self-worth.  
--Virginia Satir

Most American children suffer too much mother and too little father.  
--Gloria Steinem

Remember that no time spent with your children is ever wasted.  
--H. Jackson Brown

I have no sympathy with the old idea that children owe such immense gratitude to their parents that they can never fulfill their obligations to them. I think the obligation is all on the other side. Parents can never do too much for their children to repay them for the injustice of having brought them into the world, unless they have ensured them high moral and intellectual gifts, fine physical health, and enough money and education to render life something more than one ceaseless struggle for necessaries.  
--Elizabeth Cady Stanton
No matter how old a mother is she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.

--Florida Scott Maxwell

One cardinal principle might be named, that of maximum reasonable autonomy: the child (or for that matter anyone) should be free to act unless harmful consequences can be clearly shown.

--John Radford

There must be such a thing as a child with average ability, but you can’t find a parent who will admit that it is his child.

--Thomas Bailey

Love...flows downward. The love of parents for their children has always been far more powerful than that of children for their parents.

--Augustus Hare

Oh, my son’s my son till he gets him a wife,
But my daughter’s my daughter all her life.

--Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

Every father should remember that one day his son will follow his example instead of his advice.

--Unknown

You don’t have to deserve your mother’s love. You have to deserve your father’s. He’s more particular.

--Robert Frost

Here all mankind is equal:
rich and poor alike, they love their children.

--Euripides

We never know the love of our parents for us till we have become parents.

--Henry Ward Beecher

No one who has ever brought up a child can doubt for a moment that love is literally the life-giving fluid of human existence.

--Dr. Smiley Blanton
One word of command from me is obeyed by millions...but I cannot get my three daughters...to come down to breakfast on time.

--Viscount Archibald Wavell

The father in praising his son extols himself.

--Chinese Proverb

The secret cruelties that parents visit upon their children are past belief.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

Too many parents, maybe, are holding fast to youth by vicariously reliving it through their children. Popularity and balldom are the golden goals; and the young are being trained for it as athletes are trained for the Olympics.

--Phyllis McGinley

There are so many disciplines in being a parent besides the obvious ones like getting up in the night and putting up with the noise during the day. And almost the hardest of all is learning to be a well of affection and not a fountain, to show them we love them, not when we feel like it, but when they do.

--Nan Fairbrother

Manliness is not all swagger and swearing and mountain climbing. Manliness is also tenderness, gentleness, consideration.

--Robert Anderson

What the mother sings to the cradle goes all the way down to the coffin.

--Henry Ward Beecher

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother’s side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and to become fully independent.

--Erich Fromm

A mother who is really a mother is never free.

--Honoré de Balzac

Parenthood remains the greatest single preserve of the amateur.

--Alvin Toffler
All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.  
--Abraham Lincoln

All that I am my mother made me.  
--John Quincy Adams

A father lives after death in his son.  
--Sanskrit

When one becomes a father, then first one becomes a son. Standing by the crib of one’s own baby, with that world-old pang of compassion and protectiveness toward this so little creature that has all its course to run, the heart flies back in yearning and gratitude to those who felt just so toward one’s self.  
--Christopher Morley

Instant availability without continuous presence is probably the best role a mother can play.  
--Lotte Bailyn

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.  
--Mark Twain

Modern children who run away from home may be looking for their parents.  
--Jack Herbert

Too many parents regard school as a kind of free and convenient baby-sitting. They should realize that they are the first, best and most important teachers of all.  
--Henry Johnston

There wouldn’t be so many problem children if parents would give more time to their children’s problems.  
--John Quill

As a parent you may have to pull a switch if your kid gets on the wrong track.  
--Unknown

One reason so many children are seen on the streets at night is that they’re afraid to stay home alone.  
--Unknown
Give a pig and a boy everything they want and you’ll get a good pig and a bad boy.
--Unknown

The first step in discipline is taken before the child takes his.
--Unknown

There is a mistaken notion prevailing among some parents that discipline is the same thing as punishment. It is not. *Discipline* comes from a Latin word meaning ‘to teach.’ The best discipline is that which teaches, not the kind that hurts.
--John Charles Wynn

Everything else in the modern home is now controlled by the flick of a switch. Why not the children?
--Unknown

Some families can trace their ancestry back 300 years but can’t tell you where their children were last night.
--*Changing Times*

Children are natural mimics. They act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.
--Unknown

Just as we can dig a channel to control the direction of a stream, we can control the direction of our children’s activities through praise and recognition.
--Natalie Cole

Child psychology is what parents use in letting their boys and girls have their own way.
--Franklin P. Jones

I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.
--Harry S. Truman

Whenever I hear people discussing birth control, I always remember that I was the fifth.
--Clarence Darrow
No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.

--Margaret Sanger

Any use whatsoever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guild of a grave sin.

--Pope Pius XI

The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant—and let the air out of the tires.

--Dorothy Parker

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they’re going to catch you in next.

--Franklin P. Jones

Heredity is what a man believes in until his son begins to behave like a delinquent.

--Presbyterian Life

People who say they sleep like a baby usually don’t have one.

--Leo J. Burke

As the twig is bent the tree inclines.

--Virgil

Remember when your mother used to say, ‘Go to your room—’? This was a terrible penalty. Now when a mother says the same thing, a kid goes to his room. There he’s got an air-conditioner, a TV set, an intercom, a shortwave radio—he’s better off than he was in the first place.

--Sam Levinson

If a child lives with approval, he learns to live with himself.

--Dorothy Law Nolte

If you want to see what children can do, you must stop giving them things.

--Norman Douglas
When asked why he did not become a father, Thales answered, ‘Because I am fond of children.’

--Diogenes Laërtius

Insanity is hereditary; you can get it from your children.

--Sam Levinson

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

--Harold S. Hulbert

In bringing up children, spend on them half as much money and twice as much time.

--Laurence J. Peter

Likely as not, the child you can do the least with will do the most to make you proud.

--Mignon McLaughlin

The older generation almost always fails to understand the younger one—they think their own immutable values the only ones...And so the older generation barks like a dog at what they don’t understand.

--Leo Tolstoy

Most parents don’t worry about a daughter until she fails to show up for breakfast. Then it is too late.

--Frank McKinney Hubbard

The worst misfortune that can happen to an ordinary man is to have an extraordinary father.

--Austin O’Malley

My love for my father has never been touched or approached by any other love. I hold him in my heart of hearts as a man apart from all other men, as one apart from all other beings.

--Mamie Dickens

‘What is the greatest grief of fathers?’ I asked a friend. Promptly he replied: ‘Why, seeing our sons inherit all of our weaknesses.’

--Samuel S. Drury
The gods visit the sins of the fathers upon the children.  
--Euripides

A father maintains ten children better than ten children one father.  
--German Proverb

**EXCUSE THIS HOUSE**

Some houses try to hide the fact that children shelter there—

Ours boasts of it quite openly,  
The signs are everywhere—  
For smears are on the windows,  
Little smudges on the doors;  
I should apologize I guess for toys strewn on the floor.

But I sat down with the children  
And we played and laughed and read;  
And if the doorbell doesn’t shine,  
Their eyes will shine instead.

For when at times I’m forced to choose  
The one job or the other;  
I want to be a housewife—  
But first I’ll be a mother.  

--Unknown

As the field, so the crops; as the father, so the sons.  
--German Proverb

It is a pious wish of all fathers to see what they have themselves failed to attain, realized in their sons, as if in this way they could live their lives over again, and, at last, make a proper use of their early experience.  
--Goethe

He didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.  
--Clarence Budington Kelland
Here’s your responsibility,
The greatest mortal ever had—
Just to be worthy, friend, to be
Some youngster’s dad.
--Douglas Malloch

Many an excellent man is tempted to forget that the best offering he can make his children is himself.
--Henry Neumann

The father who would taste the essence of his fatherhood must turn back from the plane of his experience, take with him the fruits of his journey and begin again beside his child, marching step by step over the same old road.
--Angelo Patri

Come with me then, my son;
Thine eyes are wide for truth:
And I will give thee memories,
And thou shalt give me youth.
--Sir Ronald Ross

For years, as a boy, I had eaten the food and worn the clothes provided by that humble, slaving, threadbare man, without giving a thought to the weary toil he had endured to provide them. I had seen him mend his own shoes and toil for an hour drawing rusty nails out of old boards to get nails to patch up the woodshed or the garden fence, without having once realized that he practiced these economies that I might wear better shoes than he, and have leisure that was never his.
--W. O. Saunders

The child is father of the man.
--William Wordsworth

The mother’s heart is the child’s schoolroom.
--Henry Ward Beecher

Give me the life of the boy whose mother is nurse, seamstress, washerwoman, cook, teacher, angel, and saint, all in one, and whose father is guide, exemplar, and friend. No servants to come between. These are the boys who are born to the best fortune.
--Andrew Carnegie
I think it must somewhere be written, that the virtues of mothers shall be visited on their children, as well as the sins of the fathers.

--Charles Dickens

The mother’s yearning, that completest type of life within another life which is the essence of human love, feels the presence of the cherished child, even in the base degraded man.

--George Eliot

Mighty is the force of motherhood! It transforms all things by its vital heat.

--George Eliot

Woman in the home has not yet lost her dignity, in spite of Mother’s Day, with its offensive implication that our love needs an annual nudging, like our enthusiasm for the battle of Bunker Hill.

--John Erskine

‘Like mother, like son’ is a saying so true
The world will judge largely the ‘mother’ by you.

--Margaret Johnston

Graffin

One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters.

--George Herbert

Thy mother’s lot, my dear
She doth it naught accuse:
Her lot to bear, to nurse, to rear,
To love—and then to lose.

--Jean Ingelow

Mother’s love grows by giving.

--Charles Lamb

Children are what the mothers are.

--Walter Savage Landor

Men are what their mothers make them.

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton
Into the woman's keeping is committed the destiny of the generations to come after us.

--Theodore Roosevelt

For the mother is and must be, whether she knows it or not, the greatest, strongest and most lasting teacher her children have.

--Hannah Whitall Smith

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.

--Spanish Proverb

Mother—that was the bank where we deposited all our hurts and worries.

--T. DeWitt Talmage

My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw...All I am I owe to my mother.

--George Washington

All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That is his.

--Oscar Wilde

Children should be seen and not hurt.

--David Broderick

If a man is fortunate he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of his civilized heritage and transmit it to his children.

--Will Durant

In America there are two classes of travel—first class and with children.

--Robert Benchley

The joy of the young is to disobey—but the trouble is, there are no longer any orders.

--Jean Cocteau

Husbands don't really count...in the miracle of birth.

--Doug Spettigue

In the little world in which children have their existence, whosoever brings them up, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt, as injustice.

--Charles Dickens
Children have more need of models than of critics.  

--Joseph Joubert

A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.  

--George Santayana

To make your children capable of honesty is the beginning of education.  

--John Ruskin

If men do not keep on speaking terms with children, they cease to be men, and become merely machines for eating and for earning money.  

--John Updike

Infancy isn’t what it is cracked up to be. Children, not knowing that they are having an easy time, have a good many hard times. Growing and learning and obeying the rules of their elders, or fighting against them, are not easy things to do.  

--Don Marquis

The thing that impresses me most about America is the way parents obey their children.  

--Edward, Duke of Windsor

Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive? The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.  

--Peter de Vries

I demand for the unmarried mother, as a sacred channel of life, the same reverence and respect as for the married mother; for Maternity is a cosmic thing and once it has come to pass, our conventions must not be permitted to blaspheme it.  

--Ben Lindsey

Who takes the child by the hand takes the mother by the heart.  

--German Proverb

To become a father is not hard,  
To be a father is, however.  

--Wilhelm Busch
A mother is a person who if she is not there when you get home from school you wouldn’t know how to get your dinner, and you wouldn’t feel like eating it anyway.

--Unknown

The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children.

--Clarence S. Darrow

Every generation revolts against its fathers and makes friends with its grandfathers.

--Lewis Mumford

There must always be a struggle between a father and son, while one aims at power and the other at independence.

--Samuel Johnson

The very essence of motherly love is to care for the child’s growth, and that means to want the child’s separation from herself.

--Erich Fromm

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of children.

--William Makepeace Thackeray

The hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

--William Ross Wallace

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
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.

--Kahlil Gibran
God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

--Jewish Proverb

In an Indian home, if a child’s face is dirty or his diaper is wet, he is picked up by anyone. The mother or father or whoever comes into the house....And children are fed whenever they are hungry. They are never allowed to be in want.

--Wilfred Pelletier

A child tells in the street what its father and mother say at home.

--The Talmud

Parental trust is extremely important in the guidance of adolescent children as they get further and further away from the direct supervision of their parents and teachers. I don’t mean that trust without clear guidance is enough, but guidance without trust is worthless.

--Benjamin Spock

All of us...have spent too much time flattering our children. As teachers, we abdicate the role of teacher. As parents, we abdicate the role of parent. We wish to be colleagues and brothers and sisters, forgetting that the difference in age makes us look awkward. In the meantime we are tolerated, at best, by the young and, at worst, used.

--Spencer Brown

Babies control and bring up their families as much as they are controlled by them; in fact, we may say that the family brings up a baby by being brought up by him.

--Erik H. Erikson

Oh, what a tangled web do parents weave
When they think that their children are naïve.

--Ogden Nash

Since having children does mean giving up so much, good parents naturally do, and should, expect something from their children in return: not spoken thanks for being born or being cared for—that’s too much—but considerateness, affectionateness, and willingness to accept the parents’ standards and ideals. The parents want these qualities in their children not only selfishly, for themselves, but because they want their children to grow up to live cooperatively and happily with others.

--Benjamin Spock
Children are educated by what the grown-up is and not by his talk.

--Carl G. Jung

Taking care of their children, seeing them grow and develop into fine people, gives most parents—despite the hard work—their greatest satisfaction in life. This is creation. This is our visible immortality. Pride in other worldly accomplishments is usually weak in comparison.

--Benjamin Spock

Parents may fairly be criticized for anything, with one exception—their children’s behavior.

--Brendan Francis

There is no misreading of life that avenges itself so piteously on men and women as the notion that in their children they can bring to fruition their own seedling dreams. And it is just as unjust to the child, to be born and reared as the ‘creation’ of the parents. He is himself, and it is within reason that he may be the very antithesis of them both.—No, it is wisdom in motherhood as in wifehood to have one’s own individual world of effort and creation.

--Ruth Benedict

Never argue; repeat your assertion.

--Robert Owen

We receive love—from our children as well as others—not in proportion to our demands or sacrifices or needs, but roughly in proportion to our own capacity to love.

--Rollo May

A man who has been the indisputable favorite of his mother keeps for life the feeling of a conqueror, that confidence of success that often induces real success.

--Sigmund Freud

The successful mother sets her children free and becomes more free herself in the process.

--Robert J. Havighurst

The child, in the decisive first years of his life, has the experience of his mother, as an all-enveloping, protective, nourishing power. Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth. To be loved by her means to be alive, to be rooted, to be at home.

--Erich Fromm
A mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled.  
--Emily Dickinson

Everybody knows that a good mother gives her children a feeling of trust and stability. She is their earth. She is the one they can count on for the things that matter most of all. She is their food and their bed and the extra blanket when it grows cold in the night; she is their warmth and their health and their shelter; she is the one they want to be near when they cry. She is the only person in the whole world or in a whole lifetime who can be these things to her children. There is no substitute for her. Somehow even her clothes feel different to her children's hands from anybody else's clothes. Only to touch her skirt or her sleeve makes a troubled child feel better.

--Katharine Butler

Hathaway

Grandparents are frequently more congenial with their grandchildren than with their children. An old man, having retired from active life, regains the gaiety and irresponsibility of childhood. He is ready to play....He cannot run with his son, but he can totter with his grandson. Our first and last steps have the same rhythm; our first and last walks are similarly limited.

--Andre Maurois

‘Yes, they are good boys,’ I once heard a kind father say. ‘I talk to them very much, but do not like to beat my children—the world will beat them.’ It was a beautiful thought, though not elegantly expressed.

--Elihu Burritt

I could not point to any need in childhood as strong as that for a father’s protection.

--Sigmund Freud

Men derive more genuine undutiful amusement and companionship from youngsters than do women.

--Hilda Cole Espy

You hear it said that fathers want their sons to be what they feel they cannot themselves be, but I tell you it also works the other way. A boy wants something very special from his father.

--Sherwood Anderson
If a man smiles at home somebody is sure to ask him for money.

--William Feather

I had not known my father very well. We had got on badly, partly because we shared, in our different fashions, the vice of stubborn pride. When he was dead I realized that I had hardly ever spoken to him. When he had been dead a long time I began to wish I had. It seems to be typical of life in America, where opportunities, real and fancied, are thicker than anywhere else on the globe, that the second generation has no time to talk to the first.

--James Baldwin

My daddy doesn’t work, he just goes to the office; but sometimes he does errands on the way home.

--Unknown

To be sure, working—that is, earning a living—is one aspect of fathering. It’s one means that the father has of extending protection to his family. But it’s just one. If he concentrates on this to the exclusion of other aspects, it becomes not a form of fathering, but an escape.

--Myron Brenton

To show a child what has once delighted you, to find the child’s delight added to your own, so that there is now a double delight seen in the glow of trust and affection, this is happiness.

--J. B. Priestly

Only a person extraordinarily satisfied with himself can derive pleasure if this child in his house is a little person who gives him back nothing but a reflection. You want a new story and not the old one, which wasn’t particularly satisfactory in the first place.

--Heywood Broun

How can one say no to a child? How can one be anything but a slave to one’s own flesh and blood?

--Henry Miller

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father.

--Pope John XXIII
There has been a succession of women's revolutions in America. But watch out for the revolt of the father, if he should get fed up with feeding others, and get bored with being used, and lay down his tools, and walk off to consult his soul.

--Max Lerner

The need for a father is as crucial as the need for a son, and the search of each for the other—through all the days of one's life—exempts no one. Happy the man who finds both.

--Max Lerner

I always found my daughters' beaux
Invisible as the emperor's clothes,
And I could hear of them no more
Than the slamming of an auto door.
My chicks would then slip up to roost;
They were, I finally deduced,
Concealing tactfully, pro tem,
Not boys from me but me from them.

--Ogden Nash

The kind of man who thinks that helping with the dishes is beneath him will also think that helping with the baby is beneath him, and then he certainly is not going to be a very successful father.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

Boys and girls need chances to be around their father, to be enjoyed by him and if possible to do things with him. Better to play 15 minutes enjoyably and then say, 'Now I'm going to read my paper' than to spend all day at the zoo crossly.

--Dr. Benjamin Spock

Our three young children are all in Switzerland, the older boy in Munich, and my wife and I are like middle-aged omnibus-horses let loose in a pasture. The first time we have had a holiday together for 15 years; I feel like a barrel without hoops!

--William James

If you've never seen a real, fully developed look of disgust, just tell your son how you conducted yourself when you were a boy.

--Kin Hubbard
When a father is indulgent, he is more indulgent than a mother. Little ones treat their mother as the authority of rule, and their father as the authority of dispensation.

--Frederick W. Faber

There is something ultimate in a father’s love, something that cannot fail, something to be believed against the whole world. We almost attribute practical omnipotence to our father in the days of our childhood.

--Frederick W. Faber

Father and son are natural enemies and each is happier and more secure in keeping it that way.

--John Steinbeck

Children who have things their own way may even feel that their parents do not love them since they do not care what they do.

--Louis Kaplan

Love means that the adult be genuinely concerned with the evolution of the true nature of the child. Children are not able to respond to a love which tries to fashion them according to the concept of an adult, no matter how good the latter’s intention may be.

--Dr. Gotthard Booth

Nature makes boys and girls lovely to look upon so they can be tolerated until they acquire some sense.

--William Lyon Phelps

A sparkling house is a fine thing if the children aren’t robbed of their luster in keeping it that way.

--Marcelene Cox

Children must eventually train their own children, and any impoverishment of their impulse life, for the sake of avoiding friction, must be considered a possible liability affecting more than one lifetime. Generations will depend on the ability of every procreating individual to face his children with the feeling that he was able to save some vital enthusiasm from the conflicts of his childhood.

--Erik H. Erikson

I do not love him because he is good, but because he is my little child.

--Rabindranath Tagore
Viewing the child solely as an immature person is a way of escaping confronting him.

--Clark Moustakas

The ‘good’ child may be frightened, and insecure, wanting only to please his parents by submitting to their will, while the ‘bad’ child may have a will of his own and genuine interests but ones which do not please the parents.

--Erich Fromm

A child enters your home and makes so much noise for twenty years that you can hardly stand it: then departs leaving the house so silent that you think you will go mad.

--John Andrew Holmes

I have seen infants who, at the age of only two months, had already developed real neuroses because of the way they had been handled by their mothers and fathers. The infants had absorbed their parents’ anxieties like a blotter.

--Dr. Smiley Blanton

Smothering a child by anxious concern over every detail of his life, robbing him of all opportunities to express himself naturally and to discover the world for himself, rebuking his early efforts to explore and direct his dawning sexuality, may be more crippling than beatings and curses.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

The very calmness that grownups seem to bring with them into the fear-crowded darkness of a child’s bedroom too often consists only in a hopeless insulation and imperviousness on their part, making them seem so superior and panic-proof that the child is driven to conceal from them all the really queer and terrible things he thinks and feels.

--Katharine Butler

Hathaway

While the girl has prepared herself for child care through doll play, we still frown on boys doing the same....We thus expect boys to accept a role in child rearing later in life for which they have never prepared themselves through childish play. On the contrary, the type of play which is encouraged for boys conditions many of them to be unable, as parents, to take care of their children in infancy without emotional conflict.

--Bruno Bettelheim
Reasoning with a child is fine, if you can reach the child's reason without destroying your own.

--John Mason Brown

Parents who have inner, often unconscious doubts about their own strength tend to demand that their children be especially courageous, independent and aggressive; they may buy the son boxing gloves, push him into competitive groups at an early age, and in other ways insist that the child be the “man” they inwardly feel they are not....But as no child will develop courage by being overprotected, so no child will develop it by being pushed.

--Rollo May

Not long ago, a little boy of my close acquaintance, only eighteen months old, and of a rare zest and energy, was given a saffron crocus-bud by his mother. His delight was boundless. He took it carefully in his small fist and so fell asleep with it unharmed. When she looked in on him later in the evening, it had come into bloom.

--Walter de la Mare

One of the ideas most difficult for parents and educators to accept is that the ‘good’ child is often more in need of help and attention than the ‘naughty’ child. Because of his aggressiveness the bad boy, so-called, is the object of a great deal of concern and counsel while the good lad receives praise or else is overlooked entirely.

--Dr. Karl Menninger

For our part we have never understood the fear of some parents about babies getting mixed up in the hospital. What difference does it make so long as you get a good one?

--Heywood Broun

Lullaby, o lullaby!
   Thus I heard a father cry,
Lullaby, o lullaby!
   The brat will never shut an eye;
Hither come, some power divine!
   Close his lids or open mine.

--Thomas Hood

My point is that no matter what the ordinary person says...no matter who it is that speaks, or what superlatives are employed, no baby is admired sufficiently to please the mother.

--E. V. Lucas
Last night my child was born—a very strong boy, with large black eyes....If you ever become a father, I think the strangest and strongest sensation of your life will be hearing for the first time the thin cry of your own child. For a moment you have the strange feeling of being double; but there is something more, quite impossible to analyze—perhaps the echo in a man’s heart of all the sensations felt by all the fathers and mothers of his race at a similar instant in the past. It is a very tender, but also a very ghostly feeling.

--Laurence Hearn

As for boys and girls, it is one of the sorriest of mistakes to talk down to them: almost always your lad of fifteen thinks more simply, more fundamentally than you do; and what he accepts as good coin is not facts or precepts, but feelings and convictions.

--David Grayson

The joy of the young is to disobey—but the trouble is that there are no longer any orders.

--Jean Cocteau

We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves. When we...bend over the cradle of our own child, God throws back the temple door, and reveals to us the sacredness and mystery of a father’s and a mother’s love.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Whatever love and truth is mine I’ll show you, What strength that I can be to you I’ll be... But there’s no joy on earth that I can give you To equal all the joy you’ve given me.

--Michael F. Anderson

The craziest, most out-of-control creature on the face of the earth is a two-year-old.

--Dan L. Miller
Your son at five is your master,  
at ten your slave, at fifteen your double,  
and after that your friend or foe,  
depending on how you bring him up.  

--Hasdai Ibn Shaprut

One of the great mysteries of life is how the idiot that your daughter married can be  
the father of the smartest grandchildren in the whole wide world.  

--Unknown

The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for  
his education and guidance; and that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.  

--The United Nations

Children turn talented, accomplished men into fathers and talented, independent women into mothers.  

--Dan L. Miller

Because fathers shift gears much more slowly than crying children, you will be brooding...for another hour or so, long after your little one has forgotten it. Call it the anguish gap.  

--Bill Cosby

Changing a diaper takes much less time than waxing a car. A car doesn’t spit on your pants, of course, but a baby’s book value is considerably higher.  

--Bill Cosby

There is perhaps no mystique of motherhood that a man cannot master except for the physical realities of a pregnancy, delivery and breast feeding.  

--Alvin Poussaint

Train up a child in the way he should go;  
And when he is old, he will not depart from it.  

--Proverbs

Almost half of the children born in the mid-1970’s will live in a single parent household before they reach the age of eighteen.  

--Barbara Mandell  
and Risa Garon
Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing.

--Phyllis Diller

At almost any point in the world’s history, people could have said that the world was in such terrible shape that it was immoral to bring children into it. I would not have liked to have had denied me the chance to live in these exciting times.

--Coretta Scott King

Men are what their mothers made them.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Only mothers can think of the future—because they give birth to it in their children.

--Maxim Gorky

This is what is hardest: to close the open hand because one loves.

--Nietzsche

Deep in the cavern of the infant’s breast
The father’s nature lurks, and lives anew.

--Horace

There is no slave out of heaven like a loving woman; and, of all loving women, there is no such slave as a mother.

--Henry Ward Beecher

When a woman is twenty, a child deforms her; when she is thirty, he preserves her; and when forty, he makes her young again.

--Leon Blum

Some are kissing mothers and some are scolding mothers, but it is love just the same, and most mothers kiss and scold together.

--Pearl S. Buck

One of the most visible effects of a child’s presence in the household is to turn the worthy parents into complete idiots when, without him, they would perhaps have remained mere imbeciles.

--Georges Courteline
All men know their children
Mean more than life. If childless people sneer—
Well, they've less sorrow. But what lonesome luck!

--Euripides

Oh, what a power is motherhood, possessing
A potent spell. All women alike
Fight fiercely for a child.

--Euripides

There is not so much comfort in the having of children as there is sorrow in parting with them.

--Thomas Fuller

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.

--Kahlil Gibran

Where parents do too much for their children, the children will not do much for themselves.

--Elbert Hubbard

It is...sometimes easier to head an institute for the study of child guidance than it is to turn one brat into a decent human being.

--Joseph Wood Krutch

Every beetle is a gazelle in the eyes of its mother.

--Moorish Proverb

An angry father is most cruel toward himself.

--Publilius Syrus

Romance fails us and so do friendships, but the relationship of parent and child, less noisy than all others, remains indelible and indestructible, the strongest relationship on earth.

--Theodor Reik
I opine...'Judicious mothers will always keep in mind, that they are the first book read, and the last put aside, in every child’s library.’

--C. Lenox Remond

Parents today are the stage managers for the meetings of three- and four-year-olds, just as, in earlier eras, the adults managed marriages.

--David Riesman

The fundamental defect of fathers is that they want their children to be a credit to them.

--Bertrand Russell

Parents lend children their experience and a vicarious memory; children endow their parents with a vicarious immortality.

--George Santayana

The ideal mother, like the ideal marriage, is a fiction.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

It is not enough for parents to understand children. They must accord children the privilege of understanding them.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

It is impossible for any woman to love her children twenty-four hours a day.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

To make the child in your own image is a capital crime, for your image is not worth repeating. The child knows this and you know it. Consequently you hate each other.

--Karl Shapiro

Parentage is a very important profession; but no test of fitness for it is ever imposed in the interest of the children.

--George Bernard Shaw

This is the duty of a father, to accustom his son to act rightly rather of his own accord than from unnatural fear.

--Terence

A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

--Dorothy Canfield Fisher
You have the right to make mistakes in bringing up your own children: Blunder bravely! Go ahead and make your mistakes, but believe more bravely that, on the whole, you are doing a good job of raising your children.

You have a right to pursue your own career and interests. If you don’t meet your own needs, you are not going to meet your children’s.

You have a right to be yourself. Allow your child to be himself, and you will raise a happy and psychologically healthy individual.

The same reasoning applies to you as a parent. So raise your child in your own unique way. Have the courage to be yourself—as a husband, or a wife and, above all, as a parent!

—Fitzhugh Dodson

*On children in sports:* Beware of your own expectations. Avoid putting so much pressure on a child that the only thing he or she can do is fail...Never compare your child to a professional athlete.

—John Dockery

The first duty to children is to make them happy.—If you have not made them so, you have wronged them.—No other good they may get can make up for that.

—Charles Buxton

Simply having children does not make mothers.

—John A. Sheda

There is no friendship, no love, like that of the parent for the child.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Happy is he that is happy in his children.

—Thomas Fuller

Some time before his death, he had stamped his likeness upon a little boy.

—Charles Dickens

Few fathers care much for their sons, or at least, most of them care more for their money.

—Lord Chesterfield
When you are dead your sister’s tears will dry as time goes on, your widow’s tears will cease in another’s arms, but your mother will mourn you till the day she dies.

--Arab Proverb

Just wait till your youth is gone! What you did to them, your children will do to you!

--Walther von der Vogelweide

Woman is born that she may have children and perpetuate the human race.

--Claudian

Children disgrace us in public by behaving just like we do at home.

--Unknown

The best thing to spend on children is your time.

--Arnold Glasow

As the gardener is responsible for the products of his garden, so the family is responsible for the character and conduct of its children.

--Unknown

It is extremely difficult to train a boy in the way his father does not go.

--Unknown

It’s better to teach children the roots of labor than to hand them the fruits of yours.

--Unknown

Theories on how to rear children usually end with the birth of the second child.

--Unknown

To train children at home, it’s necessary for both the children and the parents to spend some time there.

--Unknown

The surest way to make it hard for your children is to make it soft for them.

--Unknown

You train a child until age ten; after that you only influence him.

--Unknown
A mother should be like a quilt—keep the children warm but don’t smother them.
--Unknown

The ability to say no is perhaps the greatest gift a parent has.
--Unknown

Sons are the anchors of a mother’s life.
--Sophocles

Children are a great deal more apt to follow your lead than the way you point.
--Unknown

Happy laughter and family voices in the home will keep more kids off the streets at night than the strictest curfew.
--Unknown

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
--Theodore Hesburgh

Mother love is dangerous when it becomes smother love.
--Unknown

The most difficult thing for a mother to remember is that other people have perfect children too.
--Unknown

The best thing that parents can spend on their children is time—not money.
--Unknown

Some parents could do more for their children by not doing so much for them.
--Unknown

Many modern dads worry more about their golf swing than they do their offspring.
--Unknown

One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.
--George Herbert

Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to his parents.
--Abraham Lincoln
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

Becoming a father is easy enough,  
But being one can be rough.  
--Wilhelm Busch

A man’s truest monument must be a man.  
--Minot Judson Savage

Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them, sometimes they forgive them.  
--Oscar Wilde

If parents would only realize how they bore their children!  
--George Bernard Shaw

If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.  
--Carl Gustav Jung

The noblest works and foundations have proceeded from childless men.  
--Francis Bacon

Respect the child.  
Be not too much his parent.  
Trespass not on his solitude.  
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is better to bind your children to you by a feeling of respect, and by gentleness, than by fear.  
--Terence
Like father, like son.  

--William Langland

The best academy, a mother’s knee.  

--James Russell Lowell

I wish either my father or my mother, or indeed both of them, as they were in duty both equally bound to it, had minded what they were about when they begot me.  

--Laurence Sterne

I tell you there’s a wall ten feet thick and ten miles high between parent and child.  

--George Bernard Shaw

Daddy said: ‘All children must look after their own upbringing.’ Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person’s character lies in their own hands.  

--Anne Frank

Any father whose son raises his hand against him is guilty: of having produced a son who raised his hand against him.  

--Charles Peguy

You don’t raise heroes, you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they’ll turn out to be heroes, even if it’s just in your own eyes.  

--Walter Schirra, Sr.

This is what a father ought to be about: helping his son to form the habit of doing right on his own initiative, rather than because he’s afraid of some serious consequence.  

--Terence

Children, look in those eyes, listen to that dear voice, notice the feeling of even a single touch that is bestowed upon you by that gentle hand! Make much of it while yet you have that most precious of all good gifts, a loving mother. Read the unfathomable love of those eyes; the kind anxiety of that tone and look, however slight your pain. In after life you may have friends, fond, dear friends, but never will you have again the inexpressible love and gentleness lavished upon you, which none but a mother bestows.  

--Macaulay
There is in all this cold and hollow world no fount of deep, strong, deathless love, save that within a mother’s heart.

--Mrs. Hemans

The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother.

--Napoleon

A man never sees all that his mother has been to him till it’s too late to let her know that he sees it.

--W. D. Howells

A father may turn his back on his child; brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies; husbands may desert their wives, and wives their husbands. But a mother’s love endures through all; in good repute, in bad repute, in the face of the world’s condemnation, a mother still loves on, and still hopes that her child may turn from his evil ways, and repent; still she remembers the infant smiles that once filled her bosom with rapture, the merry laugh, the joyful shout of his childhood, the opening promise of his youth; and she can never be brought to think him all unworthy.

--Washington Irving

A mother’s love is indeed the golden link that binds youth to age; and he is still but a child, however time may have furrowed his cheek, or silvered his brow, who can yet recall, with a softened heart, the fond devotion, or the gentle chidings, of the best friend that God ever gives us.

--Christian Nestell Bovee

A man who gives his children habits of industry provides for them better than by giving them a fortune.

—Richard Whately

There was a time when father amounted to something in the United States. He was held with some esteem in the community; he had some authority in his own household; his views were sometimes taken seriously by his children; and even his wife paid heed to him from time to time.

—Adlai Stevenson

Paternity is a career imposed on you without any inquiry into your fitness.

—Adlai Stevenson

The parent’s life is the child’s copybook.

—W. S. Partridge
The best way to make children good is to make them happy.
—Oscar Wilde

Let the child’s first lesson be obedience, and the second will be what thou wilt.
--Benjamin Franklin

Beat your child once a day. If you don’t know why, he does.
--Chinese Proverb

Parents are the first teacher.
--Unknown

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child’s mind,
They fashioned it with care.

One was a Teacher—
The tools he used were books, music, and art.
One was a Parent with a guiding hand,
With a gentle loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure;
While the parent labored by his side
To polish and smooth it over.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud for what they had wrought
For the things they molded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.

Each agree he might have failed
If he had worked alone
For behind the parent stood a school
And behind the teacher a home.

--Ray A. Lingenfelter
The words that a father speaks to his children in the privacy of home are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering-galleries, they are clearly heard at the end and by posterity.

—Paul Richter

I don’t want to be a pal, I want to be a father.

—Clifton Fadiman

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I live in, or the kind of car I drove...but the world may be little better because I was important in the life of a CHILD.

--Forest Witcraft

Trying to educate the young without help and support from the home is akin to trying to rake leaves in a high wind.

--P. Gough

If you bungle raising your children, I don’t think whatever else you do well matters very much.

--Jacqueline Kennedy

Onassis

IF I HAD MY CHILD TO RAISE OVER AGAIN

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I’d finger paint more, and point the finger less.
I’d do less correcting, and more connecting.
I’d take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less, and know to care more.
I’d take more hikes and fly more kites.
I’d stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I’d run through more fields, and gaze at more stars.
I’d do more hugging, and less tugging.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I’d build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I’d teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

--Diane Loomans

He only half dies who leaves an image of himself in his sons.

—Carlos Goldoni
Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.  --James Baldwin

Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family.  --George Bernard Shaw

Lovers grow cold, men learn to hate their wives,  
And only parents’ love can last our lives.  
--Robert Browning

The notion that parents are entitled to respect simply because they are parents is preposterous. The stream of obligation runs strongly the other way. A child owes its parents no gratitude whatever for bringing him into the world (as Swift sardonically said, while they were thinking of something else).  
--John Macy

A child will be better brought up by a wise father however limited, than by the cleverest teacher in the world  
--Jean Jacques Rousseau

In the final analysis it is not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.  
--Ann Landers

Parents who take their general standards from children—copying, for example, dietary habits, romantic practices, and even their clothing—should not be rearing children, and possible not even running around loose. If you can’t tell the adults from the children—if everybody in the society yearns to live the childish life—none of the incentive for development that comes from youthful yearning for the privileges of the mature will take place.  
--Judith Martin

We know that increased parental involvement is critical to improving the quality of education for our children and all children. Parent involvement is a beacon of hope for healing what is wrong with our community and our nation.  
--Emily Haxton

Diogenes struck the father when the son swore.  
--Robert Burton
Fathers no longer share their work with their sons. The strange thing about this is not only the physical separation, but the fact that the father is not able to explain to the son what he’s doing....In the world of offices, with the father only home in the evenings...the father loses the son five minutes after birth. It’s as if he had amnesia and can’t remember who his children are. The father is remote: He’s not in the house where we are, he’s somewhere else. He might as well be in Australia.

--Keith Thompson

Kids don’t stay with you if you do it right. It’s one job where, the better you are, the more surely you won’t be needed in the long run.

--Barbara Kingsolver

Everyone likes to think that he has done reasonably well in life, so that it comes as a shock to find our children believing differently. The temptation is to tune them out; it takes much more courage to listen.

--John D. Rockefeller III

When one has not had a good father, one must create one.

--Friedrich Nietzsche

Don’t limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.

--Rabbinical Saying

Whatever you would have your children become, strive to exhibit in your own lives and conversation.

--Lydia H. Sigourney

Let no parent who prefers one child to the other think that the children are unaware of the situation. It cannot be concealed. It betrays itself in the glance of an eye, in the tones of the voice, and in all the other irrepressible symptoms of natural affinity. It is very hard on the other children. It can be even harder on the child who knows himself to be the center of parental interest. An increased understanding of human psychology, which we owe chiefly to Freud, has made modern parents painfully and in many cases so absurdly aware of the dangers of the Oedipus complex that they warn all their relatives and friends not to reflect their own secret preference for little Susie or Jimmie. This of course destroys all spontaneity and is probably worse for the children than the rankest favoritism. When parents really achieve perfect justice in relationship to their children, I am sure life will be saner but it will also be very dull.

--Agnes E. Meyer
When I did well, I heard it never;  
When I did ill, I heard it ever.  

--Dale Carnegie

The teaching from their parents will always be the core; the role of the school teacher is to provide a decent shell around the core.  

--Johann Pestalozzi

The mother of the year should be a sterilized woman with two adopted children.  

--Paul Ehrlich

I despair of teaching the ordinary parent how to handle his child....They have no idea of the proper use of reinforcement.  I would prefer to turn child-raising over to specialists.  

--B. F. Skinner

The more people have studied different methods of bringing up children the more they have come to the conclusion that what good mothers and fathers instinctively feel like doing for their babies is the best after all.  

--Dr. Benjamin Spock

Wonderful people do not always make wonderful parents.  

--Abraham Maslow

Your children need your presence more than they need your presents.  

--Reverend Jesse Jackson

The best prescription for a discontented female is to have a child.  

--Pablo Picasso

Being a housewife and a mother is the biggest job in the world, but if it doesn’t interest you, don’t do it...I would have made a terrible parent. The first time my child didn’t do what I wanted, I’d kill him.  

--Katharine Hepburn

The only reason I always try to meet and know the parents better is because it helps me to forgive their children.  

--Louis Johannot,  
Teacher
Even if you don’t recognize or don’t admit to your faults and weaknesses, they will some day be dramatically displayed in your children.  

--Dan L. Miller

Mummy herself has told us that she looked upon us more as her friends than her daughters. Now that is all very fine, but still, a friend can’t take a mother’s place. I need my mother as an example which I can follow. I want to be able to respect her.

—Anne Frank

My first child was born in 1967 when I was twenty-two and had accomplished a university degree. I thought it was my vocation to be a mother...but the time that followed was an unhappy haze of nappy washing and pill taking, as I found I could not make my dream of domestic contentment come true. I felt depressed and oppressed. I felt constantly tired. I felt isolated. I felt resentful of my husband’s freedom. I felt my life was at an end.

--Ann Oakley

We never know the love of the parent till we become parents ourselves.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall:  
A mother’s secret love outlives them all.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

A mother loves her child more than the father does, because she knows it’s her own, while the father only thinks it’s his.

--Menander

Fulfilling a child’s potential is a family’s achievement, a community’s strength and a nation’s security.

--Dorothy Rich

Make a memory with your children,  
Spend some time to show you care;  
Toys and trinkets can’t replace those  
Precious moments that you share.

--Elaine Hardt

Whatever you do to your child’s body, you are doing to your child’s mind.

--Penelope Leach
If schools are operating at maximum efficiency, they are responsible for about 40 to 50 percent of what a child learns. The other 50 to 60 percent of learning comes from the family and the community. Without close articulation of and involvement with the family and larger community, schools will ultimately fail.

--Ted Sanders

If we could get our parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools.

--Dr. Ruth Love

Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin.

--Charles Haddon Spurgeon

What you teach your own children is what you really believe in.

--Cathy Warner Weatherford

You see much more of your children once they leave home.

--Lucille Ball

The most effective form of birth control I know is spending the day with my kids.

--Jill Bensley

There is in all this cold and hollow world
No fount of deep, strong, deathless love;
Save that within a mother’s heart.

--Felicia Hemans

Children require guidance and sympathy far more than instruction.

--Annie Sullivan

Amid all the easily loved darlings of Charlie Brown’s circle, obstreperous Lucy holds a special place in my heart. She fusses and fumes and she carps and complains. that’s because Lucy cares. And its the caring that counts. When we, as youngsters, would accuse our mother of picking on us her wise reply was, ‘All you’ll get from strangers is surface pleasantry or indifference. Only someone who loves you will criticize you.’

--Judith Crist
A suburban mother’s role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after.

--Peter De Vries

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.

--Chinese Proverb

A mother is as happy as her unhappiest child.

--Jack Mabley

Few parents nowadays pay any regard to what their children say to them. The old-fashioned respect for the young is fast dying.

--Oscar Wilde

Few misfortunes can befall a boy which bring worse consequences than to have a really affectionate mother.

--W. Somerset Maugham

He that will have his son have a respect for him and his orders must have a great reverence for his son.

--John Locke

A Jewish man with parents alive is a fifteen-year-old boy, and will remain a fifteen-year-old boy until they die!

--Philip Roth

They fuck you up, your mum and dad. They may not mean to, but they do. They fill you with the faults they had And add some extra, just for you.

--Philip Larkin

Love is spelled T-I-M-E. . . . You have to be with a child today to be in his or her memories tomorrow.

--Steffan T. Kraehmer

Whatever the times, one thing will never change: Fathers and mothers, if you have children, they must come first. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens at the White House, but inside your house.

--Barbara Bush
How many hopes and fears, how many ardent wishes and anxious apprehensions are twisted together in the threads that connect the parent with the child!

--Samuel Griswold Goodrich

We must face up to the fact that the phenomenon of out-of-wedlock births has reached epidemic proportions and is undermining the viability of our community. We've simply got to persuade our young people that they ought not to bring their own flesh and blood into this world unless they are fully prepared to love, nurture and provide for them.

If they aren't ready and willing to assume full responsibilities of parenthood, then this is an almost surefire prescription for poverty for their own flesh and blood. They owe their children and our people a better shot at success in life.

--Hugh Price

The cattle is as good as the pasture in which it grazes.

--Ethiopian Proverb

I saw my mother wear cardboard in her shoes, just so each of us could have a good pair....I can never repay her.

--Karl Malone

Mother to Son:
‘I carried you until you took that first step,
But you don’t ever have to stand alone.’

--Burnece Brunson

Everybody is looking for role models for their kids on television, but the positive role models should be right there in the home.

--Kevin Teryl

I learned the most basic lesson of parenting from my mother: No child is ever spoiled by too much attention. It is the lack of attention that spoils. The time we spend with children is far more important than any other gift. It lets them know that we love them, that we place them ahead of other commitments, and that they can turn to us amidst the turbulence of growing up. This basic principle worked for my mother. It has worked for my husband and me. And I am sure it will work for my son and daughter-in-law.

--Dr. Bessie W. Blake
THESE THINGS I WISH FOR YOU

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I’d like better.

I’d really like for them to know about hand-me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meatloaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your bed, mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother. And it’s all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he’s scared, I hope you let him. When you want to see a movie and your little sister wants to tag along, I hope you’ll let her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don’t ask your ‘driver’ to drop you two blocks away so you won’t be seen riding with someone as uncool as your ‘Mom.’ If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what Ivory soap tastes like. May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole. I don’t care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don’t like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma and go fishing with your Uncle. May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays. I hope your Mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through a neighbor’s window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you—tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it’s the only way to appreciate life.

--Paul Harvey
If you can’t feed them, don’t breed them. 

--Traditional Wisdom

Nothing you do for a child is ever wasted...or forgotten.

--Garrison Keillor

Far too often we spend most of our time pulling weeds in the garden of our children’s lives, instead of fertilizing the flowers.

--Ken Davis

The only way the relationship between a loving parent and a child can suffer is if we always give in to our kids or ever give up on them.

--Anne Cassidy

A great man is he who does not lose his child’s heart.

--Mencius

A man cannot leave a better legacy to the world than a well-educated family.

--Thomas Scott

The father who does not teach his son his duties is equally guilty with the son who neglects them.

--Confucius

The antidote for crime should be administered in childhood, by the parents. The problem is not fundamentally that of the improper child so much as it is that of the improper home.

--Justice John W. Hill

Harsh counsels have no effect; they are like hammers which are always repulsed by the anvil.

--Helvetius

The sooner you treat your son as a man, the sooner he will be one.

--John Locke

The two most difficult careers are entrusted to amateurs—citizenship and parenthood.

—Evan Esar
The more you love your children the more care you should take to neglect them occasionally. The web of affection can be drawn too tight.

--D. Sutten

Nobody can misunderstand a boy like his own mother.

--Norman Douglas

The hardest crop to raise on a farm are the boys of the family.

--Unknown

A child psychologist starts out with learning what’s wrong with his patients, and ends up with learning what’s wrong with their parents.

--Unknown

The child who knows how to get around his parents doesn’t need a child psychologist—he is one.

--Unknown

We’ve had bad luck with our kids—they’ve all grown up.

--Christopher Morley

Children are given to us to discourage our better emotions.

--Saki

Who gives the bread lays down the law.

--Spanish Proverb

A disciplinarian can train his child to do almost anything, except to run into his arms when he comes home.

--Unknown

Children learn to care by experiencing good care. They come to know the blessings of gentleness, or sympathy, of patience and kindness, of support and backing first through the way in which they themselves are treated.

--James L. Hymes, Jr.

Our most important task as parents is raising children who will be decent, responsible, and caring people devoted to making this world a more compassionate place.

--Neil Kurshan
The psychological umbilical cord is more difficult to cut than the real one. We experience our children as extensions of ourselves, and we feel as though their behavior is an expression of something within us...instead of an expression of something in them. We see in our children our own reflection, and when we don’t like what we see, we feel angry at the reflection.

--Elaine Hefner

Whenever reality reinforces a child’s fantasied dangers, the child will have more difficulty in overcoming them...So, while parents may not regard a spanking as a physical attack or an assault on a child’s body, the child may regard it as such, and experience it as a confirmation of his fears that grownups under certain circumstances can really hurt you.

--Selma H. Fraiberg

Isn’t it strange that it’s easier to be gentle with the feelings of people we care less about than those of our children, whom we love so much?

--Stephanie Marston

The daily arguments over putting away the toys or practicing the piano defeat us so easily. We see them coming yet they frustrate us time and time again. In many cases, we are mothers and fathers who have managed budgets and unruly bosses and done difficult jobs well through sheer tenacity and dogged preparation. So why are we unable to persuade someone three feet tall to step into six inches of water at bathtime?

--Cathy Rindner

Tempelsman

The parent in charge is the disciplinarian...I do not believe in letting discipline wait for another parent to handle it, nor do I think the father or mother should be allowed to become a shadowy figure who walks in the door and has to play the bad guy in the house.

--Lawrence Balter

The child supplies the power but the parents have to do the steering.

--Benjamin Spock

A father is the parent who is busy doing his children’s homework while they are busy watching television.

--Unknown
The worst waste of breath, next to playing a saxophone, is advising a son.
--Kin Hubbard

A mother loves the child who became the thief or murderer more than the one who became the priest.
--Faulkner

A parent understands what a child does not say.
--Proverb

With all the attention paid to your new baby, it’s easy for your own feelings and needs to get lost in the shuffle. Although all parents engage in some self-sacrifice for their children, keep in mind that your goal isn’t just to raise a happy, healthy child. You want that child to be part of a happy, healthy family as well.
--Lawrence Kutner

The more we shelter children from every disappointment, the more devastating future disappointments will be.
--Fred G. Gosman

When the child cries or is unhappy, the mother reads this as meaning that she is a failure. This is why it is so important for a mother to know...that the process of growing up involves by definition things that her child is not going to like. Her job is not to create a bed of roses, but to help him learn how to pick his way through the thorns.
--Elaine Heffner

There are three ways to get something done: do it yourself, hire someone, or forbid your kids to do it.
--Mona Crane

It’s sad but true that if you focus your attention on housework and meal preparation and diapers, raising children does start to look like drudgery pretty quickly. On the other hand, if you see yourself as nothing less than your child’s nurturer, role model, teacher, spiritual guide, and mentor, your days take on a very different cast.
--Joyce Maynard

My father was frightened of his mother. I was frightened of my father and I am damned well going to see to it that my children are frightened of me.
--George V, King of Great Britain
Adolescents have the right to be themselves. The fact that you were the belle of the ball, the captain of the lacrosse team, the president of your senior class, Phi Beta Kappa, or a political activist doesn’t mean that your teenager will be or should be the same....Likewise, the fact that you were a wallflower, uncoordinated, and a C student shouldn’t mean that you push your child to be everything you were not....Let your child be the teenager he or she want to be, not the adolescent you were or wish you had been.

--Laurence Steinberg

The real question isn’t whether you love your kids or not, but how well you are able to demonstrate your love and caring so that your children really feel loved.

--Stephanie Marston

The recommended daily requirement for hugs is: four per day for survival, eight per day for maintenance, and twelve per day for growth.

--Virginia Satir

The child who acts unlovable is the child who most needs to be loved.

--Cathy Rindner

Tempelsman

The gain is not the having of children; it is the discovery of love and how to be loving.

--Polly Berrien Berends

The problems between the parents become the problems within the children.

--Roger Gould

You will always be your child’s favorite toy.

--Vicki Lansky

Weekend planning is a prime time to apply the Deathbed Priority Test: On your deathbed, will you wish you’d spent more prime weekend hours grocery shopping or walking in the woods with your kids?

--Louise Lague

A life-long blessing for children is to fill them with warm memories of times together. Happy memories become treasure in the heart to pull out on the tough days of adulthood.

--Charlotte Davis Kasl
Children’s self-esteem develops in proportion to the depth of trust that is reached in the parent/child relationship.

--Stephanie Marston

Let us be different in our homes. Let us realize that along with food, shelter, and clothing, we have another obligation to our children, and that is to affirm their ‘rightness.’ The whole world will tell them what’s wrong with them—out loud and often. Our job is to let our children know what’s right about them.

--Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish

One of the important things to learn about parenting is that the more you worry about a child, the less the child will worry about him or herself....Instead of worrying, watch with fascination and wonder as your child’s life unfolds, and help the child take responsibility for his or her own life.

--Charlotte Davis Kasl

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of
Life’s longing for itself.
They came through you but not
from you.
And though they are with you yet
the belong not to you.
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
Chores begin when your child can pick it up, put it away, fold it, sort it, or carry it out the door.

--Jean Ross Peterson

Being a father
Is quite a bother

......
You improve them mentally
And straighten them dentally,

......
They’re no longer corralable
Once they find that you’re fallible

......
But after you’ve raised them and educated them and
gowned them,
They just take their little fingers
and wrap you around them.
Being a father
Is quite a bother,
But I like it, rather.

--Ogden Nash

Fatherhood is the single most creative, complicated, fulfilling, frustrating, engrossing, enriching, depleting endeavor of a man’s adult life.

--Kyle D. Pruett

There’s something like a line of gold thread running through a man’s words when he talks to his daughter, and gradually over the years it gets to be long enough for you to pick up in your hands and weave into a cloth that feels like love itself.

--John Gregory Brown

The father of a daughter is nothing but a high-class hostage. A father turns a stony face to his sons, berates them, shakes his antlers, paws the ground, snorts, runs them off into the underbrush, but when his daughter puts her arm over his shoulder and says, ‘Daddy, I need to ask you something,’ he is a pat of butter in a hot frying pan.

--Garrison Keillor
It is much easier to become a father than to be one.  

--Kent Nerburn

When it comes to little girls, God the father has nothing on father, the god. It’s an awesome responsibility.

--Frank Pittman

Mommy is still the front-line parent, and Daddy is still the ‘other,’ Daddy is still ‘different.’ Daddy is still a daughter’s defender, her hero, the first man in her life—no matter how old she is.

--Victoria Secunda

Most fathers don’t see the war within the daughter, her struggles with conflicting images of the idealized and flawed father, her temptation both to retreat to Daddy’s lap and protection and to push out of his embrace to that of beau and the world beyond home.

--Victoria Secunda

Prizing a male child, although seemingly an old fashioned notion, is still widespread....This strong desire for boys in the family translates into a difference in fathering. Studies show that men play with boy babies more than girl babies and in general are more involved with their families if they have at least one son. Marriages, on average, last longer if there is a son. Even divorced fathers tend to see their sons more than their daughters (at least until adolescence).

--Elyse Zorn Karlin

Mothers have as powerful an influence over the welfare of future generations as all other causes combined.

--John Abbott

Don’t poets know it
Better than others
God can’t be always everywhere;
and so,
Invented Mothers.

--Sir Edward Arnold

It’s the biggest on-the-job training program in existence today.

--Irma Bombeck
Mother’s arms are made of tenderness,
And sweet sleep blesses the child who lies therein.  

--Victor Hugo

Even though fathers, grandparents, siblings, memories of ancestors are important agents of socialization, our society focuses on the attributes and characteristics of mothers and teachers and gives them the ultimate responsibility for the child’s life changes.

--Sara Lawrence Lightfoot

Sometimes the laughter in mothering is the recognition of the ironies and absurdities. Sometimes, though, it’s just pure, unthinking delight.

--Barbara Schapiro

As is the mother, so is her daughter.

--Ezekiel 16:44

What the daughter does, the mother did.

--Jewish Proverb

Parents don’t make mistakes because they don’t care, but because they care so deeply.

--T. Berry Brazelton

There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the mouth that bites you.

--Peter De Vries

I regard parenting as the hardest, most complicated, anxiety-ridden, sweat-and-blood-producing job in the world. Succeeding requires the ultimate in patience, common sense, commitment, humor, tact, love, wisdom, awareness, and knowledge. At the same time, it holds the possibility for the most rewarding, joyous experience of a lifetime, namely, that of being successful guides to a new and unique human being.

--Virginia Satir

So much is asked of parents, and so little is given.

--Virginia Satir
How then do you love each of your multiple children, if not the best or even equally? The answer is, you love them uniquely.

--Marianne E. Neifert

I am aghast to find myself in such a position of power over two other people. Their father and I have them in thrall simply by having produced them. We have the power to make them feel good or bad about themselves, which is the greatest power in the world. Ours will not be the only influence, but it is the earliest, the most ubiquitous, and potentially the most pernicious. Lovers and friends will make them blossom and bleed, but they may move on to other lovers and friends. We are the only parents they will have.

--Anna Quindlen

Over and over again, her own direct experience teaches a woman that when she does enough for herself, she feels better and better about her child. When she does too much for too long for her child, she feels harassed and drained. But over and over again, she lapses into doing too much.

--Roger Gould

If I could summarize my suggestions to parents over the past twenty-five years it would be: worry less, criticize less, preach less, listen more, have more fun, be more honest with your own feelings, develop your own joys and friendships, and don’t sweat the small stuff (which is nearly everything). The goal is not to be a perfect parent, because no such thing exists. The hope is to be a good enough parent so that your child leaves home a responsible adult who can take care of him or herself.

--Charlotte Davis Kasl

There is an anecdote passed around in psychoanalytical circles, about a boy who for no apparent reason reached the age of six without ever speaking. One night he suddenly said, ‘Please pass the mashed potatoes.’ The boy had never spoken before because his mother had always met every one of his needs without him saying a word. This is the epitome of the too-good mother.

--Elyse Zorn Karlin

Feeling that you have to be the perfect parent places a tremendous and completely unnecessary burden on you. If we’ve learned anything from the past half-century’s research on child development, it’s that children are remarkably resilient. You can make lots of mistakes and still wind up with great kids.

--Lawrence Kutner

Children allowed to develop at their own speed will usually win the race of life.

--Fred O. Gosman
One of the main things that interfere with our joy is the belief that if we try hard enough, read the right books, follow the right advice, and buy the right things, we could be perfect parents. If we are good enough as parents, our children will be perfect too....Unfortunately, what comes from trying to live out this philosophy is not perfect children but worried parents.

--Lawrence Kutner

It may be tempting to focus on the fact that, even among those who support equality, men’s involvement as fathers remains a far distance from what most women want and most children need. Yet it is also important to acknowledge how far and how fast many men have moved towards a pattern that not long ago virtually all men considered anathema.

--Katherine Gerson

Parents decide to accept the responsibility of raising children. Any thanks they get for doing that is gravy. Grateful children are a blessing, but they aren’t a necessity.

--Donald C. Medeiros

I’ve begun to appreciate the generational patterns that ripple out from our lives like stones dropped in water, pulsing outward even after we are gone. Although we have but one childhood, we relive it first through our children’s and then our grandchildren’s eyes.

--Anne Cassidy

Raising children is an incredibly hard and risky business in which no cumulative wisdom is gained: each generation repeats the mistakes the previous one made.

--Bill Cosby

Parents are like shuttles on a loom. They join the threads of the past with threads of the future and leave their own bright patterns as they go.

--Fred Rogers

The more parents intervene, the more siblings fight. And the bigger role parents assume in settling arguments, the less chance siblings have to learn how to resolve conflicts for themselves.

--Jane Mersky Leder

Parents sometimes think of newborns as helpless creatures, but in fact parents’ behavior is much more under the infant’s control than the reverse. Does he come running when you cry?

--Sandra Scarr
The child to be concerned about is the one who is actively unhappy (in school)....In the long run, a child’s emotional development has a far greater impact on his life than his school performance or the curriculum’s richness, so it is wise to do everything possible to change a situation in which a child is suffering excessively.

--Dorothy H. Cohen

Most parents of adolescent girls have the goal of keeping their daughters safe while they grow up and explore the world. The parents’ job is to protect, the daughter’s job is to explore.

--Mary Pipher

Most adults would not dream of belittling, humiliating, or bullying (verbally or physically) another adult. But many of the same adults think nothing of treating their adolescent child like a nonperson....Adolescents deserve the same civility their parents routinely extend to total strangers.

--Laurence Steinberg

Even as kids reach adolescence, they need more than ever for us to watch over them....Adolescence is not about letting go. It’s about hanging on during a very bumpy ride.

--Ron Taffel

If you expect complete honesty, you’ll be disappointed. And don’t expect gratitude for your parenting efforts. Do expect that you’ll feel like you’re on a yo-yo—intimate with your child one day, distant the next. As long as she’s safe, don’t invade her world. Remember: most teens end up being closer to their parents after adolescence than they were before.

--Ron Taffel

A son is a son till he gets him a wife,
But a daughter’s a daughter the rest of your life.

--Modern Proverb

Children...after a certain age do not welcome parental advice. Occasionally, they may listen to another adult, which is why perhaps people should switch children with their neighbors and friends for a while in the teen years.

--Marian Wright

Edelman
The power we exert over the future behavior of our children is enormous. Even after they have left home, even after we have left the world, there will always be part of us that will remain with them forever.

--Neil Kurshan

One of the final challenges for human beings is to get old with as much verve and gumption as possible. Old parents who keep on being interested in life give a subtle kind of sustenance to their children; they are givers of hope and affirmers of life.

--Alison Judson Ryerson

The trouble with being a parent is that by the time you are experienced, you are unemployed.

--Unknown

Parenting is a profoundly reciprocal process: we, the shapers of our children’s lives, are also being shaped. As we struggle to be parents, we are forced to encounter ourselves; and if we are willing to look at what is happening between us and our children, we may learn how we came to be who we are.

--Augustus Y. Napier

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

--Denis Waitly

Most of us would do more for our babies than we have every been willing to do for anyone, even ourselves.

--Polly Berrien Berends

It isn’t easy to see the formerly loving child who once curled up in our laps turn into a surly stranger who cannot spare us a kind word. One mother...was taken aback when she called, as her daughter was going out the door, ‘Have a good time,’ and her daughter angrily replied, ‘Stop telling me what to do!’

--Nancy Samalin

Negotiating the adolescent stage is neither quick nor easy....I have often said to parents, ‘If it isn't illegal, immoral, or fattening, give it your blessing.’ We do much better...if we find and support all the places we can appropriately say yes, and say only the no’s that really matter.

--Virginia Satir
Each day we move a little closer to the sidelines of their lives, which is where we belong, if we do our job right.

--Anna Quindlen

Courtin’s *Manual of Etiquette* of 1671 explains: ‘These little people are allowed to amuse themselves without anyone troubling to see whether they are behaving well or badly; they are permitted to do as they please; nothing is forbidden them; they laugh when they ought to cry, they cry when they ought to laugh, they talk when they ought to be silent, and they are mute when good manners require them to reply. It is cruelty to allow them to go on living in this way. The parents say that when they are bigger they will be corrected. Would it not be better to deal with them in such a way that there was nothing to correct?’

--Philippe Aries

John B. Watson, the most influential child-rearing expert (of the 1920s), warned that doting mothers could retard the development of children...Demonstrations of affection were therefore limited. ‘If you must, kiss them once on the forehead when they say goodnight. Shake hands with them in the morning.’

--Sylvia Ann Hewlett

Ambivalence reaches the level of schizophrenia in our treatment of violence among the young. Parents do not encourage violence, but neither do they take up arms against the industries which encourage it. Parents hide their eyes from the books and comics, slasher films, videos and lyrics which form the texture of an adolescent culture. While all successful societies have inhibited instinct, ours encourages it. Or at least we profess ourselves powerless to interfere with it.

--C. John Sommerville

If you are not willing to lose all the labour you have been at to break the will of your child, to bring his will into subjection to yours that it may be afterward subject to the will of God, there is one advice which, though little known, should be particularly attended...It is this; never, on any account, give a child anything that it cries for....If you give a child what he cries for, you pay him for crying: and then he will certainly cry again.

--John Welsley

Much of the pressure contemporary parents feel with respect to dressing children in designer clothes, teaching young children academics, and giving them instruction in sports derives directly from our need to use our children to impress others with our economic surplus.

--David Elkind
In spite of the six thousand manuals on child raising in the bookstores, child raising is still a dark continent and no one really knows anything. You just need a lot of love and luck—and, of course, courage.

--Bill Cosby

It is easy to lose confidence in our natural ability to raise children. The true techniques for raising children are simple: Be with them, play with them, talk to them. You are not squandering their time no matter what the latest child development books say about ‘purposeful play’ and ‘cognitive learning skills.’

--Neil Kurshan

Our species successfully raised children for tens of thousands of years before the first person wrote down the word ‘psychology.’ The fundamental skills needed to be a parent are within us. All we’re really doing is fine-tuning a process that’s already remarkably successful.

--Lawrence Kutner

The U.S. is becoming an increasingly fatherless society. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with his or her father. Today an American child can reasonably expect not to. Fatherlessness is now approaching a rough parity with fatherhood as a defining feature of American childhood.

--David Blankenhorn

Today’s fathers and mothers—with only the American dream for guidance—extend and overextend themselves, physically, emotionally, and financially, during the best years of their lives to ensure that their children will grow up prepared to do better and go further than they did.

--Stella Chess

The family environment in which your children are growing up is different from that in which you grew up. The decisions our parents made and the strategies they used were developed in a different context from what we face today, even if the ‘content’ of the problem is the same. It is a mistake to think that our own experience as children and adolescents will give us all we need to help our children. The rules of the game have changed.

--Lawrence Kutner

We do not raise our children alone....Our children are also raised by every peer, institution, and family with which they come in contact. Yet parents today expect to be blamed for whatever results occur with their children, and they expect to do their parenting alone.

--Richard Louv
Today’s parents have little authority over those others with whom they share the task of raising their children. On the contrary, most parents deal with those others from a position of inferiority or helplessness. Teachers, doctors, social workers, or television producers possess more status than most parents....As a result, the parent today is...a maestro trying to conduct an orchestra of players who have never met and who play from a multitude of different scores, each in a notation the conductor cannot read.

--Kenneth Keniston

At times it seems that the media have become the mainstream culture in children’s lives. Parents have become the alternative. Americans once expected parents to raise their children in accordance with the dominant cultural messages. Today they are expected to raise their children in opposition to it.

--Ellen Goodman

Certainly, words can be as abusive as any blow....When a three-year-old yells, ‘You’re so stupid! What a dummy!’ it doesn’t carry the same weight as when a mother yells those words to a child....Even if you don’t physically abuse young children, you can still drive them nuts with your words.

--Mary Kay Blakely

If family violence teaches children that might makes right at home, how will we hope to cure the futile impulse to solve worldly conflicts with force?

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Much is made of the accelerating brutality of young people’s crimes, but rarely does our concern for dangerous children translate into concern for children in danger. We fail to make the connection between the use of force on children themselves, and violent antisocial behavior, or the connection between watching father batter mother and the child deducing a link between violence and masculinity.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Research has convincingly demonstrated that using the ‘rod’ creates children who are not more obedient but who are instead simply more angry and aggressive than other kids. Parents who routinely slap or strike their children are actually handing them a model of violence to imitate—and many do indeed grow to be abusive, some even murderously so.

--Julius Segal

By the time most of us can really afford to have children, we are having grandchildren.

--Unknown
Both at-home and working mothers can overmeet their mothering responsibilities. In order to justify their jobs, working mothers can overnurture, overconnect with, and overschedule their children into activities and classes. Similarly, some at-home mothers...can make at-home mothering into a bigger deal than it is, over stimulating, overeducating, and overwhelming their children with purposeful attention.

--Jean Marzollo

The world doesn’t hear what a father says to his children, but posterity will.

--Jean Paul Richter

Many a teenager has a father to tell him what to do, and a mother who does it for him.

--Unknown

He who is not taught by his parents will be taught by the world.

--Unknown

Tell your child to lie for you, and he will learn to lie to you.

--Unknown

A parent is one who treats an adolescent like a child, yet expects him to act like an adult.

--Unknown

Any astronomer can predict just where every star will be at half-past eleven tonight; he can make no such prediction about his young daughter.

--James Truslow Adams

Many a man spanks his children for the things his own father should have spanked out of him.

--Don Marquis

The parents of today are making it hard for their children to tell their children what they had to do without.

--Unknown

Any man who, having a child or children he can’t support, proceeds to have another should be sterilized at once.

—H. L. Mencken
Every daughter finds her mother's advice useless until she can pass it on to her own daughter.  

--Unknown

‘M’ is for the million things she gave me,  
‘O’ means only that she’s growing old,  
’T’ is for the tears were shed to save me,  
‘H’ is for her heart of purest gold;  
‘E’ is for her eyes, with love-light shining,  
‘R’ means right, and right she’ll always be,  
Put them all together, they spell ‘MOTHER,’  
A word that means the world to me.  

--Howard Johnson

A father is a banker provided by nature.  

--French Proverb

How sad that men would base an entire civilization on the principle of paternity,  
on the legal ownership and presumed responsibility for children, and then never really get to know their sons and daughters very well.  

--Phyllis Chesler

Accepting a child’s dictation is the equivalent of robbing the child of a parent.  

--Mildrew Newman and Bernard Berkowtiz

To provide some degree of child training at home requires that both parents and children be there together at the same time.  

--Dr. J. Harold Smith

Raising kids is part joy and part guerrilla warfare.  

--Edward Asner

If spanking worked, we’d only have to do it once.  

--Nancy Samalin

The unsuccessful bully can always become the father of a family.  

--Rebecca West

Nothing is so potent as the silent influence of a good example.  

--James Kent
No man knows his true character until he has run out of gas, purchased something on the installment plan, and raised an adolescent.

--Marcelene Cox

Bringing up teenagers is like sweeping back ocean waves with a frazzled broom—the inundation of outside influences never stops. Whatever the lure—cars, easy money, cigarettes, drugs, booze, sex, crime—much that glitters along the shore has a thousand times the appeal of a parent’s lecture.

--Mary Ellen Snodgrass

If you want to make sure your children’s feet are on the ground, try putting some responsibility on their shoulders.

--Abigail Van Buren

The mother who gives up her life for her children does them no kindness, but rather burdens them with the legacy of a life unlived.

--Janet Faldron

When we stop trying to make our children fit our fantasies of who they should be, we can begin to see who they are.

--Anne W. Schaed

If we try to control and hold onto our children, we lose them. When we let them go, they have the option of returning to us more fully.

--Ann Wilson Schaef

The finest inheritance you can give to a child is to allow it to make its own way, completely on its own feet.

--Isadora Duncan

Although today there are many trial marriages...there is no such thing as a trial child.

--Gail Sheehy

If you don’t want your children to hear what you’re saying, pretend you’re talking to them.

—E. C. McKenzie

Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your rest home.

—Phyllis Diller
Good parents, happy marriages, good children, fine funerals.  

--Chinese Proverb

The truth is that parents are not really interested in justice. They just want quiet.  

--Bill Cosby

A child’s conduct will reflect the ways of his parents.  

--Arnold Lobel

Children aren’t happy with nothing to ignore,  
And that’s what parents were created for.  

--Ogden Nash

We worry about what a child will be tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.  

--Stacia Tauscher

When you teach your son, you teach your son’s son.  

--The Talmud

A pint of example is worth a gallon of advice.  

--Unknown

**IF CHILDREN LIVE WITH**

Praise—they learn to appreciate  
Criticism—they learn to condemn

Approval—they learn to like themselves  
Shame—they learn to feel guilty

Encouragement—they learn confidence  
Ridicule—they learn to be shy

Security—they learn to have faith  
Fairness—they learn justice

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.  

--Dorothy Law Neite
Sometimes I wish we could turn the day upside down so that parents’ main time at home would be in the morning before breakfast—before they get all worn out. I’ll tell you, at the end of a day it doesn’t take much to crush a parent.

--Jerry Spinelli

Parents need to fill a child’s bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can’t poke enough holes in it to drain it dry.

--Alvin Price

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

--Garrison Keillor

Children are the sum of what parents contribute to their lives.

--Richard L. Strauss

Children act in the village as they have learned at home.

--Swedish Proverb

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.

--Albert Einstein

I really believe that children do spell love ‘t-i-m-e’ and if you don’t give them time, they’re going to sense the feeling of alienation and rejection.

--Rev. Che Ahn

So often we wallow in our children’s problems rather than exult in their strengths and possibilities.

--Marian Wright Edelman

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they’re going to catch you in next.

--Franklin P. Jones

At every step, the child should be allowed to meet the real experience of life; the thorns should never be plucked from the roses.

--Ellen Kay
'Parent' is a verb

--Richard G. Capen, Jr.

Most of us become parents long before we have stopped being children.

--Mignon McLaughlin

In most cases I would say adults definitely need advice about raising children and the No. 1 place to look for it is probably sitting right on your couch with a bag of potato chips watching TV. That’s right, your very own child.

--Brook Gessner, Age 15

God lends you your children until they’re about 18. If you haven’t made our point by then, it’s too late.

--Betty Ford

The curse of parenthood is the constant worry over one’s children—even when they are adults.

--Dan L. Miller

When children act out, what they’re really saying is, ‘Please love me enough to set some limits.’

--Jim Fay & Charles Fay

Any parent who is not given information cannot assume responsibility. But any parent who is given information cannot avoid assuming it.

--Carlzon

If we want kids to talk to us, we should listen when they do....How much they open up depends a lot on how well we listen up.

--Dr. Thomas Lickona

Children aren’t fooled. They know we give time to the things we love.

--John Bradshaw

Everyone should have kids. They are the greatest joy in the world. But they are also terrorists. You’ll realize this as soon as they are born, and they start using sleep deprivation to break you.

--Ray Romano
A rich child often sits in a poor mother’s lap. -- Spanish proverb

Having a teenage daughter is like being stuck in a hurricane. All you can do is board up your windows and look out in four years to see what the damage is. --Buzz Nutley

My friends complain that their teenagers sleep all day. Not me. Can you imagine if they were awake all day? Teenagers, like espresso, are meant to be taken in small doses. --Buzz Nutley

It is a mystery why adults expect perfection from children. Few grownups can get through a whole day without making a mistake. --Marcelene Cox

Before I got married, I had six theories about bringing up children. Now I have six children and no theories. --John Wilmot

Some parents could do more for their children by not doing so much for them. --Unknown

The real menace in dealing with a 5-year-old is that in no time at all you begin to sound like a 5-year-old yourself. --John Lubbock

My childhood should have taught me lessons for my own fatherhood, but it didn't because parenting can only be learned by people who have no children. --Bill Cosby

No matter how calmly you try to referee, parenting will eventually produce bizarre behavior, and I'm not talking about the kids. Their behavior is always normal. --Bill Cosby

Nothing I've ever done has given me more joys and rewards than being a father to my children. --Bill Cosby

Parents are not interested in justice, they're interested in peace and quiet. --Bill Cosby
I never met anyone who didn’t have a very smart child. What happens to these children, you wonder, when they reach adulthood?  

--Fran Lebowitz

One thing they never tell you about child raising is that for the rest of your life, at the drop of a hat, you are expected to know your child’s name and how old he or she is.

--Erma Bombeck

Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.

--C. Everett Koop

Instead of needing lots of children, we need high-quality children.

--Margaret Mead

One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don’t come home at night.

--Margaret Mead

When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they’re finished, I climb out.

--Erma Bombeck

You have a lifetime to work, but children are only young once.

--Polish Proverb

Parents who are afraid to put their foot down usually have children who step on their toes.

--Asian Proverb

He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both.

--Francis Bacon

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.

--Franklin P. Adams
People who say they sleep like babies usually don’t have them.

--Leo J. Burke

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.

--Rachel Carson

Parents have to be recognized as special educators, the true experts on their children; and professional people have to learn to be consultants to parents.

--Nicholas Hobbs

**WORRY**

Is there a magic cutoff period when offspring become accountable for their own actions? Is there a wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, ‘It’s their life,’ and feel nothing?

When I was in my twenties, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches in my son’s head. I asked, ‘When do you stop worrying?’ The nurse said, ‘When they get out of the accident stage.’ My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my thirties, I sat on a little chair in a classroom and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates. As if to read my mind, a teacher said, ‘Don’t worry, they all go through this stage and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them.’ My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.
When I was in my forties, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the cars to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, ‘They’re trying to find themselves. Don’t worry, in a few years, you can stop worrying. They’ll be adults.’ My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was 50, I was sick & tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children, but there was a new wrinkle. There was nothing I could do about it. My mother just smiled faintly and said nothing. I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments.

My friends said that when my kids got married I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that, but I was haunted by my mother’s warm smile and her occasional, ‘You look pale. Are you all right? Call me the minute you get home. Are you depressed about something?’

Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of life?

One of my children became quite irritable recently, saying to me, ‘Where were you? I’ve been calling for 3 days, and no one answered. I was worried.’ I smiled a warm smile. The torch has been passed.

--Unknown
How sharper than a serpent's tooth is to have a thankless child.
---William Shakespeare

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
---Kahlil Gibran

Tranquilizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle—keep away from children.
---Phyllis Diller

We spend the first twelve months of our children’s lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up.
---Phyllis Diller

In order to influence a child, one must be careful not to be that child’s parent or grandparent.
---Don Marquis

One of the most important things to remember about infant care is: don’t change diapers in midstream.
---Don Marquis

Basically, I believe the world is a jungle, and if it’s not a bit of a jungle in the home, a child cannot possibly be fit to enter the outside world.
---Bette Davis

If you’ve never been hated by your child, you’ve never been a parent.
---Bette Davis

I take a very practical view of raising children. I put a sign in each of their rooms: ‘Checkout Time is 18 years.’
---Erma Bombeck

Do you know what you call those who use towels and never wash them, eat meals and never do the dishes, sit in rooms they never clean, and are entertained till they drop? If you have just answered, ‘A house guest,’ you’re wrong because I have just described my kids.
---Erma Bombeck

I don’t think my parents liked me. They put a live teddy bear in my crib.
---Woody Allen
What a child doesn’t receive he can seldom later give.  

--P. D. James

(On having children) I own it tried me sorely; one feels so pinned down—one’s wings clipped—only half oneself...I think our sex a most unenviable one.  

--Queen Victoria

The best playthings are those powered only by imagination.  

--Kayt Sukel

Children need to know you care before they care to listen.  

--Unknown

There is nothing more boring for an intelligent woman than to spend endless amounts of time with small children.  

--Doris Lessing

Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home.  

--Bill Cosby

The most loving parents and relatives commit murder with smiles on their faces. They force us to destroy the person we really are: a subtle kind of murder.  

--Jim Morrison

Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell the name will carry.  

--Bill Cosby

Everybody knows how to raise children, except the people who have them.  

--P. J. O’Rourke

Never raise your hand to your children - it leaves your midsection unprotected.  

--Robert Orben

There are different types of love, and my love for my child is like me and my mum. We’ve gone through a lot of rocky patches, but we never stop loving.  

--Tracey Ullman
All women should know how to take care of children. Most of them will have a husband some day.

--Franklin P. Jones

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they’re going to catch you in next.

--Franklin P. Jones

I dance and sing and play the guitar and listen to NPR. I write letters to my family, my congressional representatives, and to newspaper editors. My kids and I play tag and catch, we paint, we explore, we climb trees and plant gardens together. We bike instead of using the car. We read, we talk, we laugh. Life is good. I never dust.

--Unknown Stay-at-Home Mom

Although child rearing, unlike housework, is important and can be difficult, it does not take well-developed political skills to rule over creatures smaller than you are, weaker than you are, and completely dependent upon you for survival or thriving.

--Linda Hirshman

When it came to interactions with different partners, the women ranked interactions with their children as more enjoyable than those with clients/customers, coworkers, and bosses.

--Neil Gilbert

Work...family, I’m doing it all. But here’s the secret I share with so many other nanny-and housekeeper-less mothers I see working the same balance: my house is trashed. It is strewn with socks and tutus. My minivan is awash in paper wrappers (I can’t lie—several are evidence of our visits to McDonald’s Playland, otherwise known as ‘my second office’). My girls went to school today in the T-shirts they slept in. But so what? My children and I spend 70 hours a week of high-to-poor quality time together. We enjoy ourselves.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

Here’s my list of dirty chores: buying groceries, carting them home and putting them away; cooking meals and washing dishes and pots; doing the laundry; digging out the place when things get out of control; washing floors. The list could go on but the sheer necessities are bad enough.

--Pat Mainardi
The best things you can give your children, next to good habits, are good memories.
--Sidney Harris

For the young are not able to distinguish what is and what is not allegory, but whatever opinions are taken into the mind at that age are wont to prove indelible and unalterable. For which reason, maybe, we should do our utmost that the first stories that they hear should be so composed as to bring the fairest lessons of virtue to their ears.
--Plato

Kids will grow up whether parents get involved or not. It’s a matter of how parents want them to grow up.
--Linda Hodge

A man’s desire for a son is usually nothing but the wish to duplicate himself in order that such a remarkable pattern may not be lost to the world.
--Helen Rowland

When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child.
--Sophia Loren

Our parents’ generation, like generations before it, stood accused, perhaps unfairly, of pursuing their own interests, or bliss, at the expense of their children’s happiness. Raising children was more an incidental than a focal undertaking. Yet in obsessing about our children, in trying to feel so successful as parents, we may be indulging in a far more damaging form of narcissism.
--James Bennet

A kid needs to feel normal anxiety to be resilient. If we want our kids to grow up and be more independent, then we should prepare our kids to leave us every day.
--Jeff Blume

ON PARENTS

I bring home my test
    proud of my B
‘You could do better’
    is what they say to me
I jump and run
    let out a screech

- 79 -
They say ‘act your age’
   along with a speech
After my game
   I sit down and rest
All they could say was
   ‘you didn’t try your best’
They expect of me
   what I cannot give
And are constantly telling me
   how to live
I’m only thirteen
   I’m supposed to act wild
But dad says ‘he wasn’t
   when he was a child’
Now living with them
   is kind of tough
Especially when nothing
   is ever good enough.

--Love Me When I’m
Most Unlovable,
Robert Ricken

We want our kids to be happy living the life we envision for them—the banker who's happy, the surgeon who's happy, even though those professions might not actually make them happy. At least for parents of a certain demographic...we’re not so happy if our kids work at Walmart but show up each day with a smile on their faces. They’re happy, but we’re not. Even though we say what we want most for our kids is their happiness, and we’ll do everything we can to help them achieve that, it’s unclear where parental happiness ends and our children’s happiness begins.
--Barry Schwartz

Whether the fixation is happiness or success—parental over-investment is contributing to a burgeoning generational narcissism that’s hurting our kids.
--Lori Gottlieb

Will you teach me how to sail,
through space upon a comet’s tail?
Will you teach me how to fly,
to sail the skies on wings untried?
Will you teach me how to soar,
to see things never seen before?
But most importantly of all,  
Will you teach me how to fall?  
Will you teach me how to cry,  
to release feelings deep inside?  
Will you teach me how to laugh,  
and travel off the beaten path?  
Will you teach me how to dream,  
to face the future sight-unseen?  
Will you teach me how to be,  
the only thing I can be,  
me.

--Love Me When I’m  
Most Unlovable,  
Robert Ricken

Raising kids is like living with little mini-heroine addicts. They’re laughing one  
minute and they’re crying the next, and then they’re trying to kill themselves in  
your bathroom for no good reason. They’re very mean and selfish and burdensome,  
and they burn through your money and they break shit.

--Jason Bateman in The  
Change-Up

We’ve begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet—so we bought a dog. Well, it’s  
cheaper, and you get more feet.

—Rita Rudner

Kids who always have problems solved for them believe that they don’t know how to  
solve problems. And they’re right—they don’t.

--Lori Gottlieb

I don’t mean to insult or diminish women who aren’t mothers. In fact—after holding  
the world up to the light and subjecting it to a quick exam I call ‘Do the math!’—I’m  
here to say, we could use a lot more women who don’t become mothers of their own  
offspring, but instead Mother the world in a more expansive way—and help to allevi-  
ate some of the misery and need to countless millions of people who are here al-  
ready.

--Roseanne Barr

I’d done exactly what I wanted to do with my life by simply taking care of my chil-  
dren.

--Marcheline Bertrand
With the second pair of children I had, I made plenty of time for them. When I’m writing in my music room and they come barging into the room the way kids do, I put the pencil down and ask them what they’d like to do. I walk them to school. We make music together, read together, go to the park. I understand now how quickly children grow up, and I’ve written so much music in my life, it doesn’t matter. What I know now is the time that we have to be with the people closest to us is never enough.

--Philip Glass

Sherman made the terrible discovery that men make about their fathers sooner or later, that the man before him was not an aging father but a boy, a boy much like himself, a boy who grew up and had a child of his own and, as best he could, out of a sense of duty and, perhaps love, adopted a role called Being a Father so that his child would have something mythical and infinitely important; a Protector, who would keep a lid on all the chaotic and catastrophic possibilities of life.

--Tom Wolfe

Poor planning on your part does not necessitate an emergency on mine.

--Bob Carter

When other parents say, ‘Your kids are a good influence,’ you feel like they’re going to turn out okay.

--Barack Obama

The United States has more children growing up without a father than Germany has children.

--Paul Begala

Kids hear 1 percent of everything you say and 100 percent of everything you do.

—Unknown

Even when the stress was overwhelming—those days when I’d cry in the car on the way to work, asking myself ‘Why am I doing this??’—I always knew the answer to that question: I believe in this president. I finally asked myself, ‘Who needs me more?’ And that’s when I realized, it’s somebody else’s turn to do this job. I’m indispensable to my kids, but I’m not close to indispensable to the White House.

--Mary Matalin,
Presidential Assistant
If you lack job skills, get ’em: never trash the absent father to the kids; be the children’s parent, not their friend; and, most important, put the kids first—in terms of your time, attention, and priorities.

--Single Mother Bay Buchanan

Yesterday I was swimming with my 3-year-old, and I looked up and thought, ‘How wonderful this world is.’ We’re always searching for something, but it’s going to be all right. Stop fretting so much.

--Tim Allen

It used to be the proverbial question: ‘It’s 10 o’clock, do you know where your children are?’ Now your kid can be sitting a few feet away from you in the living room with a laptop, being damaged.

--Jamie Wasserman

I have juggled like mad, with three wonderful kids, a husband I adore, and jobs that leave me perched perpetually on the edge of insanity. Like most working mothers, I have snuck out of meetings to attend piano recitals and missed track meets when a deadline was looming. I have sprinted through airports in the futile hope of catching an earlier flight home and tried to comfort a sobbing child when, inevitably, the plane was late. I delivered my first lecture in a suit that reeked of infant throw-up from earlier that morning and crashed the minivan into a tree as I raced to retrieve the correct ballet costume.

--Debora Spar

A woman cannot work a 60-hour-per-week job and be the same kind of parent she would have been without the 60-hour-per-week job. No man can do this; no human can do this.

--Deborah Spar

Between 1965 and 2000, the number of working mothers in the United States rose from 45 to 78 percent of all mothers….Yet women were still devoting nearly 40 hours a week to family care: housework, child care, shopping. Men, by contrast, spent only 21, most of which were devoted to fairly discrete and flexible tasks like mowing the lawn, washing the car, and tossing softballs with the kids. (Try this. See who in any household schedules the kids’ dental appointments. My own husband, lovely though he is, seems not to be aware that our children have teeth.)

--Deborah Spar

Don’t handicap your children by making their lives easy.

—Robert A. Henlein
My father confused me. From the ages of one to seven, I thought my name was Jesus Christ!

--Bill Cosby

On the one hand, parents want their children to swim expertly in the digital stream that they will have to navigate all their lives; on the other hand, they fear that too much digital media, too early, will sink them. Parents end up treating tablets like precision surgical instruments, gadgets that might perform miracles for their child’s IQ and help him win some nifty robotics competition—but only if they are used just so. Otherwise, their child could end up one of those sad, pale creatures who can’t make eye contact and has an avatar for a girlfriend.

--Hanna Rosin

Experts say you should never hit your children in anger. When is a good time? When you’re feeling festive?

—Roseanne Barr

In a recent report, researchers identified the phenomenon of the ‘Great Crossover’: American women are having children, on average, a year earlier than they are (again, on average) getting married. And the results for American children are not pretty.

--Megan McArdle

All the research shows that marriage—or a long-term, stable relationship so close to marriage that we might as well call it that—is the best environment to raise children in.

--Megan McArdle

Single parents report higher levels of stress, in part because of the financial hardship, but also because they get no relief from the pressures of parenting. If you’re the only adult in the house, it’s inherently harder to deliver the kind of consistent, patient supervision that kids do best with.

--Megan McArdle

I was raised by a heroic single mom, wonderful grandparents—made incredible sacrifices for me...But I sure wish I had had a father who was not only present, but involved.

--Barack Obama
Parenting surely isn’t for everyone, and those who choose to be child-free probably have made the right decision. Then again, it’s hard to know for certain that one doesn’t want children. Many don’t, until they do.

--Kathleen Parker

We may think that kids have a natural fascination with phones. Really, children have a fascination with whatever Mom and Dad find fascinating. If they are fascinated by the flowers coming up in the yard, that’s what the children are going to find fascinating. And if Mom and Dad can’t put down the device with the screen, that child is going to think, That’s where it’s all at, that’s where I need to be!

--Linda Stone

My mom should make eye contact with me when she talks to me. I used to watch TV with my dad, but now he has his iPad, and I watch by myself.

Child Interviewed by Linda Stone

Women’s median age when they have their first child is lower than their median age at first marriage. In other words, having children before you marry has become normal. College graduates enjoy relatively stable unions, but for every other group, marriage is collapsing. Among ‘middle American’ women (those with a high-school degree or some college), an astonishing 58 percent of first-time mothers are unmarried.

--Liza Mundy

‘Specialization,’ whereby one parent stays home and the other does the earning, is the most efficient way of running a household, because the at-home spouse enables the at-work spouse to earn more.

--Gary Becker

A number of antiquated attitudes about dads have proved strangely enduring:...when...Chris successfully folded a stroller before getting on an airplane with his son, Nico, he was roundly congratulated by passersby, as if he had solved a difficult mathematical equation in public. So low are expectations for fathers, even now.

--Rob Hardies

If there remain some businesswomen who choose to put their children over their careers...we might not be witnesses to a national tragedy. We might instead find evidence of some of the best impulses of the human spirit.

--Caitlin Flanagan
Insofar as this generation has adopted the Tiger Mom ethos, they have also—horribly and ironically—saddled themselves with the escalating burden of hyper-parenting: monitoring Charlie’s piano practice, for example, or whisking Katie every weekend to her synchronized-skating competitions. Contrast this with the women of the Mad Men era, who were generally content to leave their less-coddled offspring to play in puddles, eat the occasional Twinkie, and even do their own homework.

--Debora Spar

It’s crucial to recognize—and underscore and shout from the rooftops—that being a woman who matters does not mean being a woman who does it all. On the contrary, building a life of consequence demands a certain narrowing of vision, a commitment to excelling in one area, perhaps, but not all. Men do this all the time. And we applaud them for it. Take Steve Jobs, for example, truly a person of consequence. Was he a perfect father and husband? A buff athlete who volunteered regularly at community bake sales? I have no idea, because stories about him rarely touched upon these aspects. Ditto for Warren Buffett and even Barack Obama. We know that these men have lives beyond their jobs; we know they have children and spouses and lawns that occasionally need mowing. But we don’t question their manhood when we evaluate their careers, or pry too deeply into the inner workings of their homes.

--Debora Spar

When it comes to work-life conflict...about half of all working parents say it is difficult to balance career and family responsibilities, with ‘no significant gap in attitudes between mothers and fathers.’ Perhaps this is not surprising, given that mothers’ and fathers’ roles have converged dramatically in the past half century. Since 1965, the Pew Research Center reports, fathers have tripled the time they spend with their children. Fathers’ attitudes about mothers’ roles are changing quickly, too: In 2009, 54 percent of men with kids younger than 17 believed that young children should have a mother who didn’t work. Just four years later, that number has dropped to 37 percent. Finally, although stay-at-home dads are still very much in the minority, their numbers have doubled in just a decade’s time.

--Stephen Marche

Low-income mothers are far more likely to stay at home today than are upper-income mothers. Such women are forgoing paid work not because they refuse to lean in but because they can’t earn enough money at their jobs to cover child care.

--Stephen Marche

We need to allow our children to fail, because struggle builds resilience and grit.

--Liza Mundy
First, for many younger Americans and especially those in cities, having children is no longer an obvious or inevitable choice. Second, many of those opting for childlessness have legitimate, if perhaps selfish, reasons of their decision.

--Joel Kotkin and Harry Siegel

American marriage is faltering—and the baby is being thrown out with the bath water. Forty-four percent of millennials agree that marriage is becoming ‘obsolete.’ And even among those who support tying the knot (including many of those who say it’s obsolete), just 41 percent say children are important for a marriage—down from 65 percent in 1990.

--Joel Kotkin and Harry Siegel

The childless and even the partnerless life has gained something of a cultural cachet, with some suggesting they represent not just a legitimate choice but a superior one. It’s a burgeoning movement that’s joined cultural tastemakers, academics, neo-Malthusians, greens, feminists, Democratic politicians, urban planners, and big developers—each with their own reasons for advancing ‘singlism,’ the term coined by University of California, Santa Barbara, psychology professor Bella DePaulo. Unlike families, whose members, after all, are often stuck with one another, she praises singles as enjoying ‘intentional communities’ and being more likely ‘to think about human connectedness in a way that is far-reaching and less predictable.’

--Joel Kotkin and Harry Siegel

People who have kids experience more depression than child-free adults. Parenthood isn’t associated with enhanced mental health. The happiest people are likely to be married, earn between $50,000 and $70,000 and have no kids.

--Daniel Gilbert

Few parents would admit it to their own children, but yes, many do favor one of their kids over the others. In a U.K. survey of over 2,200 parents conducted in 2013 by family lifestyle website Parentdish.co.uk, 34% of mothers and 28% of fathers admitted to having a favorite child.

--Quentin Fottrell

Incredible how little fluids bother you once you are a mother. One day I realised I had a tiny bit of baby poo on my thumb after changing Edie. And do you know what I did? I licked it off, because she was crying and there were no wipes to hand. This is how much you will love your child.

--Bryony Gordon
To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.

--Oscar Wilde

You must be careful how you walk, and where you go, for there are those following you who will set their feet where yours are set.

--Robert E. Lee

Be a parent, not a friend. They have plenty of friends to help them make bad decisions.

--Det. Brad Delphey

I can’t, in restaurants, not watch families not talking to each other. In parks, I can’t not watch mothers not talking to their children. In streets, I can’t not watch mothers texting while they’re pushing their children.

--Sherry Turkle

Too many toys teaches the child to never be satisfied with what he hath.

--John Locke

Generation after generation of women have pledged to raise their daughters differently, only to find that their daughters grow up and fervently pledge the same thing.

--Elizabeth Debold

A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.

--Billy Graham

Children reinvent your world for you.

--Susan Sarandon

You know the only people who are always sure about the proper way to raise children? Those who’ve never had any.

--Bill Cosby

Our children change us whether they live or not.

--Lois McMaster Bujold
Parents are often so busy with the physical rearing of children that they miss the glory of parenthood, just as the grandeur of the trees is lost when raking leaves.

--Marcelene Cox

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they’re going to catch you in next.

--Franklin P. Jones

I would have ten children. I think they are the most fascinating, and it’s the only thing in the world that hasn’t been overrated.

--Deidre Hall

Being a good mother does not call for the same qualities as being a good housewife; a dedication to keeping children clean and tidy may override an interest in their separate development as individuals.

--Ann Oakley

In this modern era of no parental boundaries, my girls and I are best friends, and we talk and talk and talk. Much of it is in the car, as sometimes with their schedules we spend three hours a day on the road. (Statistics suggest that today’s full-time working mothers spend more hours with their children per week than did 1950s stay-at-homes.)

--Sandra Tsing Loh

Parents are making themselves miserable by believing they always have to maximize their children’s happiness and success.

--Jennifer Senior

Mothers are a biological necessity; fathers are a social invention.

--Margaret Mead

My children can sense how I am feeling by a mere squaring or slump of the shoulders. If I’m tense, they’ll start massaging my shoulders, and later they may even make me elaborate get-well cards out of colored paper. Never mind that it is colored paper I have actually bought for a work project. They are completely confident they will be appreciated for their creativity and sensitivity. There is no shock, there is no awe, there are no boundaries—there is only warm NPR-filler acoustic guitar.

--Sandra Tsing Loh
One common concern of parents these days is that children grow up too fast. But sometimes it seems as if children don’t get the space to grow up at all; they just become adept at mimicking the habits of adulthood….children used to gradually take on responsibilities, year by year. They crossed the road, went to the store; eventually some of them got small neighborhood jobs. Their pride was wrapped up in competence and independence, which grew as they tried and mastered activities they hadn’t known how to do the previous year. But these days, middle-class children, at least, skip these milestones. They spend a lot of time in the company of adults, so they can talk and think like them, but they never build up the confidence to be truly independent and self-reliant.

--Hanna Rosin

Middle-class parents see their children as projects: they engage in what University of Pennsylvania sociologist Annette Lareau calls ‘concerted cultivation,’ an active pursuit of their child’s enrichment. Working-class and poor parents, meanwhile, speak fewer words to their children, watch their progress less closely, and promote what Lareau calls the ‘accomplishment of natural growth,’ perhaps leaving the children less prepared to lead middle-class lives as adults. Many people interpret her findings as proof that middle-class parenting styles, in their totality, are superior. But this may be an overly simplistic and self-serving conclusion; perhaps each form of child-rearing has something to recommend it to the other.

--Hanna Rosin

Students whose parents frequently meet with teachers and principals don’t seem to improve faster than academically comparable peers whose parents are less present at school. Other essentially useless parenting interventions: observing a kid’s class; helping a teenager choose high-school courses; and, especially, disciplinary measures such as punishing kids for getting bad grades or instituting strict rules about when and how homework gets done. This kind of meddling could leave children more anxious than enthusiastic about school.

--Dana Goldstein

Pesky parents are often effective, especially in public schools, at securing better textbooks, new playgrounds, and all the ‘extras’ that make an educational community come to life, like art, music, theater, and after-school clubs. This kind of parental engagement may not directly affect test scores, but it can make school a more positive place for all kids, regardless of what their parents do or don’t do at home. Getting involved in your children’s schools is not just a way to give them a leg up—it could also be good citizenship.

--Dana Goldstein
In poor and working-class households, children are urged to stay quiet and show deference to adult authority figures such as teachers. In middle-class households, kids learn to ask critical questions and to advocate for themselves—behaviors that serve them well in the classroom.

--Dana Goldstein

Once when my boys were little, I bemoaned to a friend about Mother X who sewed all her kids’ Halloween costumes (mine wore store-bought) and Mother Y who made every birthday cake from scratch (I ordered from the bakery). Don’t compare yourself to those gals. Think about the moms who aren’t making much of an effort at all and congratulate yourself that you’re doing more for your little darlings than they are.

--Elizabeth Fishel

You have to hang in there, because two or three years later, the gremlins will return your child, and he will be wonderful again.

--Jill Eikenberry

The first 8 years are most important and the time in a child’s life when parents must be absolutely and completely present.

--Dirk Benedict

My father was afraid of his father, I was afraid of my father, and I don’t see why my children shouldn’t be afraid of me.

--Lord Mountbatten

People will say that it’s some kind of evasion, but I would never want to have a kid for me. I’d want to have the child for the child’s sake, if that makes sense.

--Jeremy Northam

In the life of children there are two very clear-cut phases, before and after puberty. Before puberty the child's personality has not yet formed and it is easier to guide its life and make it acquire specific habits of order, discipline, and work. After puberty the personality develops impetuously and all extraneous intervention becomes odious, tyrannical, insufferable. Now it so happens that parents feel the responsibility towards their children precisely during this second period, when it is too late. Then of course, the stick and violence enter the scene and yield very few results indeed. Why not instead take an interest in the child during the first period?

--Antonio Gramsci
Small children disturb your sleep, big children your life.  

--Yiddish Proverb

Around 40 weeks after that drunken night at the cabin, the adult (hopefully) female’s uterus begins contacting. This forces the fetus into the cervix, thinning and dilating it, and rupturing the amniotic sac. As the painful contractions increase in frequency and intensity (8 to 14 hours), the 8 pound, 22-inch infant journeys down the birth canal towards the vagina. The baby’s head passes under the pubic bone and begins to stress the perineum (the tissue between the vagina and rectum), often tearing it. Through a storm of screams, amniotic fluid, mucus and blood, the final pushes introduce the bundle of joy to the outside world. He/she is wailing uncontrollably. And, with that, the easy part is over.

--Earth (The Book) A Visitor’s Guide to the Human Race

The development of pain killers removed much of the agony of both delivering children and, when used regularly, raising them.

--Earth (The Book) A Visitor’s Guide to the Human Race

By 2010 many women had reverted back to natural childbirth, forsaking technology to deliver the way nature intended: In bowel-shattering agony.

--Earth (The Book) A Visitor’s Guide to the Human Race

Childhood is roughly the period between the end of infancy and the day we are big enough to hold a scythe. It is the child’s job to play during this carefree time, to learn through observation, imagination and interaction about the real world around them. It is the job of a loving parent to skillfully distort the reality of that world. This often involves overt lying on topics ranging from the physical location of the recently deceased, to the existence of gift-giving fictional characters, to why Mommy’s ‘special juice’ made her ‘all silly.’

--Earth (The Book) A Visitor’s Guide to the Human Race

Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation.

--Lois Wyse
For most of man's existence, religious imperatives, agrarian workloads and a total lack of reproductive knowledge led many couples to have very large families. However, advances in contraception and industrialized food production allow modern couples to have fewer offspring, while leaving the total weight of families constant.

--Earth (The Book) A Visitor's Guide to the Human Race

I didn’t hesitate to kiss my father in public. And that’s how I tried to raise my children. We’re physical.

--Payne Stewart

In my parents’ generation, kids had half a dozen to a dozen siblings. Parents provided food and shelter, but playtime was something the kids had to figure out for themselves. Now there a fewer eggs in the basket, and all our attention as parents is on them.

--Jayanth Raman

Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.

--Kate D. Wiggins

Once you have a child, you change so much along the way, you don't even recognize yourself by the time they're ready to move out!

--Ron Taffel

A child can be taught not to do certain things, such as touch a hot stove, pull lamps off of tables, and wake Mommy before noon.

--Joan Rivers

One marvels why the middle classes still insist on so much discomfort for their children at such expense to themselves.

—E. M. Forster

Even if society dictates that men and women should behave in certain ways, it is fathers and mothers who teach those ways to children not just in the words they say, but in the lives they lead.

—Augustus Y. Napier
Some people think that most of what women learn about love, connection and friendship is learned between a mother and daughter, and that’s the single most important relationship a woman ever has.

--Lauren Kessler

A daughter can metaphorically punch her mother in the face a million times, and mom won't leave. If a daughter does this to her friends, they will leave. Teens act out at home, in part, because they are so comfortable with the love and security of home.

--Lauren Kessler

Unlike my Western friends, I can never say, ‘As much as it kills me, I just have to let my kids make their choices and follow their hearts. It’s the hardest thing in the world, but I'm doing my best to hold back.’ Then they get to have a glass of wine and go to a yoga class, whereas I have to stay home and scream and have my kids hate me.

--Amy Chua

Children make your life important.

—Erma Bombeck

Many children, many cares; no children, no felicity.

—Christian Nestell Bovee

It goes without saying that you should never have more children than you have car windows.

—Erma Bombeck

It is not until you become a mother that your judgment slowly turns to compassion and understanding.

—Erma Bombeck

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Children might or might not be a blessing, but to create them and then fail them was surely damnation.

—Lois McMaster Bujold
Some men just aren’t cut out for paternity. Better they should realize it before and not after they become responsible for a son.

—Lois McMaster Bujold

It takes three to make a child.

—e. e. cummings

If you desire to drain to the dregs the fullest cup of scorn and hatred that a fellow human being can pour out for you, let a young mother hear you call dear baby ‘it.’

—T. S. Eliot

There’s a time and a place for catching a quiet moment to yourself. That place was your first apartment and that time is long past.

—Unknown

I hate when new parents ask who the baby looks like. It was born 15 minutes ago. It looks like a potato.

—Kevin Hart

I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home.

—Robert Orben

The most important work you and I will ever do will be within the wall of our own homes.

—Harold B. Lee

For these are all our children. We will all profit by or pay for what they become.

—James Baldwin

Reprimand not a child immediately on the offence. Wait till the irritation has been replaced by serenity.

—Moses Hasid

My daughter asked me what it’s like to have kids, so I interrupted her every 11 seconds until she cried.

—Unknown

A single mother is a woman tasked with the enormous responsibility of fucking up a child all by herself.

—TL;DR Wikipedia
Having kids is like leaving the door open during a hurricane.
—Unknown

Among the smaller duties of life I hardly know any one more important than that of not praising where praise is not due.
—Sydney Smith

How pleasant it is for a father to sit at his child’s board. It is like an aged man reclining under the shadow of an oak which he has planted.
—Voltaire

She gave me love, as well as life;
So whatever goodness I may bring to Earth
Began with the gift of my mother’s heart.
—Robert Sexton

He gave so much of himself to me -
His time, his trust, his tender care -
That whatever else I may become
I will always be my father’s child.
—Robert Sexton

What children take from us, they give. We become people who feel more deeply, question more deeply, hurt more deeply, and love more deeply.
—Sonia Taitz

All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them.
—Erma Bombeck

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.
—Hodding Carter

I talk and talk and talk, and I haven’t taught people in fifty years what my father taught me by example in one week.
—Mario Cuomo

Learning to dislike children at an early age saves a lot of expense and aggravation later in life.
—Robert Byrne
Every blade of grass has its Angel that bends over it and whispers, ‘Grow, grow.’

—The Talmud

Poets have said that the reason to have children is to give yourself immortality. Immortality? Now that I have five children, my only hope is that they are all out of the house before I die.

—Bill Cosby

There was never a great man who had not a great mother.

—Olive Schreiner

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
and places with no carpet on the floor—

But all the time
I'se been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners
And sometimes goin' in the dark
When there ain't no light.

So, boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you find it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I'se still goin', honey,
I'se still climbin'
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

—Langston Hughes

He didn’t come out of my belly, but my God, I’ve made his bones, because I’ve attended to every meal, and how he sleeps, and the fact that he swims like a fish because I took him to the ocean. I’m so proud of all those things. But he is my biggest pride.

—John Lennon
Tired mothers find that spanking takes less time than reasoning and penetrates sooner to the seat of the memory.

—Will Durant

The hardest part of raising children is teaching them to ride bicycles. A father can either run beside the bicycle or stand yelling directions while the child falls. 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

Groucho Marx, after learning that a contestant on ‘You Bet Your Life’ had 10 children: ‘Why so many children?’
Contestant: ‘Well, Groucho, I love my wife.’
Groucho Marx: ‘I love my cigar, but I take it out of my mouth once in a while.’

—Groucho Marx

I won’t always cry, Mummy
When you leave the room
And my supermarket tantrums
Will end too soon.

I won’t always wake, Daddy
For cuddles through the night
And one day you will miss
Having a chocolate face to wipe.

You won’t always wake to find my foot
Is kicking you out of bed
Or find me sideways on your pillow
Where you want to lay your head.

You won’t always have to carry me
In asleep from the car
Or piggy back me down the road
When my little legs can’t walk that far.

So cherish every cuddle
Remember them all
One day, Mummy
I won’t be this small.

—The Learning Station
Having a 2-year-old is kind of like having a blender without a lid.

—Jerry Seinfeld

Sometimes I want to ask these guys who say they lament their rationed fatherhood whether they are serious in their regret. I recently asked one if he really would have traded some business success for more time with his children. He hardly paused. No, he had to be who he was. He made it sound as if he had been in the grip of some powerful force, like the one that brings salmon upstream to their spawning grounds. He had no guilt, just regret. What could he do? (I’d love to ask his kids if they would have preferred more time with Daddy over their trust fund.)

—Richard Cohen

I’ve carried a child within my body… slept with them on my chest. I’ve kissed little toes & wiped away tears. I’ve been vomited on, peed on, & spent sleepless nights cradling my child. But I wouldn’t have it any other way.

My body isn’t magazine perfect, but when I look in the mirror, I see a MOM…and there is no greater honor, love or blessing.

—Dr. Laura

I gave birth to you but you came with no instructions. All I knew was that I loved you long before I saw you. I know I made some mistakes and I am sorry, but I was doing the best I could with what I knew. Everything I did for you, I did from love. You are my child, my life, and my dreams for tomorrow. I will always love you, and there is nothing that could ever destroy my love for you.

—David Avocado Wolfe
The worst feature of a new baby is its mother’s singing. —Kin Hubbard

I stood there just looking around
There was no music, hardly heard a sound.
On the other side of the glass, I saw you there
You were so cute; you did not have much hair.

Sure there were others but it didn’t matter to me
They were not as pretty; it was you I came to see.
They brought you to the window so near
I fought to hold back the tear.

You had your mother’s eyes we all knew
They were sparkling and so blue.
A grin appeared, it might be gas
But I did not care; you were such a pretty lass.

Although your parent I may not be
Hopefully you’ll spend some time with me.
You see grandparents have a special role
They are in charge of the baby’s soul. —Robert Beau

MOTHERHOOD’S REWARD

She rocks another baby…hums an age-old lullaby.
She hopes no one is watching as with thanks, she starts to cry.
Remembering the time when the babies were her own,
And her mother told her gently too soon they would be grown.
Lots of bedtime stories, skinned knees, and tears to dry,
Teddy bears, toy trucks and dolls and kites up in the sky.
First days of school, first love, first cars, the proms, the wedding days,
Sand castles and snowball fights and teaching them to pray.
Now, as she holds her grandchild and gives thanks unto the Lord,
She knows to be a grandma
is motherhoods’ reward. —Unknown
A new study shows that singing works better to soothe Baby than talking, even if you don’t have the best voice. And some songs work better than others, so lay off the Rihanna!

—fitpregnancy.com

Parents learn a lot from their children about coping with life.

—Muriel Spark

When you are caring about your children perhaps you always have to remember at what point you can become over involved because of something you need rather than something the child needs.

—Frank Shorter

Having kids is like continually having to clean up after a party you didn’t attend.

—momcode.net

A mortal lives not through that breath that flows in and that flows out. The source of his life is another and this causes the breath to flow.

—Philipus Aureolus
Paracelsus

Uncoachable kids become unemployable adults. Let your kids get used to someone being tough on them. It’s life. Get over it.

—Patrick Murphy

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he created mothers.

—Jewish Proverb

Loving a child doesn’t mean giving in to all his whims; to love him is to bring out the best in him, to teach him to love what is difficult.

—Nadia Boulanger

When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action. They rented out my room.

—Woody Allen

When the unwelcome little unborn shall have seen the light my brain will be lightened, and I shall have a clearer mind. Thank God that even this weary nine months shall come to an end and leave me in possession of my own body and my own soul.

—Julia Ward Howe
I learned the way a monkey learns—by watching its parents.

—Prince Charles

My daughter is a good, caring, compassionate person. To me that’s the true meaning of success, even though the marriages didn’t work out. My success with my daughter is all that matters.

—Charlene Tilton

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.

—Billy Graham

My kids call it ‘yelling’ when I raise my voice...But I call it ‘motivational speaking’ for the selective hearing!

—Dr. Laura

When your children are teenagers, it’s important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you.

—Nora Ephron

Do not, on a rainy day, ask your child what he feels like doing, because I assure you that what he feels like doing, you won’t feel like watching.

—Fran Lebowitz

My kids are always accusing me of having a ‘favorite child’ which is ridiculous because I don’t really like any of them.

—Comedy 103.1

Parents wonder why the streams are bitter, when they themselves have poisoned the fountain.

—John Locke

It is easier to build up a child than it is to repair an adult.

—HealthyPlace.com

Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out.

—Mocha Moms, Inc.

Children are NOT a distraction from more important work. They are THE MOST important work.

—C. S. Lewis
In one school year a child spends: 7800 hours at home & 900 hours at school. Which teacher should be the most accountable?

—Jim Trelease

Babies are okay if you’re into alarm clocks that poop.

—Unknown

The great thing about kids is when you don’t have the answers you make them up and they believe you.

—OneFunnyMummy

1st week of school: sandwich cut in a cute shape, sliced fruit, encouraging note. Last week of school: handful of croutons wrapped in foil.

—Simon Holland

Most of your time as a parent is spent touching things in your house and wondering why they’re sticky.

—Unknown

Americans are the only people in the world known to me whose status anxiety prompts them to advertise their college and university affiliations in the rear window of their automobiles.

--Paul Fussell

Being a wife and mother is exhausting! That’s the reason housewives love that book ‘50 Shades of Grey.’ It has nothing to do with the sex. It’s because the main character ties the woman up. And, while you’re tied up, you don’t have to do the laundry, the dishes or drive anyone anywhere!

—Tammy Pescatelli

Lead parenting is not merely its own reward; it also unlocks a capacity for caring and closeness that can last a lifetime. We know that support networks of friends and family help people tolerate adversity and live longer. Perhaps female advantages in these areas could help explain why women typically outlive men. A recent National Bureau of Economic Research paper speculates that women’s ‘nesting and family-protecting roles’ and ‘social planning and networking behaviors’ could contribute to their sex’s resilience and relative longevity.

—Andrew Moravcsik
According to a Pew research Center study, 50 percent of married or cohabiting women report doing more child care than their male partners, whereas just 4 percent of men do more than their female partners. This disparity has a devastating effect on women’s careers. Researchers refers to the gap between male and female wages and seniority as the ‘motherhood penalty,’ because it is almost entirely explained by the lower earnings and status of women with children.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Despite their superior performance in college, surprisingly few women reach the pinnacle of professional success: They account for only 21 percent of surgeons, 20 percent of law-firm partners, and 9 percent of equity-fund managers. The nearly impossible expectations facing professional women pose a stark dilemma for ambitious young people planning two-career marriages.

—Andrew Moravcsik

A recent study of Harvard Business School graduates reveals that the vast majority of alumnae initially expect their career and their spouse’s career to rank equally. However, among those who have kids, more than two-thirds end up doing most of the child care.

—Andrew Moravcsik

As Anne-Marie puts it in her new book, Unfinished Business, ‘This is the dirty little secret that women leaders who come together in places like Fortune magazine’s annual Most Powerful Women Summit don’t talk about: the necessity of a primary caregiver spouse.’ A female business executive willing to do what it takes to get to the top—go on every trip, meet every client, accept every promotion, even pick up and move to a new location when asked—needs what male CEOs have always had: a spouse who bears most of the burden at home.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Pew polls show that 42 percent of Americans now view the ‘ideal’ family for child-rearing as one in which Dad works full-time and Mom works part-time; about half prefer that she not work at all. Only 8 percent believe children are better off with Dad at home. About two-thirds of Americans believe that a married man should be able to support his family financially, yet only a third say the same about a woman.

—Andrew Moravcsik

The kids in affluent communities…felt their parents to be no more available to them, either emotionally or physically, than the kids in severe poverty did.

—Hanna Rosin
Research has shown that a feeling of closeness to parents was inversely linked to household income, meaning that the most-affluent kids felt the most alienated.

—Hanna Rosin

College dean Julie Lythcott-Haims interacted with students who relied on their parents ‘in ways that felt, simply, off’ and who seemed ‘existentially impotent.’ She detailed the growing mental-health crisis at colleges, and described the brilliant, accomplished students who ‘would sit on my couch holding their fragile, brittle parts together, resigned to the fact that this outwardly successful situation was their miserable life.

—Hanna Rosin

Many well-educated parents are quick to distance themselves from the Tiger Mom. We might admire her children’s accomplishments, but we tend to believe these can be coaxed out of a child through applause, not scolding. In fact, this particular combination of lavish praise and insistence on achievement defines our era of protective, meritocratic parenting. But it turns out that this combination can be just as hard on a child’s well-being. Avi Assor, a psychology professor at Ben-Gurion University, in Israel, has studied how parenting affects children’s ability to cope with school pressure. Providing praise and love when a child performs especially well can look like healthy parenting, he says, because the parents are giving the child more of a good thing. But if praise comes only when a child succeeds, the child is likely to develop a sense that his or her parents’ affection depends upon good grades, or touchdowns, or mastery of a religious text, or whatever the parents’ priorities might be.

—Hanna Rosin

The aim of healthy parenting, Avi Assor says, should not be to shower children only with praise and trophies, or to encourage self-esteem based on no real achievements. It should be to disentangle love from the project of parental or pedagogical guidance giving specific, positive feedback about something a child has tried hard at, or critical yet constructive feedback when a child fails, is perfectly appropriate.

—Hanna Rosin

There is no APP to replace your lap! Read to your child every day.

—Unknown

To my children,
Never make fun of having to help me with computer stuff. I taught you how to use a spoon.

—Sue Fitzmaurice
Sometimes I think—no matter how important or essential reading is to future success at school, in work, in life—the most important reason of all for reading bedtime stories is that for half an hour you are all your child’s, a chance for him or her to feel that they are indeed loved, cherished and a priority in your life. How important and priceless is that sense and knowledge for a child to have in the midst of our busy, multi-tasking lives? I don’t think that it can be measured

—Budapest British International Academy

I don’t understand why people think that having a gay child means they failed as a parent. Disowning your child means you failed as a parent.

—Unknown

The most precious jewels you’ll ever have around your neck are the arms of your children.

—Unknown

I may not be perfect, but when I look at my children I know that I got something in my life perfectly right.

—Unknown

A parent will only ever be in one of three places: In front of you to cheer you on, behind you to have your back, or next to you so you aren’t walking alone.

—S. Turner

The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving of ways.

—facebook.com/joyofmom

There are places in the heart you don’t even know exist until you love a child.

—Anne Lamott

I’m OK. I drive an older car. I shop eBay. I grew up pretty poor in a rundown part of Philadelphia, raised by a single mother. Today I live in a pretty suburb with trees and bunnies, and my children have milk for their cereal, and bacon with their eggs, and two parents at home who love them.

—Louise Esola
If we continually try to force a child to do what he is afraid to do, he will become more timid, and will use his brains and energy, not to explore the unknown, but to find ways to avoid the pressures we put on him.

—John W. Holt, Jr.

The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice.

—parenting.com

Testing has ruled out A.D.D., A.D.H.D and autism. Turns out, your kid’s an asshole.

—Chris Mann

A child understands fear, and the hurt and hate it brings.

—Nadine Gordimer

My first grandchild, Jordan, was born on January 30, 2011. I was jolted, blindsided by a wallop of loving more intense than anything I could remember or had ever imagined....This is what I didn’t expect. I was at a time in my life where I’d assumed I had already had my best day, my tallest high. But now I was overwhelmed with euphoria. Why was she hitting with such a force? What explains this joy, this grandmother elation that is a new kind of love?

—Lesley Stahl

For parents, bribery is a white-collar crime; for grandparents, it’s a business plan.

—Tom Brokaw

There are three stages of life. In the first stage, you believe in Santa Claus; in the second, you don’t believe in Santa; and in the third, you are Santa Claus.

—Pinchas Cohen

When I first held my grandchild, I felt a titanic jolt of emotion. Most of the grandmothers I interviewed had the same elated feeling. With grandfathers, not one of them said they had that first initial jolt. The real attachment comes a little later. But their emotions are very deep.

—Lesley Stahl

In the past few decades we have seen a major transfer of child care and early learning from home to institution: Nearly three-quarters of American 4-year-olds are now in some kind of non-family care.

—Erika Christakis
When I survey parents of preschoolers….they fear that the old-fashioned pleasures of unhurried learning have no place in today’s hyper-competitive world….The stress is palpable: Pick the ‘wrong’ preschool or ease up on the phonics drills at home, and your child might not go to college. She might not be employable. She might not even be allowed to start first grade!

—Erika Christakis

Of all the haunting moments of motherhood, few rank with hearing your own words come out of your daughter’s mouth.

—Victoria Secunda

First child eats dirt.
Parent calls doctor.
Second child eats dirt.
Parent cleans out mouth.
Third child eats dirt.
Parent wonders if she really needs to feed him lunch.

—Ged Backland

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

—Frederick Douglass

Cleaning and scrubbing can wait ’til tomorrow,
For babies grow up we’ve learned to our sorrow.
So quiet down cobwebs and dust go to sleep.
I’m rocking my baby, and babies don’t keep.

—Ruth Hulburt

Hamilton

Sometimes when you pick up your child you can feel the map of your own bones beneath your hands, or smell the scent of your skin in the nape of his neck. This is the most extraordinary thing about motherhood – finding a piece of yourself separate and apart that all the same you could not live without.

—Jodi Picoult

You don’t know what unconditional love is. You may say you do, but if you don’t have a child, you don’t know what that is. But when you experience it, it is the most fulfilling ever.

—Regina King
Accept the children the way we accept trees—with gratitude, because they are a blessing—but do not have expectations or desires. You don’t expect trees to change, you love them as they are.

—Isabel Allende

Children will not remember you for the material things you gave them but for the feeling that you cherished them.

—Richard L. Evans

Making the decision to have a child — it’s momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking outside your body.

—Elizabeth Stone

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs... since the payment is pure love.

—Mildred B. Vermont

Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.

—Charles R. Swindoll

If nature had arranged that husbands and wives should have children alternatively, there would never be more than three in a family.

—Lawrence Housman

There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.

—Chinese Proverb

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new.

—Osho

Sweater, n.: garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly.

—Ambrose Bierce

Mothers are fonder than fathers of their children because they are more certain they are their own.

—Aristotle

Parents often talk about the younger generation as if they didn’t have anything to do with it.

—Haim Ginott
A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.

—Washington Irving

A mom’s hug lasts long after she lets go.

—Unknown

Before I had my child, I thought I knew all the boundaries of myself, that I understood the limits of my heart. It’s extraordinary to have all those limits thrown out, to realize your love is inexhaustible.

—Uma Thurman

A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.

—Pablo Picasso

Why is it that everyone talks about leaving a better planet for our children…but nobody talks about leaving better children for our planet?

—Ged Backland

The attitude you have as a parent is what your kids will learn from more than what you tell them. They don’t remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.

—Jim Henson

You don’t think you could ever love your grandchildren more than you do today… then tomorrow comes.

—Joyce Boyce

A mother thinks about her children day and night. Even when they are not with her, and will love them in a way they will never understand.

—Unknown

My grandchildren may not always be in my home or on my lap, but they are always in my heart and on my mind.

—www.facebook.com/Grandmasheart
If you have children, remember this: When you finish with them, the rest of the world has to live with them, so please teach them respect.

—Unknown

We can’t form our children on our own concepts; we must take them and love them as God gives them to us.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

My promise to my children:
As long as I live I am your parent 1st and your friend 2nd. I will stalk you, flip out on you, lecture you, drive you insane, be your worst nightmare and hunt you down like a bloodhound when needed because I LOVE YOU!
When you understand that, I will know you are a responsible adult. You will never find someone who loves, prays, cares, & worries about you more than I do! If you don’t hate me once in your life time - I am not doing my job properly……

—Dr. Laura

I’ve got two daughters. 9 years old and 6 years old. I am going to teach them first of all about values and morals. But if they make a mistake, I don’t want them punished with a baby.

—Barack Obama

Setting a good example for your children takes all the fun out of middle age.

—William Feather

A little girl was holding two apples; her mother asked for one. The girl quickly bit one apple, and, then, the other. Her mother held back her disappointment. Then the girl handed one to her saying: ‘Here, this is the sweeter one.’ Moral: Never judge.

—TheJewishWoman.org

If a woman speaks and no one is listening, chances are her name is Mom.

—Ged Backland

You hold your kids less and less with each passing day until one day you hardly get to touch them at all.

—Helen Phillips

Tired of yelling to get your family’s attention? Try one of these: Use the bathroom. Make a phone call. Relax on the couch. Open a chocolate bar.

—Ged Backland
Read One Book a Day to a Child

Your child will enjoy:
By Age 1...............365 Books
By Age 2...............730 Books
By Age 3...............1095 Books
By Age 4...............1460 Books

In Reality:
Dear Zoo—301 times, The Very Hungry Caterpillar—431 times and Everybody Poops—728 times!

—Growing Book by Book

Some economists attribute the need for credit and the drive to spend with the ‘keeping up with the Joneses’ syndrome, which is so prevalent in America. I never wanted to keep up with the Joneses. But, like many Americans, I wanted my children to keep up with the Joneses’ children, because I knew how easily my girls could be marginalized in a society where nearly all the rewards go to a small, well-educated elite.

—Neal Gabler

Respect is taught at home. If your kid is a disrespectful bastard, it’s your fault. Not society’s or a video game’s fault. Yours.

—George Carlin

Discipline is a symbol of caring to a child. He needs guidance. If there is love, there is no such thing as being too tough with a child. A parent must also not be afraid to hang himself. If you have never been hated by your child, you have never been a parent.

—Bette Davis

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

—Emilie Buchwald

Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls.

—Erin Kenny

The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child’s home.

—William Temple Sr.
You are home to him. When he learns to walk, he will wobble a few feet away from you and then come back, then wobble away a little farther and then come back. When he tries something new, he will look for your proud smile. When he learns to read, he will repeat the same book to you twenty times in a row, because you’re the only one who will listen that many times. When he plays his sport, he will search for your face in the stands. When he is sick, he will call you. When he really messes up, he will call you. When he is grown and strong and tough and big and he feels like crying, he will come to you; because a man can cry in front of his mother without feeling self-conscious. Even when he grows up and has a new woman in his life and gets a new home, you are still his mother; home base, the ever constant, like the sun. Know that in your heart and everything else will fall into place.

—Unknown

A wife who loses a husband is called a widow. A husband who loses a wife is called a widower. A child who loses his parents is called an orphan. But...there is no word for a parent who loses a child, that’s how awful the loss is!

—Jay Neugeboren

**GRANDMA DOESN'T CARE**

Grandma Doesn’t Care
I got some jam on her new couch,
But Grandma doesn’t care.
I lost my toothbrush, dropped a glass,
My old jeans have a tear.
I tipped the cat dish on the floor,
My feet are always bare,
The way I look is a disgrace,
But, Grandma doesn’t care.
She’s very busy, then she sees,
The tangles in my hair
She gets a brush, I make a fuss,
But, Grandma doesn’t care.
When I am grown, and on my own,
When visits become rare,
I won’t forget the love I’d get
When Grandma didn’t care.

—Judith Bond

Once upon a time, I was a perfect parent. Then I had children. The end.

—Unknown
Too much love never spoils children. Children become spoiled when we substitute ‘presents’ for ‘presence.’

—Anthony Witham

Facing a mirror you see merely your own countenance; facing your child you understand how everyone else has seen you.

—Daniel Raeburn

A mother’s job is to teach her children to not need her anymore. The hardest part of that job is accepting success.

—Unknown

Raise your son to be a gentleman. Raise your daughter to accept nothing less.

—Ged Backland

Most women say there is no greater pain than to bear a child. I say there is no greater pain than to bury one.

—Unknown

Not to brag, but my kids’ palates are so refined that they can tell they’re going to hate dinner without ever having tasted it before.

—Unknown

Much of my reading time over the last decade and a half has been spent reading aloud to my children. Those children’s bedtime rituals of supper, bath, stories, and sleep have been a staple of my life and some of the best, most special times I can remember.

—Louise Brown

A father’s job is not to teach his daughter how to be a lady…but to teach her how a lady should be treated.

—Ged Backland

Have the self-command you wish to inspire….Teach them how to hold their tongues by holding your own. Say little; do not snarl; do not chide; govern by the eye. See what they need, and that the right thing is done.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson
No one tells you that the hardest part of motherhood is when your kids grow up.
—Unknown

Too many people grow up. That’s the real trouble with the world, too many people grow up. They forget. They don’t remember what it’s like to be 12 years old. They patronize, they treat children as inferiors.
—Walt Disney

The most important thing that parents can teach their children is how to get along without them.
—Frank A. Clark

It used to be believed that the parent had unlimited claims on the child and rights over him. In a truer view of the matter, we are coming to see that the rights are on the side of the child and the duties on the side of the parent.
—William G. Sumner

If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.
—Carl Jung

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, ‘Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?’ Her mother replied, ‘Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.’ The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, ‘Momma, how come ALL of grandma’s hairs are white?’
—Unknown

Parents have to be recognized as special educators, the true experts on their children; and professional people...have to learn to be consultants to parents.
--Nicholas Hobbs

My kids can do whatever they want as long as they are not Republicans or junkies. That is where I draw the line.
—Steven Bernstein

I can’t tell you if genius is hereditary, because heaven has granted me no offspring.
--James McNeill
    Whistler
The amount of stress on a student is ridiculous. Students feel the constant need at our school of having to keep up with all the achievements. We’ll do just fine, even though we got a B-minus on that chem test. And no, I won’t join the debate team for you. We love our moms and we love our dads, but calm down.

—Martha Cabot, High School Sophomore

A student, teacher, or counselor would look around to make sure no one was listening and then whisper a story about an Asian kid being punished or even kicked out of the house for a night after getting a B or failing to get into Stanford. I’d heard how new East Asian immigrant parents mistakenly transposed the reality of education in, say, China or Korea, which is that how you do on a single test can determine your entire future.

—Hanna Rosin

There must always be a struggle between a father and son, while one aims at power and the other at independence.

--Samuel Johnson

This is the hope of many adolescent girls—to capture a parent’s heart with love for them as they are, as people. They reject the notion of being loved just because they are the child of the parent. They want the parent to fall in love with them all over again, because being new, they deserve a new love.

--Terri Apter

We long for our father. We wear his clothes, and actually try to fill his shoes....We hang on to him, begging him to teach us how to do whatever is masculine, to throw balls or be in the woods or go see where he works....We want our fathers to protect us from coming too completely under the control of our mothers....We want to be seen with Dad, hanging out with men and doing men things.

--Frank Pittman

Unfortunately there is still a cultural stereotype that it’s all right for girls to be affectionate but that once boys reach six or seven, they no longer need so much hugging and kissing. What this does is dissuade boys from expressing their natural feelings of tenderness and affection. It is important that we act affectionately with our sons as well as our daughters.

--Stephanie Marston

To an adolescent, there is nothing in the world more embarrassing than a parent.

—Dave Barry
What causes adolescents to rebel is not the assertion of authority but the arbitrary use of power, with little explanation of the rules and no involvement in decision-making....Involving the adolescent in decisions doesn’t mean that you are giving up our authority. It means acknowledging that the teenager is growing up and has the right to participate in decisions that affect his or her life.

--Laurence Steinberg

Greatness of name in the father oftentimes overwhelms the son; they stand too near one another. The shadow kills the growth.

--Ben Jonson

A teenager out of sight is like a kite in the clouds; even though you can’t see it you feel the tug on the string.

—Marcelene Cox

It confuses the sprouting adolescent to wake up every morning in a new body. It confuses the mother and father to find a new child every day in a familiar body.

--Donald Barr

Kids don’t rebel against their parents anymore; why would they? Would you rebel against the concierge at the Hyatt?

—Caitlin Flanagan

Parentification: a term family therapists use for sons and daughters who are parents to their own parents and sacrifice their own needs...to accommodate and care for the emotional needs and pursuits of parents or another family member.

--Jane J. Carroll & Bryan E. Robinson

Few things in life are as satisfying as seeing your own children have teenagers.

— Doug Larson

Arguing with a teenager is like wrestling in the mud with a pig. Sooner or later you figure out that they’re enjoying it.

—Unknown

Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-o to a tree.

—Unknown

Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

--Martin Mull
Make no mistake about why these babies are here—they are here to replace us.

--Jerry Seinfeld

Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he’s really in trouble.

--Dennis Fakes

The flight to safety also happened at school. Dangerous play structures were removed from playgrounds; peanut butter was banned from student lunches. After the 1999 Columbine massacre in Colorado, many schools cracked down on bullying, implementing ‘zero tolerance’ policies. In a variety of ways, children born after 1980—the Millennials—got a consistent message from adults: life is dangerous, but adults will do everything in their power to protect you from harm, not just from strangers but from one another as well.

—Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

Babies cannot and do not manipulate; they communicate. Listen.

—L. R. Knost

Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.

—Mathew L. Jacobson

In their landmark survey of single parenthood, Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur showed that children in single-parent homes do not do as well as children who are living with both biological parents. They are more likely to have trouble in school, more likely to drop out of school and, later, more likely to become single parents themselves. Some of this is simply the fact that unstable people are more likely to become single parents and also more likely to have difficulty parenting. But even the children of widows and widowers do worse on many measures than children of intact homes—a problem that was recognized back in the 19th century, when disease and work accidents frequently carried off parents in their prime. Something about living with only one parent holds kids back. That ‘something’...is fewer resources. The Internet overflows with essays on the resourcefulness, grit, and sheer heroism of single parents who manage to be ‘both mother and father’ to their children. But while we should have nothing but admiration for people who do their best in a bad situation, we should still recognize that for the child, and often for the parent, it’s a bad situation.

--Megan McArdle
‘Free range’ childhood became less common in the 1980s. The surge in crime from the ‘60s through the early ‘90s made Baby Boomer parents more protective than their own parents had been. Stories of abducted children appeared more frequently in the news, and in 1984, images of them began showing up on milk cartons. In response, many parents pulled in the reins and worked harder to keep their children safe.

—Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt

Strong-willed children become adults who change the world as long as we can hang on for the ride and resist the temptation to ‘tame’ the spirit out of them.

—Sarah Stogryn

A child’s creativity is only limited by their parents’ willingness to clean up after them.

—Robert John Meehan

It still amazes me that we insist on teaching algebra to all students when only about 20 percent will ever use it and fail to teach anything about parenting when the vast majority of our students will become parents.

—Nel Noddings

MEMO FROM YOUR CHILD

1. Don’t spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not have all that I ask for, I’m only testing you.

2. Don’t be afraid to be firm with me, I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.

3. Don’t let me form bad habits, I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.

4. Don’t make me feel smaller than I am, it only makes me behave stupidly big.

5. Don’t correct me in front of people if you can help it.

6. Don’t make me feel that my mistakes are sins, it upsets my set of values.

7. Don’t be upset when I say ‘I hate you,’ it’s not you I hate, but your power to hinder.
8. Don’t protect me from consequences, I need to learn the painful way sometimes.

9. Don’t nag, if you do I will need to protect myself by appearing deaf.

10. Don’t make rash promises, remember I feel badly let down when promises are broken.

11. Don’t tax my honesty too much, I am easily frightened into telling lies.

12. Don’t be inconsistent, that completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.

13. Don’t tell me my fears are silly, they are terribly real to me and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.

14. Don’t ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.

15. Don’t forget that I can’t thrive without lots of love and understanding, but I don’t need to tell you that, do I?

—The Child Care Worker

We like children who are a little afraid of us, docile, deferential children, though not, of course, if they are so obviously afraid that they threaten our image of ourselves as kind, lovable people whom there is no reason to fear. We find ideal the kind of ‘good’ children who are just enough afraid of us to do everything we want, without making us feel that fear of us is what is making them do it.

--John Holt

Boomers, who in their own days destroyed the doctrine of in loco parentis so that they could party in blissful, unsupervised freedom, have grown up into the helicopter parents of today, holding fiercely to a pair of mutually exclusive desires: on the one hand that their kids get to experience the same unfettered personal freedoms of college that they remember so fondly, and on the other that the colleges work hard to protect the physical and emotional well-being of their precious children.

--Caitlin Flanagan

The best lesson we can teach our children is to have fun. It’s infectious, it’s contagious.

—Vince Poscente
Professional-class parents and their children are tightly bound to each other in the relentless pursuit of admission to a fancy college. A kid on that track can’t really separate from her parents, as their close involvement in this shared goal is essential. Replicating the social class across a generation is a joint project. That’s why it’s so hard to break into the professional stratum of society: The few available spots are being handed down within families. From this has flowed a benefit that parents love—deep emotional closeness throughout adolescence, with no shadow of a future parting.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Be careful what you give children, for sooner or later you are sure to get it back.

—Barbara Kingsolver

Parents teach in the toughest school in the word: The School for Making People. You are the board of education, the principal, the classroom teacher, and the janitor, all rolled into two . . . . There are few schools to train you for your job, and there is no general agreement on the curriculum . . . . You are on duty, or at least on call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for at least 18 years for each child you have. Besides that, you have to contend with an administration that has two leaders or bosses, whichever the case may be.

—Virginia Satir

Parents do not own their children. They have no ‘natural right’ to control their education fully.

—John Goodlad

It is at once the most overwhelmingly frustrating and exasperating task and the most joyous and rewarding experience to make human beings out of children.

—Neil Kurshan

We are asking our children to do their own best but to be the best. Education is in danger of becoming a religion based on fear; its doctrine is to compete. The majority of our children are being led to believe that they are doomed to failure in a world which has room only for those at the top.

--Eda J. Leshan

Since the conception of our country, America has held that parents, not schools, teachers, and certainly not courts, hold the primary responsibility of educating their children.

--John Doolittle
Greater financial and educational resources allow some parents to embed their children in neighborhoods and social settings in which they meet many college-educated adults with interesting careers. Upper-middle-class kids aren’t just told a good education will help them succeed in life. They are surrounded by family and friends who work as doctors, lawyers, and engineers and who reminisce about their college years around the dinner table. Asian parents are an interesting exception: even when they are poor and unable to provide these types of social settings, they seem to be able to communicate the value and appeal of education in a similarly effective manner.

--Dana Goldstein

One of the few ways parents can improve their kids’ academic performance—by as much as eight points on a reading or math test—is by getting them placed in the classroom of a teacher with a good reputation....White parents are at least twice as likely as black and Latino parents to request a specific teacher. Given that the best teachers have been shown to raise students’ lifetime earnings and to decrease the likelihood of teen pregnancy, this is no small intervention.

--Dana Goldstein

We should not lose sight of the fact the most important door a child walks through for their education is the front door of their home.

—Robert John Meehan

Education begins at home. You can’t blame the school for not putting into your child what you don’t put into him.

—Geoffrey Holder

Girls seem to be more easily socialized. They get a lot of praise for being perfect says Carol Dweck. In turn, they begin to crave the approval they get for being good. There’s certainly no harm intended by overworked, overstressed teachers (or parents). Who doesn’t want a kid who works hard and doesn’t cause a lot of trouble?

--Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

Low-income parents as a group tend toward a firmly directive approach with their children, whereas middle-class parents typically favor a more solicitous tack, encouraging their kids to question adult authority....the different effects on behavior: dutiful respect versus a sense of entitlement.

—Sarah Carr

What the daughter does, the mother did.

—Jewish Proverb
Public education has served as a check on the power of parents, and this is another powerful reason for maintaining it.

—John Goodlad

All parents should be aware that when they mock or curse gay people, they may be mocking or cursing their own child.

—Anna Quindlen

We can never put ourselves in the shoes of children; we cannot fathom their thoughts, we lend them ours; and always following our own reasoning, we stuff their heads with extravagance and error.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Parental attitudes have greater correlation with pupil achievement than material home circumstances or variations in school and classroom organization, instructional materials, and particular teaching practices.

--Central Advisory Council for Education

The beginning place of a child’s education is a parent’s expectations of a child’s ability. A child not expected to learn doesn’t learn well.

—Richard Riley

If I went through the hassle of dressing you up and hauling you around town to collect candy, then yes, I am taking 30%. It’s called candy tax.

—Unknown

House Majority Leader Dick Armey is a strong proponent of a flat tax proposal which would eliminate home mortgage deductions. When asked if taking away this deduction would kill the American dream of home ownership, he said: ‘The American dream is not owning your own home. It’s getting your children out of it.’

—Speaker’s Idea File

Don’t become preoccupied with your child’s academic ability but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer their help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good. This is how they’ll change the world.

—Unknown
In motherhood, where seemingly opposite realities can be simultaneously true, the role of nurturer invariably conflicts with the role of socializer. When trouble comes as it surely must, was I the good cop who understood, the bad cop who terrorized, or both?

—Mary Kay Blakely

Today, only a fool would offer herself as the singular role model of the Good Mother. Most of us know not to tempt the fates. The moment I felt sure I had everything under control would invariably be the moment right before the principal called to report that one of my sons had just driven somebody’s motorcycle through the high school gymnasium.

—Mary Kay Blakely

As a mother I am often confused about how to help my children make wise decisions for themselves. One day I extol the virtues of a free and open education and the next I tell them they can’t watch TV until they finish their homework. One day I tell them to eat what they like, their bodies know intuitively what they need; and the next I say, ‘Okay, that’s it—no more junk food in this house!’ I flounder like this because I have no training and very little support for this work and there are days when I’m the one who needs the parenting, even more than they do.

—Martha Boesing

How deep is our desire to do better than our mothers—to bring daughters into adulthood strong and fierce yet loving and gentle, adventurous and competitive but still nurturing and friendly, sweet yet sharp. We know as working women that we can’t quite have it all, but that hasn’t stopped us from wanting it all for them.

—Anne Roiphe

Without our being especially conscious of the transition, the word ‘parent’ has gradually come to be used as much as a verb as a noun. Whereas we formerly thought mainly about ‘being a parent,’ we now find ourselves talking about learning how ‘to parent.’...It suggests that we may now be concentrating on action rather than status, on what we do rather than what or who we are.

—Bettye M. Caldwell

If I get the forty additional years statisticians say are likely coming to me, I could fit in at least one, maybe two new lifetimes. Sad that only one of those lifetimes can include being the mother of young children.

—Anna Quindlen
The joys of parents are secret, and so are their griefs and fears.

—Francis Bacon

You have got to prepare for a lifetime of the pillory, for whatever you do will be seen as wrong by total strangers, up until and including the time when whatever your child does will be seen as wrong by total strangers.

—Sonia Taitz

If you could choose your parents,...we would rather have a mother who felt a sense of guilt—at any rate who felt responsible, and felt that if things went wrong it was probably her fault—we’d rather have that than a mother who immediately turned to an outside thing to explain everything, and said it was due to the thunderstorm last night or some quite outside phenomenon and didn’t take responsibility for anything.

—D. W. Winnicott

Like those before it, this decade takes on the marketable subtleties of a private phenomenon: parenthood. Mothers are being teased out of the home and into the agora for a public trial. Are we doing it right? Do we have the right touch? The right toys? The right lights? Is our child going to grow up tall, thin and bright? Something private, and precious, has become public, vulgarized—and scored by impersonal judges.

—Sonia Taitz

She [the mother] deals with the world of child-rearing, where hundreds of experts give contradictory advice; the outcome can’t be measured for fifteen to twenty years. She has to process this advice through her intuition and a constant stream of her own childhood memories dredged up by her child’s dilemmas. And she must do all this with others—mother, mother-in-law, neighbors and schoolteacher—looking over her shoulder, marking her report card, measuring her against their own standards.

—Roger Gould

So long as the source of our identity is external—vested in how others judge our performance at work, or how others judge our children’s performance, or how much money we make—we will find ourselves hopelessly flawed, forever short of the ideal.

—Melinda M. Marshall
When trouble comes no mother should have to plead guilty alone. The pediatricians, psychologists, therapists, goat herders, fathers, and peer groups should all be called to the bench as well.

—Mary Kay Blakely

The mother must teach her son how to respect and follow the rules. She must teach him how to compete successfully with the other boys. And she must teach him how to find a woman to take care of him and finish the job she began of training him how to live in a family. But no matter how good a job a woman does in teaching a boy how to be a man, he knows that she is not the real thing, and he tends to exaggerate the differences between men and women that she embodies.

—Frank Pittman

However patriarchal the world, at home the child knows that his mother is the source of all power. The hand that rocks the cradle rules his world....The son never forgets that he owes his life to his mother, not just the creation of it but the maintenance of it, and that he owes her a debt he cannot conceivably repay, but which she may call in at any time.

—Frank Pittman

It is from her father that she begins to infer messages that will linger a lifetime—‘I am, or am not, considered by men to be pretty, desirable, valuable, dependent, weak, strong, dim-witted, brilliant’; ‘Men are, or are not, trustworthy, loving, predatory, dependable, available, dangerous.’

—Victoria Secunda

Dad, if you really want to know what happened in school, then you’ve got to know exactly who’s in the class, who rides the bus, what project they’re working on in science, and how your child felt that morning....Without these facts at your fingertips, all you can really think to say is ‘So how was school today?’ And you’ve got to be prepared for the inevitable answer—‘Fine.’ Which will probably leave you wishing that you’d never asked.

—Ron Taffel

We are seeing an increasing level of attacks on the ‘selfishness’ of women. There are allegations that all kinds of social ills, from runaway children to the neglected elderly, are due to the fact that women have left their ‘rightful’ place in the home. Such arguments are simplistic and wrongheaded but women are especially vulnerable to the accusation that if society has problems, it’s because women aren’t nurturing enough.

—Grace Baruch
A doting father is not simply surprised when his little girl grows up, he is crushed. His love may have an invisible price tag that sounds a shrill alarm when she edges toward independence, planting the notion that without his vigilant ardor she can never feel safe. He will always be there for her—as long as she still worships him, still turns only to him for solace and wisdom.

—Victoria Secunda

A father is available to help his daughter balance both her love and her anger toward her mother, to moderate the inevitable emotional extremes in the intense mother-daughter equation. With Daddy’s steadying influence daughters can learn to be comfortable with healthy anger, rather than feeling that they must be eternal good girls who must at all costs conceal it.

—Victoria Secunda

The presence of a grandparent confirms that parents were, indeed, little once, too, and that people who are little can grow to be big, can become parents, and one day even have grandchildren of their own. So often we think of grandparents as belonging to the past; but in this important way, grandparents, for young children, belong to the future.

—Fred Rogers

What is sad for women of my generation is that they weren’t supposed to work if they had families. What were they do do when the children were grown—watch raindrops coming down the windowpane?

—Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis

I have always felt that too much time was given before the birth, which is spent leaning things like how to breathe in and out with your husband (I had my baby when they gave you a shot in the hip and you didn’t wake up until the kid was ready to start school), and not enough time given to how to mother after the baby is born.

—Erma Bombeck

Ideas about mothers have swung historically with the roles of women. When women were needed to work the fields or shops, experts claimed that children didn’t need them much. Mothers, who might be too soft and sentimental, could even be bad for children’s character development. But when men left home during the Industrial Revolution to work elsewhere, women were ‘needed’ at home. The cult of domesticity and motherhood became a virtue that kept women in their place.

—Sandra Scarr
The biggest on-the-job training program in existence today.

—Erma Bombeck

The good enough mother, owing to her deep empathy with her infant, reflects in her face his feelings; this is why he sees himself in her face as if in a mirror and finds himself as he sees himself in her. The not good enough mother fails to reflect the infant’s feelings in her face because she is too preoccupied with her own concerns, such as her worries over whether she is doing right by her child, her anxiety that she might fail him.

—Bruno Bettelheim

Parents offer an open womb. More than anyone else in your life, mothers, and sometimes fathers, can kiss it, and make it well when their grown children need to regress and repair. More than anyone else in your life, mothers, and sometime fathers, can catch you when you start to fall. When you are in disgrace, defeat, and despair, home may be the safest place to hide.

—Marge Kennedy

Idealizing Daddy is grand when you’re five; it’s crippling when you’re twenty-five or thirty-five. For if you still believe in Daddy’s miracles, you may not believe that you can make your own dreams come true. Worse, you may not even be able to formulate them without his guidance.

—Victoria Secunda

Just as children, step by step, must separate from their parents, we will have to separate from them. And we will probably suffer...from some degree of separation anxiety: because separation ends sweet symbiosis. Because separation reduces our power and control. Because separation makes us feel less needed, less important. And because separation exposes our children to danger.

—Judith Viorst

_Life is crazy._ Now, maybe you knew this all along. But before I had children, I actually held on to the illusion that there was some sense of order to the universe....I am now convinced that we are all living in a Chagall painting—a world where brides and grooms and cows and chickens and angels and sneakers are all mixed up together, sometimes floating in the air, sometimes upside down and everywhere.

—Susan Lapinski

I have often felt that I cheated my children a little. I was never so totally theirs as most mothers are. I gave to audiences what belonged to my children, got back from audiences that love my children longed to give me.

—Eleanor Roosevelt
We honor motherhood with glowing sentimentality, but we don’t rate it high on the scale of creative occupations.

—Leontine Young

A mother becomes a true grandmother the day she stops noticing the terrible things her children do because she is so enchanted with the wonderful things her grandchildren do.

—Lois Wyse

Fathers are still considered the most important ‘doers’ in our culture, and in most families they are that. Girls see them as the family authorities on careers, and so fathers’ encouragement and counsel is important to them. When fathers don’t take their daughters’ achievements and plans seriously, girls sometimes have trouble taking themselves seriously.

—Stella Chess

The narcissistic, the domineering, the possessive woman can succeed in being a ‘loving’ mother as long as the child is small. Only the really loving woman, the woman who is happier in giving than in taking, who is firmly rooted in her own existence can be a loving mother when the child is in the process of separation.

—Erich Fromm

If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.

—C. G. Jung

You don’t hit a child when you want him to stop hitting. You don’t yell at children to get them to stop yelling. Or spit at a child to indicate that he should not spit. Of course, you want children to know how to sympathize with others and to ‘know how it feels,’ but you...have to show then how to act—not how not to act.

—Jeannette W. Galambos

The best way to teach a child restraint and generosity is to be a model of those qualities yourself. If your child sees that you want a particular item but refrain from buying it, either because it isn’t practical or because you can’t afford it, he will begin to understand restraint. Likewise, if you donate books or clothing to charity, take him with you to distribute the items to teach him about generosity.

—Lawrence Balter
Our idealized images of successful parents are filled with contradictions. We expect them (and therefore ourselves) to be young—but not too young. They must be mature as well. We want them to be financially secure—but not working long hours to achieve that security. We expect them to be loving and devoted, but not smothering and all-absorbed with their child. Such a vision is impossible to achieve.

—Lawrence Kutner

When we sent our first child off to school I experienced a jarring moment, an epiphany. I had been teaching young children for many years, advising parents on a wide range of issues, including the best and most painless ways to separate from their youngsters at school. When my own time came, I found that all my good advice to others was impossible to follow myself….I felt like a midwife friend of mine who had assisted in the births of hundreds of babies before her own first child was born. In the middle of labor she cried out, ‘I’ve told hundreds of women, ‘you can do it,’ and it can’t be done.’

—William Ayers

Normally an infant learns to use his mother as a ‘beacon of orientation’ during the first five months of life. The mother’s presence is like a fixed light that gives the child the security to move out safely to explore the world and then return safely to harbor.

—Louise J. Kaplan

Your children are not here to fill the void left by marital dissatisfaction and disengagement. They are not to be utilized as a substitute for adult-adult intimacy. They are not in this world in order to satisfy a wife’s or a husband’s need for love, closeness or a sense of worth. A child’s task is to fully develop his/her emerging self. When we place our children in the position of satisfying our needs, we rob them of their childhood.

—Aaron Hess

Parents have to get over the idea that their children belong just to them; children are a family affair.

—Frank Pittman

Whether our relationship is strained or easy, hostile or amiable, we need [our mother] if only in memory or fantasy, to conjugate our history, validate our femaleness, and guide our way. We need to know she’s there if we stumble, to love us no matter what, to nurture the child that resides within us even now without infantalizing us.

—Victoria Secunda
I thought about all of us women and how we spend half our lives rebelling against our mothers and the next half rebelling against our daughters.

—Lois Wyse

Raising boys has made me a more generous woman than I really am. Undoubtedly, there are other routes to learning the wishes and dreams of the presumably opposite sex, but I know of none more direct, or more highly motivating, than being the mother of sons.

—Mary Kay Blakely

With boys you always know where you stand—right in the path of a hurricane. It’s all there. The fruit flies hovering over their waste can, the hamster trying to escape to cleaner air, the bedrooms decorated in Early Bus Station Restroom.

—Erma Bombeck

Remember that every son had a mother whose beloved son he was, and every woman had a mother whose beloved son she wasn’t.

—Marge Piercy

Good marriages are built on respectful disagreement and back-and-forth cooperation. We learn to cue each other, fill in for each other, forgive each other’s fumbles, celebrate small victories. We revel in the realization that we’re working on something bigger than both of us, and that parenthood is not only incredibly challenging but also incredibly enriching.

—Susan Lapinski

Grandparents can be role models about areas that may not be significant to young children directly but that can teach them about patience and courage when we are ill or handicapped by problems of aging. Our attitudes toward retirement, marriage, recreation, even our feelings about death and dying may make much more of an impression than we realize.

—Eda Le Shan

If grandparents want to have a meaningful and constructive role, the first lesson they must learn is that becoming a grandparent is not having a second chance at parenthood!

—Eda Le Shan
What are some possible explanations for such extraordinary performance by Asian Americans? Several come readily to mind, but certainly require further exploration:

- Parents who value their children’s education so much that they inculcate the centrality of that education in to every aspect of their everyday lives.
- Parents who actively monitor and supplement what the schools teach their children.
- Parents, and therefore children, who believe that academic effort and hard work are rewarded with accomplishment.
- Parents, and therefore students, who support the schools.
- Parents, and therefore students, who believe in taking the most challenging courses in the greatest numbers.

—Daniel B. Taylor

The most stressful situation that I have had is when my parents were divorced while I was in the 6th grade. As soon as they were divorced my mother’s friend and her two kids moved in with my mom & my brother Steve. It was really hard on me and Steve because we wanted our dad to come back to live with us. And I just think, and then I start to cry. I try not to, but it gets me mad because I think my life is worth nothing.

—Anonymous Child

MY FATHER

Me and my father were never really close or nor was he close to my brother, Steve. We would never really talk or do anything when he was sober, but when he was drunk, it seemed like we were the perfect family.

My father was an alcoholic, a bad one too. He would drink until he woke up until he had to go to work. He woke up at around 11:00 am and he would leave for work at 2:00 pm. Then he would drink after he got out of work. He did this 6 days a week, and on Sunday we would just drink all day.

My father was an alcoholic for about three years, then he quit for about five years, until his dad died on my brother’s birthday. Then he started drinking again. His drinking had been getting worse. Finally one day I was outside with my cousin Kris playing ball. My parents were in the house talking. My mother called me in the house and told Kris to go home. When I came into the house I saw my dad getting ready for work, when he left, he didn’t give my mom a kiss good-bye like he use to. My mom told me to sit down because she had to talked to me. When I sat down I asked her what was wrong. She said how would you feel about me and your father getting a divorce. I told her that I would be mad and I didn’t want my dad to leave. I
guess she never took in what I felt about them getting a divorce. While they were still separated, my mom's friend moved in with her 2 kids. A boy and a girl. While they were separated my dad had moved in with his mother. The divorce finally came through. They had been divorced for 7 or 8 years. When my dad moved out his drinking had been getting worse.

When my mom's friend moved in, me and my older brother never knew why until a couple of months later. They had been living with us for about 10 years. When I was older, because of the situation at my house I wanted to go and live with my father, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to live with an alcoholic. I never moved in with him, but I was scared to. So I never did.

When my brother was old enough to move out he signed up for the Navy. When I think about him joining the Navy, 'I say to myself' He was the smart one.

I would always go over to see my dad on the weekends. I only say him once a week. I wanted to see more of him, but I couldn't because I got out of school at 3:00 pm and he would leave for work at 2:00 pm.

When I did visit him, all he did was drink. All day, beer after beer. I remember one weekend I spent the night. Of course, he was drinking. It got to be so bad, that he opened a beer, drank half and he struggled to go to the refrigerator to get another. So he had 2 beers. I got up poured both cans down the drain. I was so upset I left his house around 1:00 am and went back home. After that incident I went back over there the day after. When I arrived he was still sleeping. When he woke up, he never knew that I had left.

His drinking became so bad, my mom, and her friend took my dad into the hospital because of his drinking and he had a bad back. When we took him in the hospital he was drunk. Ever time I went to the Hospital, he would be asleep. When he was better, we took him out of St. Lukes and transferred him to community Hospital, hoping that if he was in a alcoholism center he would stop drinking. he was in community for a month. I would go and visit him every day. He would show me around & we would just talked. That was the first we ever had a conversation. When he got to leave the hospital, I finally got up the nerve to tell him how proud I was for him to stop drinking. When I told him, he said that drinking is very dangerous. It can kill you & it almost killed me.

Ever since he got out of the Hospital, he hasn't touched a drop of alcohol. It has been about a year since he drank. Now all he drinks is pop & coffee. I am so happy that he quit. Now his life is back together & even though he doesn't have my mom, but he does have a son and daughter who loves him very much.

—Anonymous Child

If you give your son only one gift, let it be enthusiasm.

—Bruce Barton
I must need an interpreter because when I say ‘Hurry, put your shoes on and get in the car,’ my kids hear, ‘It’s a good time to poop.’

—SnarkeCards

A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty.

—Unknown

No man should bring children into the world who is unwilling to persevere to the end in their nature and education.

—Plato

Research shows that children do better in school and are less likely to drop out when fathers are involved. Engaged parents can strengthen communities, mentor and tutor students, and demonstrate through their actions how much they value their children's education.

—Arne Duncan

We inculcate in our children the sensibilities of raccoons, a fascination with shiny objects and an appetite for garbage, and then carp about ‘the texting generation’ as if thirteen—and fourteen-year-olds who couldn’t boil an egg are capable of creating a culture. They grow on what we feed them. It has never been otherwise. The only thing that changes is the food.

—Garret Keizer

In our society, if someone wants to be a hairstylist or a kickboxer or a hunting guide—or a schoolteacher—he or she must be trained and licensed by a state agency. No such requirement is necessary for parenthood. Anyone with a set of reproductive organs is free to create a child, no questions asked, and raise them as they see fit, so long as there are no visible bruises—and then turn that child over to the school system so the teachers can work their magic. Maybe we are asking too much of the schools and too little of our parents and kids?

—Stephen D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

Screaming at children over their grades, especially to the point of the child’s tears, is child abuse, pure and simple. It’s not funny and it’s not good parenting. It is a crushing, scarring, disastrous experience for the child. It isn’t the least bit funny.

—Ben Stein

What did you ASK at school today?

—Richard Fenyman
Empathy is as important as literacy. When we read with a child, we are doing so much more than teaching him to read or instilling in her a love of language. We are doing something that I believe is just as powerful, and it is something that we are losing as a culture: By reading with a child, we are teaching that child to be human.

—Anna Dewdney

The idea of bringing someone into the world fills me with horror. I would curse myself if I were a father. A son of mine! Oh no, no, no! May my entire flesh perish and may I transmit to no one the aggravations and the disgrace of existence.

—Gustave Flaubert

When I look at them,
When I smile at them,
When I hold them,
I realize that I have the universe in my hands.

They are the light of my life.
They are the love of my life.

They are life.

—Unknown

Young people know how important it is for dads to be involved in their lives. As I travel the country and talk with students, some of them tell me that their lives would be totally different if their father was around.

—Arne Duncan

It happens very often that parents think they are worried about the progress a boy is making. They do not realise that all boys are numskulls with no brains which is not surprising when you look at the parents. Really the whole thing goes on and on and there is no stopping it. It is a vicious circle.

—Geoffrey Willans

The brown bag, of course, had its imperfections. While some kids carried roast beef sandwiches, others had peanut butter. I have no way of knowing if all of those brown bags contained ‘nutritionally adequate diets.’ But I do know that those brown bags and those lunch pails symbolized parental love and responsibility.

—Charles Mathias, Jr.

Be there for your kids. Later, when you need them, they'll be there for you.

—Zig Ziglar
My daughter is seven, and some of the other second-grade parents complain that their children don’t read for pleasure. When I visit their homes, the children’s rooms are crammed with expensive books, but the parent’s rooms are empty. Those children do not see their parents reading, as I did every day of my childhood. By contrast, when I walk into an apartment with books on the shelves, books on the bedside tables, books on the floor, and books on the toilet tank, then I know what I would see if I opened the door that says ‘PRIVATE—GROWNUPS KEEP OUT’: a child sprawled on the bed, reading.

—Anne Fadiman

Celebrities say, ‘Oh, I lost the weight because I chase the baby around.’ I didn’t think about it that hard, but then I had a baby….The baby doesn’t move! The baby didn’t move for eight months! It’s a lie.

—Jessi Klein

When you read to a child, when you put a book in a child’s hands, you are bringing that child news of the infinitely varied nature of life. You are an awakener.

--Paula Fox

Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way.

--Orville Prescott

You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.

—Dr. Seuss

Once, a few years earlier, Jules had gone to see a play at Ash’s theater, and afterward, during the ‘talkback,’ when the audience asked questions of the playwright and of Ash, who’d directed the production, a woman stood up and said, ‘This one is for Ms. Wolf. My daughter wants to be a director too. She’s applying to graduate school in directing, but I know very well that there are no jobs, and that she’s probably only going to have her dreams dashed. Shouldn’t I encourage her to do something else, to find some other field she can get into before too much time goes by?’ And Ash had said to that mother, ‘Well, if she’s thinking about going into directing, she has to really, really want it. That’s the first thing. Because if she doesn’t, then there’s no point in putting herself through all of this, because it’s incredibly hard and dispiriting. But if she does really, really want it, and if she seems to have a talent for it, then I think you should tell her, ‘That’s wonderful.’ Because the truth is, the world will probably whittle your daughter down. But a mother never should.

—Meg Wolitzer
A king, realizing his incompetence, can either delegate or abdicate his duties. A father can do neither. If only sons could see the paradox, they would understand the dilemma.

—Marlene Dietrich

If it’s not good enough for adults, it’s not good enough for children. If a book that is going to be marketed for children does not interest me, a grownup, then I am dishonoring the children for whom the book is intended, and I am dishonoring books. And words.

—Madeleine L’Engle

Let children read whatever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won’t have as much censorship because we won’t have as much fear.

—Judy Blume

If children were read verse from the very earliest age, without being told solemnly that it is verse, in fact without being told what it is at all, they might feel that poetry is just as ‘natural’ as prose. We make such a fuss about the sanctity of verse, as if it were a kind of holy writ. Thus a good many children begin to be prejudiced against it.

—Clifton Fadiman

Time concerns him, that he may not waste it. No waking day is ever quite long enough. But eventually he learns whether he must hurry with his life and writing or not. He feels his own sense of time mysteriously regulating his days. He comes to trust that sense, for it will tell him when to wait, when to act, and it tells him that life will be as long as he requires for his work. At last he learns what all great artists know, each in his kind, to hold to a single ruthless purpose, and that purpose poetry.

—John Holmes

Adolescents sometimes say… ‘My friends listen to me, but my parents only hear me talk.’ Often they are right. Familiarity breeds inattention.

—Laurence Steinberg

Nothing improves a student’s hearing more than praise.

—Unknown

Television—The Third Parent.

—R. Buckminster Fuller
Don’t worry that children never listen to you. Worry that they are always watching you.

—Robert Fulghum

Never before has a generation of parents faced such awesome competition with the mass media for their children’s attention. While parents tout the virtues of premarital virginity, drug-free living, nonviolent resolution of social conflict, or character over physical appearance, their values are daily challenged by television soaps, rock music lyrics, tabloid headlines, and movie scenes extolling the importance of physical appearance and conformity.

--Marianne E. Neifert

Cuteness in children is totally an adult perspective. The children themselves are unaware that the quality exists, let alone its desirability, until the reactions of grownups inform them.

--Leontine Young

The more elements of good parenting, good teaching, and good schooling children experience, the greater the likelihood that they will achieve their potential as readers.

--Becoming a Nation of Readers

You may have tangible worth untold, Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold, Richer than I you can never be, I had a mother who read to me.

--Strickland Gillian

You become a reader because you saw and heard someone you admired enjoying the experience, someone led you to the world of books even before you could read, let you taste the magic of stories, took you to the library, and allowed you to stay up later at night to read in bed.

--Jim Trelease

Reading to children, even before they can understand, teaches them to associate books with love and affection.

—Child and Youth Network Logo
It’s just hard not to listen to TV: it’s spent so much more time raising us than parents have.

—Matt Groening

What makes you a man is not the ability to have a child—any fool can have a child. That doesn’t make you a father. It’s the courage to raise a child that makes you a father.

—Barack Obama

I’ve carried a child within my body. Slept with them on my chest. I’ve kissed little toes & wiped away tears. I’ve been vomited on, peed on & spent sleepless nights cradling my child. But I wouldn’t have it any other way. My body isn’t magazine perfect, but when I look in the mirror I see a MOM & there is no greater honor, Love or blessing.

—Unknown

Children are naturally creative just as they are naturally honest. If we can start early enough, our problem is not how to make them creative but how to keep them from being noncreative....We can fan the flames of creativity instead of throwing water on them. And if we are really good, we can throw gasoline instead.

--D. Kenneth Winebrenner

There’s no love more intense than the love we have for our kids—and where there is intense love, there is also intense fear lurking beneath the surface.

—Arianna Huffington

The wage gap also seems to reflect a bias against mothers with children at home—a set of belittling stereotypes sometimes referred to as the ‘maternal wall.’ Research shows that when a working woman becomes a mother, she is typically seen as warmer and nicer, and that these traits may actually conspire against her, making her seem less good at her job.

—Liza Mundy

A woman’s body is a sacred temple. A work of art, and a life-giving vessel. And once she becomes a mother, her body serves as a medicine cabinet for her infant. From her milk she can nourish and heal her own child from a variety of ailments. And though women come in a wide assortment as vast as the many different types of flowers and birds, she is to reflect divinity in her essence, care and wisdom. God created a woman’s heart to be a river of love.

—Suzy Kassem
When a mother gives birth, her body is not only able to provide nourishment to her baby, but is also designed to be its own personal medicine cabinet. Breast milk is the best and most natural food you can give a child, and applying it sparingly on a baby’s head, eye or skin will eliminate cradle cap, acne, rashes, dryness, and even eye infections.

—Suzy Kassem

My handbag turned into a diaper bag for the chronically ill.

—Tracey Berkowitz

There’s no way I can care properly for my children if I don’t first care for myself.

—Tez Brooks

I always hear parents talking about how outraged they are because their kid saw a boob or something like that on TV. I never hear anyone say that they’re outraged because a cartoon character in a commercial that aired during a children’s television program told them it was healthy to eat a bowl of chocolate and marshmallows for breakfast. If I had kids, I’d be outraged about that.

—Ian McClellan

What we sometimes see as annoying, incessant questions from a child may be a plea for recognition. Maybe they do not need an answer as much as attention.

—Rand Olson

The forming of the minds of children in that early stage of their existence which, in nine cases out of every ten, determines their quality, character, and usefulness, through the whole period of life, is the most sacred duty which devolves upon the sex, and if they neglect this, or perform it in an improper manner, the character of the whole of society is lowered to the same extent.

--The Magazine of Domestic Economy, (1835)

By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class.

--Anne Morrow Lindbergh

In the career of female fame, there are few prizes to be attained which can vie with the obscure state of a beloved wife, or a happy mother.

--Jane Porter
We are told that ‘the hand which rocks the cradle rules the world.’ I have lived in this world for over fifty years, but find no evidence of rulership in the act of cradle-rocking. If it had been recorded that ‘the hand which rocks the cradle’ bears the burdens of the world, the connection between truth and poetry would have been self-evident.

--Rebecca Latimer Felton

My kids were only babies when their Daddy went away.
So I hung up my apron and went out to work for pay.
They put me on the night-shift working on a big machine;
That was the last of normal life my kids and I have seen.

--Marilyn Major

Love, fidelity, maternity, are the most necessary, the most important, and the most sacred things in the life of a woman.

--George Sand

For most women who are considering it, single motherhood is not their first choice, but it’s not their last one either. They would prefer a husband in their family, but they’d rather have a family without one than no family at all.

--Anne Cassidy

‘Working mother’ is a misnomer....It implies that any mother without a definite career is lolling around eating bon-bons, reading novels, and watching soap operas. But the word ‘mother’ is already a synonym for some of the hardest, most demanding work ever shouldered by any human....It is one she cannot easily give up for several decades. It can be slavery, joy in work, a magnificent career. It can be failure or triumph, but it can never be insignificant or unimportant since it is one ‘job’ affecting the outcome of another’s life.

--Liz Smith

Many women who used to be full-time mothers are discovering that outside work gives them friends, challenges, variety, money, independence; it makes them feel better about themselves, and therefore lets them be better parents.

--Wendy Coppedge
Sanford

I want to have children, but my friends scare me. One of my friends told me she was in labor for 36 hours. I don’t even want to do anything that feels good for 36 hours.

--Rita Rudner
If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?

--Milton Berle

I am a member of the ‘sandwich’ generation, that group that must simultaneously care for elderly parents and support children. Never mind that I have lost the dreamlike 40-ish haze I was in during nursing and babyhood and toddlerhood, when the peach fuzz of my daughters’ cheeks made for a heady narcotic, when my heart thrilled at all their colorful pieces of kinderart, when I honestly enjoyed—oh the novelty, for someone who had pursued abstract subjects in college and graduate school for 10 years!—baking birthday cakes. Fifty-ish now, when I squat over to pick up their little socks and snip quesadillas into little bowls and yank fine hair out of their brushes, as I have now for the thousandth time, I feel like I’m in a dream, but a very bad, very sour-scented dream. I am fast losing patience with the day job of motherhood. Worse yet, I'll be in the full fires of menopause just when my girls are in the full fires of adolescence! (As my good friend, the family therapist Wendy Mogel, observes, in her calm Zen/Torah-like way, ‘What wonderful insight you’ll have into their mood swings.’)

--Sandra Tsing Loh

I do not believe fathers love their children any less than mothers do, but men do seem more likely to choose their job at a cost to their family, while women seem more likely to choose their family at a cost to their job.

--Anne-Marie Slaughter

Of course I’m not supposed to admit that there is tri-annual torrential sobbing in my office, because it’s bad for the feminist cause—But I have friends who stay home with their kids and they also have a tri-annual sob, so I think we should call it even.

--Tina Fey

‘According to author Sylvia Hewlett, career women shouldn’t wait to have babies, because our fertility takes a steep drop-off after age 27,’ Tina Fey said during a ‘Weekend Update’ sketch. ‘And Sylvia’s right; I definitely should have had a baby when I was 27, living in Chicago over a biker bar, pulling down a cool $12,000 a year. That would have worked out great.’ Rachel Dratch said, ‘Yeah. Sylvia, um, thanks for reminding me that I have to hurry up and have a baby. Uh, me and my four cats will get right on that.

--Saturday Night Live Sketch
Women may give lip service to wanting husbands who take on an equal role in raising children, but many will pull rank when an important decision, like how to discipline or what baby sitter to hire, has to be made.

--Pepper Schwartz

What I am defending is the real rights of women. A woman should have the right to be in the home as a wife and mother.

—Phyllis Schlafly

When we trust the makers of baby formula more than we do our own ability to nourish our babies, we lose a chance to claim an aspect of our power as women. Thinking that baby formula is as good as breast milk is believing that thirty years of technology is superior to three million years of nature's evolution. Countless women have regained trust in their bodies through nursing their children, even if they weren't sure at first that they could do it. It is an act of female power, and I think of it as feminism in its purest form.

—Christine Northrup

The narrator of Mary McCarthy’s The Company She Keeps could be seen as ‘enslaved because she persists in looking for her identity in a man.’ Similarly, Miss McCarthy’s The Group could serve to illustrate ‘what happens to women who have been educated at first-rate women’s colleges—taught philosophy and history—and then were consigned to breast-feeding and gourmet cooking.’

—Joan Didion

What do girls do who haven’t any mothers to help them through their troubles?

—Louisa May Alcott

Never grow a wishbone, daughter, where your backbone ought to be.

—Clementine Paddleford

All of women’s aspirations—whether for education, work, or any form of self-determination—ultimately rest on their ability to decide whether and when to bear children. For this reason, reproductive freedom has always been the most popular item in each of the successive feminist agendas—and the most heavily assaulted target of each backlash.

—Susan Faludi

If women’s role in life is limited solely to housewife/mother, it clearly ends when she can no longer bear more children and the children she has borne leave home.

—Betty Friedan
For the parent of a Little Leaguer, a baseball game is simply a nervous breakdown divided into innings.

--Earl Wilson

Having children is my greatest achievement. It was my saviour. It switched my focus from the outside to the inside. My children are gifts, they remind me of what’s important.

—Elle Macpherson

Part of me just wants to force-feed these women some spoonfuls of fatty pâté. But another part of me is dying to know their secrets. Having kids who sleep well, wait and don’t whine surely helps them stay so calm. But there’s got to be more to it. Are they secretly struggling with anything? Where’s their belly fat? If this is all a façade, what’s behind it? Are French mothers really perfect? And if so, are they happy?

—Pamela Druckerman

The fact is that Chinese parents can do things that would seem unimaginable—even legally actionable—to Westerners. Chinese mothers can say to their daughters, ‘Hey fatty—lose some weight.’ By contrast, Western parents have to tiptoe around the issue, talking in terms of ‘health’ and never ever mentioning the f-word, and their kids still end up in therapy for eating disorders and negative self image.

—Amy Chua

The easiest way for your children to learn about money is for you not to have any.

--Katharine Whitehorn

I have frequently gained my first real insight into the character of parents by studying their children.

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Among the most sacred gifts you can give your child is the gift of health. This gift is best given by example.

—Dr. Rand Olson

The longer you spend dating around, the more likely it is that you’ll become pregnant by someone you’re not intending to marry, forcing the unhappy choice between an abortion, adoption, and single parenthood.

--Megan McArdle
Human milk is like ice cream, penicillin, and the drug ecstasy all wrapped up in two pretty packages.

—Florence Williams

Flattery is useful when dealing with youngsters.

—Isaac Asimov

All children wear the sign: ‘I want to be important NOW.’ Many of our juvenile delinquency problems arise because nobody reads the sign.

--Dan Pursuit

The parent who did not depend on love to influence and mold the character of the child rather than force would be regarded not as a real parent but a brute. Force is worse than useless in developing the conduct of the child.

--Clarence Darrow

Negative consequences stop misbehavior—that’s a given. But the key to changing behavior is the use of positive reinforcement.

--Lee Canter

It is ominous for the future of a child when the discipline he receives is based on the emotional needs to the disciplinarian rather than on any consideration of the child's own needs.

--Gordon W. Allport

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.

--Unknown

Whipping and abuse are like laudanum; you have to double the dose as the sensibilities decline.

--Harriet Beecher Stowe

Distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is powerful.

--Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche
There is a raging tiger inside every man whom God put on this earth. Every man worthy of the respect of his children spends his life building inside himself a cage to pen that tiger in.

--Murray Kempton

In general we may say that the causes of a child’s delinquent behavior may be traced to his parents.

--David Abrahamsen

Sometimes the best way to convince someone he is wrong is to let him have his way.

--Red O’Donnell

What the child says, he has heard at home.

--Nigerian Proverb

All good government must begin in the home. It is useless to make good laws for bad people.

--H. R. Hawes

Kids won’t come out and thank you each and every time you make a decision they aren’t totally fond of....But in their hearts kids know you’re doing your job, just like they are doing their job by arguing.

--Fred G. Gosman

The message you give your children when you discipline with love is ‘I care too much about you to let you misbehave. I care enough about you that I’m willing to spend time and effort to help you learn what is appropriate.’ All children need the security and stability of food, shelter, love, and protection, but unless they also receive effective and appropriate discipline, they won’t feel secure.

--Stephanie Marston

When we approach discipline as learning, this ability to internalize moral behavior will occur in the natural course of growth. Children will make mistakes, but, given half a chance, they will learn from them. Our disappointment and displeasure give them pause—and a strong desire to do better the next time around. However, when parents are too quick to punish (or when they assume that children will not really learn from their mistakes without paying a penalty), these lessons may be lost.

--Cathy Rindner

Tempelsman
One reasonable consequence is more EFFECTIVE than twenty-two lectures.
--Fred Gosman

Call them rules or call them limits. Good ones, I believe, have this in common: they serve reasonable purposes; they are practical and within a child's capability; they are consistent; and they are an expression of loving concern.
--Fred Rogers

I think of discipline as the continual everyday process of helping a child learn self-discipline.
--Fred Rogers

Traditionally parents have wondered what their teens were doing, but now teens are much more likely to be doing things that can get them killed.
--Mary Pipher

The widespread fear among today's parents that their manageable children will turn overnight into dope fiends, school dropouts, or voracious sexual voluptuaries reflects a certain anger and animosity towards the young, a fear and loathing that helps turn the myth into a self-fulfilling prophecy. After all, there were 'bad' children and uncontrolled teenagers in the past; nevertheless, parents expected their own children to be good, to grow up well....The fact that today's parents are amazed if their children do not turn into black sheep makes it clear that a less than optimistic, indeed a deeply distrustful and negative, attitude towards children exists today.
--Marie Winn

The situation of our youth is not mysterious. Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. They must, they have no other models.
--James Baldwin

As boys without bonds to their fathers grow older and more desperate about their masculinity, they are in danger of forming gangs in which they strut their masculinity for one another, often overdo it, and sometimes turn to displays of fierce, macho bravado and even violence.
--Frank Pittman

It is very difficult for people to believe the simple fact that every persecutor was once a victim. Yet it should be very obvious that someone who was allowed to feel free and strong from childhood does not have the need to humiliate another person.
--Alice Miller
It is not children that we want to change. Rather, it is the inappropriate behavior that we want to change. We want to support appropriate behavior. Calling attention to inappropriate behavior lets the child know that the actions are not acceptable, but that the child is still loved. Do not forget to also focus on appropriate behavior. Praise and reinforcement let children know which behaviors are appropriate and acceptable.

—Peggy O’ Harrelson

Disorder and crime are usually inextricably linked, in a kind of developmental sequence. Social psychologists and police officers tend to agree that if a window in the building is broken and is left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken. This is as true in nice neighborhoods as in rundown ones... One unrepaired broken window is a signal that no one cares. We suggest that ‘untended’ behavior also leads to the breakdown of community controls... A piece of property is abandoned, weeds grow up, a window is smashed. Adults stop scolding rowdy children; the children, emboldened, become more rowdy. Families move out, unattached adults move-in. Teenagers gather in front of the corner store. The merchant asks them to move; they refuse. Fights occur.

--George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson

No amount of law enforcement can solve a problem that goes back to the family.

—J. Edgar Hoover

A ‘naughty child’ doesn’t exist—a child who acts out is simply a child with unmet needs.

—Birgitte Coste

When children and adolescents misbehave, we usually assume that they’re doing so because they have considered the consequences of their actions and calculated that the benefits of misbehavior outweigh the costs. So our natural response is to increase the cost of misbehavior, by ratcheting up punishment. One of the chief insights that recent neurobiological research has provided, however is that young people, especially those who have experienced significant adversity, are often guided by emotional and psychological and hormonal forces that are far from rational. This doesn’t mean that teachers should excuse or ignore bad behavior. But it does explain why harsh punishments so often prove ineffective in motivating troubled young people to succeed.

—Paul Tough
Those children who are beaten will in turn give beatings, those who are intimidated will be intimidating, those who are humiliated will impose humiliation, and those whose souls are murdered will murder.

--Alice Miller

Most adults are used to thinking that firmness means punishment, lectures, or some other form of control. Not so! Firmness, when combined with kindness, means respect for the child, for you, and for the situation.

—Jane Nelson

People seldom improve when they have no model to copy but themselves.

—Oliver Goldsmith

When a boy is eleven years old you had better find something to engage his interest. I offer it as a theorem that a boy that age is either doing something or breaking something.

—Jerrold R. Zacharias

Children have always taken risks and will continue to do so (which is why some experts argue that restricting them in every way imaginable only pushes them to go farther to find hazards that adults have not yet anticipated); children will always play with objects not intended to be toys; children will always use toys in ways the manufacturers—or the parents—do not recommend. They are driven to experiment and create; that is what developing human beings do.

—Christina Schwarz

I WAS DRUGGED BY MY PARENTS

When I was asked why we didn’t have a drug problem when you and I were growing up, I replied
'I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to Church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn’t put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the sink to have my mouth washed out if I uttered profanity. I was drug to the neighbors to help some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood.
Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior. Those drugs are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroine. If children today had this kind of drug problem, America would be a much better place.’

—Unknown

Whenever two human beings spend time together, sooner or later they will probably irritate one another. This is true of best friends, married couples, parents and children, or teachers and students. The question is: How do they respond when friction occurs? There are four basic ways they can react:

- They can internalize the anger and send it downward into a memory bank that never forgets. This creates great pressure within and can even result in disease and other problems.
- They can pout and be rude without discussing the issues. This further irritates the other person and leaves him or her to draw his or her own conclusions about what the problem may be.
- They can blow up and try to hurt the other person. This causes the death of friendships, marriages, homes, and businesses.
- Or they can talk to one another about their feelings, being very careful not to attack the dignity and worth of the other person. This approach often leads to permanent and healthy relationships.

—James C. Dobson

HOW TO RAISE A DRUG-USING CHILD

Be a lawyer...defend him against every authority
Be a banker...let him know funds are unlimited to satisfy his every whim.
Be an insurance policy...stand in the way of consequences.
Be an agent...negotiate for him. Pull strings so he is always first.
Be a mechanic...fix everything so he won’t learn to solve problems.
Be a butler...he needs a clean room and food. Don’t you live in a luxury hotel?
Be an administrative assistant...organize his life so he won’t have to.
Be an apologist...make excuses for him. Let him learn he’s never wrong.
Be a doormat...allow him to take his frustrations out on you.
Be a fairy godparent...spend to meet his every wish so he’ll rely on you.
Be a wimp...never enforce your values or beliefs. He’ll learn society has no rules.

—Martha Lockie

I’m the child of an alcoholic. I know about promises.

—Sandra Scoppettone
Some parents feel that if they introduce their children to alcohol gradually in the home environment, the children will learn to use alcohol in moderation. I’m not sure that’s such a good idea. First of all, alcohol is not healthy for the growing child. Second, introducing alcohol to a child suggests that you condone drinking—even to the point where you want to teach your child how to drink.

---Lawrence Balter

Defiance is a typical part of adolescence, so putting teenagers in jail for swearing or refusing to follow an order is akin to arresting a 2-year-old for having a meltdown at the grocery store. It essentially outlaws the human condition.

---Amanda Ripley

I have a hard time defending the production of candy, given that it is basically crack for children and makes them dependent in unwholesome ways.

---Steve Almond

Children who are without parental guidance and care before and after school are twice as likely as children with care to be users of alcohol. The same relationship holds true for smoking behavior and for marijuana behavior...There also is a strong predictive [link between] a child’s friend using drugs—cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana—and that child’s risk for subsequent use....One of the best protective factors to help a child ward off drugs is achievement and motivation—being successful in school.

---Dr. William Bukowski

Solving the drug problem will take all of us, but facing the drug problem must begin at home. Families need to play an integral role in drug prevention and education or they handicap their children as they try to cope with an imperfect and dangerous world.

---Manya Ungar

One sure way to prevent children from turning to drugs to be accepted is for adults to meet their need for love and acceptance. I would ask us all...what kind of influence we have on the lives of youngsters [other than] our own children? You see, we’re the ones who are asking them to stay off drugs. But are we having any kind of influence on their lives?

---Ron Rowlett

I’ve learned that the happiest houses are not always the cleanest houses. As a single working parent, you’re always asking yourself, ‘What’s the most important thing right now?’ I’d rather concentrate on my daughter.

---Michelle Williams
Alcohol and nicotine are considered ‘gateway drugs’ because they invariably are the precursors to using all the ‘other bad stuff’ available to children on the streets. They are addictive and can lead to grievous illness. And their use by children is illegal. Thus, when parents wink at their use by children—on the permissive theory that their progeny are merely ‘feeling their oats,’ ‘being part of the ‘gang,’ or ‘just growing up’ or have the misguided belief that children should experiment with alcohol at home, ‘to learn to drink sensibly’—they are implicitly making them scofflaws, in addition to setting the stage for potential personal disaster in the family.

—Thomas A. Shannon

To keep their children close, to keep them safe, and to ensure that they do not escape into the wild freedom of an adolescence unfettered by constant monitoring, drinking in captivity has become a popular alternative. Drinking isn’t like doing drugs—it’s not something parents recoil from in horror. It’s something they can make an accommodation for, and so they practice ‘social hosting,’ as the law refers to the custom: allowing teens to get hammered in the comfort and safety of the rec room.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Good Parents think that alcohol is dangerous for young people and that riotous drunkenness and its various consequences have nothing to recommend them. These parents enforce the law and create a family culture that supports their beliefs....Get-Real Parents think that high school kids have been drinking since Jesus left Chicago, and that it’s folly to pretend the new generation won’t as well. The horror stories (awful accidents, alcohol poisoning, lawsuits) tend to involve parents who didn’t do it right—who neglected to provide some level of adult supervision, or who forgot to forbid anyone to get in a car after drinking.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Get-Real Parents understand that learning to drink takes a while and often starts with a baptism of fire. Better for Charlotte to barf her guts out on the new sectional than in the shadowy basement of a distant fraternity house.

—Caitlin Flanagan

On the nights of big high-school events, Get-Real Parents pay for limos, party buses, Ubers—whatever it takes to ensure that their kids are safe. What is an Uber except a new kind of bike helmet?

—Caitlin Flanagan

When a child reaches his third birthday, his parents will have given him half of all that they will ever be able to give him in the way of education.

—Corrie ten Boom
Go to a parent meeting on some topic like ‘Teens and Drinking’ and you’re likely to get an earful about how to keep your teen drinker safe. Teach her to recognize signs of alcohol poisoning in her friends; tell her it’s always okay to call 911; advise her to check in on conked-out partygoers every 15 minutes or so to make sure they’re just sleeping it off and not unconscious. The message doesn’t involve any moral or emotional imperatives; it has to do only with not ending up dead or in jail.

—Caitlin Flanagan

A child who fears excessive retaliation for even minor offenses will learn very early on that to lie is to protect himself....If your child intuits that you will react very punitively to his wrongdoing, he may be tempted to lie and may become, as time goes on, a habitual liar.

--Lawrence Balter

Children learn to lie from parents who teach them to say they don’t want a second portion of ice cream.

—Unknown

I believe that teaching children honesty and the value of knowledge is fundamentally important to the existence of our free society and in the long run, to the happiness and quality of life of the students as they grow into adults. I admire and applaud parents who do the difficult and thankless work of teaching these values to their children. And I mourn those who teach children it is OK to cheat.

--Steve Simpson

Whenever a child lies you will always find a severe parent. A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt to be dangerous.

--Alfred Adler

Always tell your children as much of the truth as they can understand, if only to establish the most valuable attribute you have as a parent—your credibility. If you con your three-year-old into believing that the booster shot won’t hurt, why should he or she believe your later claims that marijuana, booze and skipping school will?

--Stan and Jan Berenstain

The biggest thing I remember is that there was just no transition. You hit the ground diapering.

—Paul Reiser
Psychiatry enables us to correct our faults by confessing our parents’ shortcomings.
--Laurence J. Peter

We live in a world where it is completely the norm to worry about what we put in our bodies but worry very little about what we throw in our minds. We think a hamburger is bad but a celebrity gossip magazine is completely harmless. As children you never hear ‘don’t put that garbage in your mind,’ but for our body counterpart it is common thread. There is something very wrong with this scenario.
—Evan Sutter

We raise our children, especially girls, to ignore their spontaneous reactions—we teach them not to rock the societal boat...By the time she is thirty, the valiant little girl’s ‘Ick!’-her tendency to respond, to rock the boat, when someone’s actions are really mean, may have been excised from her behavior, and perhaps from her very mind.
—Martha Stout

With divorce, adolescents feel abandoned, and they are outraged at that abandonment. They are angry at both parents for letting them down. Often they feel that their parents broke the rules and so now they can too.
—Mary Pipher

As a society, our understanding of teenagers has not caught up to the science. In the past 15 years, neuroscientists have discovered that a teenager’s brain is different in important ways from an adult’s brain. It is more receptive to rewards than to punishment, and the parts that control impulses and judgement are still under construction. Which means that back talk and fake burps are predictable teenage acts—to be corrected, not prosecuted.
—Amanda Ripley

When you’re a kid, you don’t think about big stuff that could change your life. You think about small things that might terrify you—like a bad report card or missing a goal in front of all your friends or your friends no longer wanting to play with you. Because that’s the biggest stuff you know. The biggest disappointments are all tied to this small little universe of yours, because bigger things cannot fit into a small universe. If you wanted bigger things in there you needed to have more room—or make more room. Perhaps you thought about your parents or your pets dying, which was rare. But all you knew was you would be terribly sad and lonely. And on those occasions when people or pets actually died, someone usually came along and distracted you from feeling too much of your actual feelings. Grownups did that—they never left you alone to feel alone or think alone too much. They tended to think you are too small to know how to think and feel in big heaps, so they took parts of
your heap onto themselves. To help—but in the long run—it doesn’t help at all. Because if you do not see, or feel or think, or taste the bitter things in life, you don’t know they exist. You have not seen enough of the world to know how terrible it could be.

—Adelheid Manefeldt

Narcissistic fathers leave their daughters with deep doubts about whether a man can love them, since the first important man in their life was so in love with himself that he had no love left for them. If you are a daughter of a narcissistic father you may have withdrawn from men and bound yourself to mother, either overtly or emotionally. Or you may be engaged in a self-destructive attempt to be his kind of girl, whatever that is, as you try desperately to extract his love. Perhaps you have transferred this into a masochistic position with other men, finding a narcissistic man incredibly attractive as you try to master the mystery of winning his love. And narcissistic men appeal to you because you wish you could be that way yourself—assertive, not giving a damn, self-important—but you lack the confidence to do it yourself so you identify with the man who has their quality, even if it’s at your expense. (I have often seen this revealed in those instances where a woman has suffered through a degradingly submissive and abusing relationship with a man, or a series of men, and then, gaining the strength to break that kind of bondage, violently overturns the tables and abuses that man, or the next man in her life, as degradingly as she was misused. It’s not just revenge, but the release of hidden desire to be powerful and to be able to control father and make him beg for her love.)

—Howard M. Halpern

A man is born; his first years go by in obscurity amid the pleasures or hardships of childhood. He grows up; then comes the beginning of manhood; finally society’s gates open to welcome him; he comes into contact with his fellows. For the first time he is scrutinized and the seeds of the vices and virtues of his maturity are thought to be observed forming in him.

This is, if I am not mistaken, a singular error.

Step back in time; look closely at the child in the very arms of his mother; see the external world reflected for the first time in the yet unclear mirror of his understanding; study the first examples which strike his eyes; listen to the first word which arouse with him the slumbering power of thought; watch the first struggles which he has to undergo; only then will you comprehend the source of the prejudices, the habits, and the passions which are to rule his life.

—Alexis de Tocqueville
‘After all I’ve done for you’ has alienated more children from their parents than any act of parent cruelty.

—Dorothy Rowe

Often, our misunderstandings about love are born in disruptive family relationships, where someone was either one-up or one-down to an extreme. There is an appropriate and necessary difference in the balance of power between parents and young children, but in the best situations, there should be no power struggles by the time those children have become adults—just deep connection, trust, and respect between people who sincerely care about each other.

In disruptive families, children are taught to remain one-up or one-down into adulthood. And this produces immature adults who either seek to dominate others (one-up) or who allow themselves to be dominated (one-down) in their relationships—one powerful and one needy, one enabling and one addicted, one decisive and one confused.

In relationships with these people, manipulation abounds. Especially when they start to feel out of control.

—Tim Clinton

When a child is forced to prove himself as capable, results are often disastrous. A child needs love, acceptance, and understanding. He is devastated when confronted with rejection, doubts, and never ending testing.

—Virginia M. Axline

Tantrums are seldom about the thing they appear to be about.

—Diana Wynne Jones

Young children, who for whatever reason are deprived of the continuous care and attention of a mother or a substitute-mother, are not only temporarily disturbed by such deprivation, but may in some cases suffer long-term effects which persist.

—John Bowlby

For children, parents are a yardstick for normalcy.

—Upasana Saraf

Sorry to disappoint you but I can’t ‘spank the Autism out’ of my child any more than I can slap the ignorance out of you.

—T-Shirt Slogan

What’s done to children, they will do to society.

—Karl Menninger

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Punitive measures whether administered by police, teachers, spouses or parents have well known standard effects: (1) escape-education has its own name for that: truancy, (2) counterattack-vandalism on schools and attacks on teachers, (3) apathy-a sullen do-nothing withdrawal. The more violent the punishment, the more serious the by-products.

—B. F. Skinner

As a high school teacher, I definitely agree that kids these days have an extreme reliance on their parents. Instead of approaching me about a grade, they have their parent email me....Also, I can say something in class and within 20 minutes get an email from a parent of a kid in that class. Parents are involved to a point that is ultimately detrimental to their child.

—Teacher on theChive

If there is one thing developmental psychologists have learned over the years, it is that parents don’t have to be brilliant psychologists to succeed. They don’t have to be supremely gifted teachers. Most of the stuff parents do with flashcards and special drills and tutorials to hone their kids into perfect achievement machines don’t have any effect at all. Instead, parents just have to be good enough. They have to provide their kids with stable and predictable rhythms. They need to be able to fall in tune with their kids’ needs, combining warmth and discipline. They need to establish the secure emotional bonds that kids can fall back upon in the face of stress. They need to be there to provide living examples of how to cope with the problems of the world so that their children can develop unconscious models in their heads.

—David Brooks

A kid in an abusive home has far fewer rights than any POW. There is no Geneva Convention for kids.

—Andrew Vachss

I explain to my patients that abused children often find it hard to disentangle themselves from their dysfunctional families, whereas children grow away from good, loving parents with far less conflict. After all, isn’t that the task of a good parent, to enable the child to leave home?

—Irvin D. Yalom

We can order him to make appointments and talk to someone, but we can’t force him to actually do the work. You’ve got to be willing to work on your issues. You’ve got to be willing to face hard truths and fight to get better. That takes courage and force of will.

—Laurell K. Hamilton
The person that attempts suicide has an abnormal conception of his own body. He perceives his body as a possession of some outside person or force. He was raised by parents whose actions made him feel early in life that he only partially owned his body. Parents can cause this by such strategies as rarely permitting the child to have privacy, being demanding and over-controlling, making the child do what they expect. Being limited to this sort of body perception, it takes the adolescence only a few traumatic experiences later in life to convince him that his body did not belong to him, but rather was an alien pain-producing-partner of some other entity.

—Yosef Hakimi, M.D.

THE EFFECTS OF DIVORCE

Divorce has become a reality that affects more than two million adults and more than one million children each year. Yes—all children will be affected by divorce. Does it need to be negative? No! Absolutely Not! Divorce does have short-term and long-term negative effects on some children’s adjustment. The main difficulties associated with divorce are:

1. conflict between parents
2. parent depression
3. lack of social support and
4. financial stress

In preschoolers, divorce may trigger regression, fretfulness, bewilderment, aggression and need.
In school age children, there is sadness, grieving, fear, anger, feelings of deprivation, fantasies of reconciliation, body complaints and loyalty conflicts.
In adolescents, there are many painful feelings: how will their own future marriages work out, worry over financial matters, loyalty conflicts, individualization from parents and the awareness of parents as sexual beings.
Healthy adjustment occurs when children are made to feel that they are in no way responsible for the divorce and that the divorce is final. Skills in coping and conflict resolution need to be well-developed for a child to adjust. Eventually, they won’t blame anyone, but will instead work on problem solving and staying involved in a social support system.
Children have a positive adjustment to divorce when the custodial parent has low stress and is psychologically healthy. The custodial parent needs to be firm and consistent in parenting; and the child needs to feel that his relationship with the custodial parent is positive.
Involvement of the non-custodial parent has a direct effect on the children’s adjustment when the involvement directly affects the well-being of the custodial parent rather than the child.
Emotional and financial support by the non-custodial parent can reduce the strain experienced by the custodial parent and increase their parenting competence. This increased competence directly affects a child’s adjustment. Children will do well when the parents are mentally healthy and have a support system to help them cope with the difficult times. Nobody needs to do it alone. Divorce can be a growth-producing experience. Some of the divorced parent’s dreams may have died, but the parent has not.

—Dr. Phil Martin R. Textor

Emotional abuse is the most insidious and prevalent kind of abuse. Over a long period of time, it can make a child feel so inadequate that he wants to commit suicide.

—Nancy Peterson

The all-American work ethic, destructive enough by itself, also packs a gender double standard that strip-mines the natural resources of both parents. It has taught us that as their earnings and success increase, men become ‘more manly,’ while women become ‘less feminine.’ This perverse cultural dynamic gives fathers an incentive to stay away from their families and kill themselves at work, while coercing mothers to limit their career commitment, which in turn limits their wages and shortchanges their families.

—Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Work is a responsibility most adults assume, a burden at times, a complication, but also a challenge that, like children, requires enormous energy and that holds the potential for qualitative, as well as quantitative, rewards. Isn’t this the only constructive perspective for women who have no choice but to work? And isn’t it a more healthy attitude for women writhing with guilt because they choose to compound the challenges of motherhood with work they enjoy?

—Melinda M. Marshall

Knowing how beleaguered working mothers truly are—knowing because I am one of them—I am still amazed at how one need only say ‘I work’ to be forgiven all expectation, to be assigned almost a handicapped status that no decent human being would burden further with demands. ‘I work’ has become the universally accepted excuse, invoked as an all-purpose explanation for bowing out, not participating, letting others down, or otherwise behaving inexcusably.

—Melinda M. Marshall

It is not the glass ceiling that holds women back from rising high, it is the children hanging on to their hems.

—Polly Toynbee
When I was younger, I struggled with the fact that work was my mother’s first priority. But now that I am embarking on my own career, I realize that I could never have asked for a better role model. Work was the norm for my parents (particularly my mother), and I have ended up stronger for it. I couldn’t be prouder that I am my mother’s daughter.

--Mari Cohen

As our economy has transitioned away from manufacturing and industry, men with a high-school education can no longer expect the steady, well-paying union jobs that formerly enabled many to support their families. Out-dated assumptions that men should bring something to the table, and that this something should be money, don’t help. Surveying their prospects, many working-class mothers reject marriage altogether, perhaps reasoning that they can support a child, but don’t want a dependent husband.

--Liza Mundy

In interviews I gave early on in my career, I was quoted as saying it was possible to have it all: a dynamic job, marriage, and children. In some respects, I was a social adolescent.

—Jessica Savitch

Stop telling girls they can be anything they want when they grow up. I think it’s a mistake. Not because they can’t, but because it would have never occurred to them they couldn’t.

—Sarah Silverman

Women, often held back in midlife by domestic responsibilities, are in many ways suited to shift into high gear at a later age than men—to have it all, as the saying goes, by having it at different times. One high-level female executive told me recently that she is waiting until her kids start college to truly move into overdrive. ‘I’ve got a good 15 years after that,’ she figures, to make her full impact.

—Liza Mundy

The all-American work ethic, destructive enough by itself, also packs a gender double standard that strip-mines the natural resources of both parents. It has taught us that as their earnings and success increase, men become ‘more manly,’ while women become ‘less feminine.’ This perverse cultural dynamic gives fathers an incentive to stay away from their families and kill themselves at work, while coercing mothers to limit their career commitment, which in turn limits their wages and shortchanges their families.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin
(In answer to the question, ‘How can you be both a lawmaker and a mother?’) I have a brain and a uterus, and I use both.

--Pat Schroeder

Having a profession is not incompatible with being a good mother or a good wife....Women's lives are different from men's lives. We make different trade-offs. We make different sacrifices. And we get different rewards.

--Marilyn Quayle

Having control over your schedule is the only way that women who want to have a career and a family can make it work.

--Mary Matalin

A new baby is like the beginning of all things - wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities.

—Eda J. Le Shan

The absurd duty, too often inculcated, of obeying a parent only on account of his being a parent, shackles the mind and prepares it for a slavish submission to any power but reason.

--Mary Wollstonecraft

He who is allowed to do as he likes will soon run his head into a brick wall out of sheer frustration.

--Robert Musil

Children can’t make their own rules and no child is happy without them. The great need of the young is for authority that protects them against the consequences of their own primitive passions and their lack of experience, that provides them with guides for everyday behavior and that builds some solid ground they can stand on for the future.

--Leontine Young

No one knows better than children how much they need the authority that protects, that sets the outer limits of behavior with known and prescribed consequences. As one little boy expressed it to his mother, ‘You care what I do.’

--Leontine Young

Most of what we object to as misconduct in children is a natural rebellion against the intrusion of an unimaginative adult despotism in their lives.

--Floyd Dell
Vulnerable fathers turn to time-honored defensive responses to maintain the function that father knows best. Parents, especially fathers, teach their sons to obey authority no matter what.

—Martha Stout

Parents who discipline their child by discussing the consequences of their actions produce children who have better moral development, compared to children whose parents use authoritarian methods and punishment.

—Simon Baron-Cohen

Character is largely caught, and the father and the home should be the great sources of character infection.

--Frank H. Cheley

Education commences at the mother’s knee, and every word spoken within hearsay of little children tends toward the formation of character.

--Hosea Ballou

We do children an enormous disservice when we assume that they cannot appreciate anything beyond drive through fare and nutritionally marginal, kid-targeted convenience foods. Our children are capable of consuming something that grew in a garden or on a tree and never saw a deep fryer. They are capable of making it through dinner at a sit-down restaurant with tablecloths and no climbing equipment. Children deserve quality nourishment.

—Victoria Moran

Most women without children spend much more time than men on housework; with children, they devote more time to both housework and child care. Just as there is a wage gap between men and women in the workplace, there is a ‘leisure gap’ between them at home. Most women work one shift at the office or factory and a ‘second shift’ at home.

--Arlie Hochschild

Each home has been reduced to the bare essentials -- to barer essentials than most primitive people would consider possible. Only one woman’s hands to feed the baby, answer the telephone, turn off the gas under the pot that is boiling over, soothe the older child who has broken a toy, and open both doors at once. She is a nutritionist, a child psychologist, an engineer, a production manager, an expert buyer, all in one. Her husband sees her as free to plan her own time, and envies her; she sees him as having regular hours and envies him.

—Margaret Mead
Elicit commitment and respect, and you will own obedience.  
--Greg Henry Quinn

You’ve gotta be able to come home and explain to your kids what you did that day, without shading it or hiding it. If you find yourself finding a clever way of (talking) to your kids that really doesn’t tell the truth but gets you through the answer, what kind of person are you if you want to do that? And there’s also the...validation of people you respect.  
--Michael Bloomberg

The destructive child has to learn his lesson in another way. He breaks the windows of his room, let the wind blow on him night and day and do not worry about him catching cold. It is better for him to catch cold than to be a fool. If he goes on breaking windows shut him up in a dark room without windows. The time will come when he has learned what property means and he is willing to respect other people’s belongings.  
--Jean Jacques Rousseau

Guiding the behavior of young children involves establishing mutual respect and expecting cooperation. Effective discipline is positive and child focused. It encourages self-control and appropriate behavior. Through effective discipline, children can learn to make positive choices, learn problem-solving skills, and learn values of respect and responsibility.  
—Peggy O’ Harrelson

The most important phase of living with a person is respect for that person as an individual.  
—Millicent Carey McIntosh

If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.  
--Abigail Van Buren

Our mission is to teach students not only how to walk, but also where to walk.  
—Unknown

Would the boy you were be proud of the man you are?  
--Laurence J. Peter
If we want to educate a person in virtue we must polish him at a tender age. And if someone is to advance toward wisdom he must be opened up for it in the first years of his life when his industriousness is still burning, his mind is malleable, and his memory still strong.

---Comenius

Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.

—Bob Talbert

The best way to teach morality is to make it a habit with children.

—Aristotle

The only good advice is a good example. You don’t tell them a whole lot of anything. You show them by doing. You teach values by making choices in their presence. They see what you do and they make judgments on it.

---Ossie Davis

Most youth still hold the same values of their parents…if we do not alter this pattern, if we don’t resocialize, our system will decay.

—John Goodlad

Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper bringing-up, a sound set of—as witnesses.

---Franklin P. Jones

When I want my children to have a healthy snack, I slice an apple nicely on a plate and put it in front of them. They gobble it up happily. But if I merely put out a bowl of fruit, or tell them to have some fruit, they do nothing.

—Gary Koenig

We must respect religiously, reverently, the first indications of individuality.

---Maria Montessori

Children are born as individuals. If we fail to see that, if we see them as clay to be molded in any shape we like, the tougher ones will fight back and end up spiteful and wild, while the less strong will lose that uniqueness they were born with.

---Melvin Konner

Mother Nature is providential. She gives us twelve years to develop a love for our children before turning them into teenagers.

—William Galvin
Adolescence is a period of rapid changes. Between the ages of 12 and 17, for example, a parent ages as much as 20 years.

—Unknown

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 14-18 year olds in the U.S. In fact, almost half of the teen drivers involved in a crash die. Yet, a recent survey show that only 25% of parents have had a serious talk with their kids about the key components of driving. You are the parent, they are your children, and they still have a lot to learn. You can teach them and you may just help save their lives.

—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Hug your kids at home, but belt them in the car.

—Unknown

Speak to your children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on earth, for what they believe is what they will become.

—Brooke Hampton

Once there were two women who never knew each other.
One you do not remember, the other you call mother.
Two different lives, shaped to make your one...
One became your guiding star, the other became your sun.
The first gave you life and the second taught you to live it.
The first gave you a need for love, and the second was there to give it.
One gave you a nationality, the other gave you a name.
One gave you a seed of talent, the other gave you an aim.
One gave you emotions, the other calmed your fears.
One saw your first sweet smile, the other dried your tears.
One gave you up ... that’s all she could do.
The other prayed for a child and God led her straight to you.
And now you ask me, through your fears,
the age old question unanswered throughout the years...
Heredity or environment, which are you the product of?
Neither, my darling neither.
Just two different kinds of love.

—Unknown
We each have the kind of children we deserve.  
—Nachman of Bratslav

A child of my own! Oh, no, no, no! Let my flesh perish with me, and let me not transmit to anyone the boredom and ignominiousness of life.  
—Gustave Flaubert

We need to allow our children to fail, because struggle builds resilience and grit.  
—Liza Mundy

The time not to become a father is eighteen years before a world war.  
—E. B. White

If you want your kids to grow into capable, independent adults, give them space to make some decisions without you controlling their every move. Back off! Let them try. Let them fail. It’s not about them always getting it right, it’s learning not to be afraid to try.  
—Brooke Hampton

MOTHER

Father retires at 60,  
But Mother never retires.  
She works for her Husband  
She works for her Children  
She looks after her Grandchildren  
She looks after everyone  
Everyone retires  
But Mother never retires.  

—Internet Meme

There’s this mistaken notion that wars end, but they don’t end. What about the women that married the veterans and had to sit through silent dinner after silent dinner? Somewhere in this country there’s a 95-year-old woman who will wake up at night and say, ‘Where’s my baby?’ The answer is, her baby has been dead for 45 years. But the war’s not over for that Gold Star mother. It’ll never be over, and you can’t expect it to be over.  
—Tim O’Brien

What’s the definition of unconditional love? Your mother.  
—Unknown
There is nothing so strong as the force of love; there is no love so forcible as the love of an affectionate mother to her natural child.  

--Elizabeth Grymeston

When you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know.  

—Mitch Albom

So long as little children are allowed to suffer, there is no true love in the world.  

--Isadora Duncan

If you’re deprived of love when you’re young, you can never have it given back to you.  

--Jerry Lewis

The greatest terror a child can have is that he is not loved, and rejection is the hell of fears....And with rejection comes anger, and with anger some kind of crime in revenge.  

--John Steinbeck

Babies make days a little sunnier... family fun a little funnier.. family ties a little dearer... and the meaning of love a little clearer.  

—Unknown

Give a little love to a child, and you get a great deal back.  

--John Ruskin

I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing, when they, who are so fresh from God, love us.  

--Charles Dickens

What children expect from grown-ups is not to be ‘understood,’ but only to be loved, even though this love may be expressed clumsily or in sternness.  

--Carl Zucker
When children find true love,
parents find true joy.

—Unknown

The greatest gift a parent can give a child is unconditional love. As a child wanders
and strays, finding his bearings, he needs a sense of absolute love from a parent.
There’s nothing wrong with tough love, as long as the love is unconditional.

—George Herbert Walker Bush

It’s okay to experience the flow of all emotions; however, if we get caught up in
feeling pity for others and take on the responsibility of being their ‘savior’, we often
take away their power to ‘save’ themselves. If I see someone as ‘messed up’ then I
am projecting my ‘messed up’ vibration onto them, so I am unable to hold space.
Yet, if I already view them as whole, well, and beautiful – then I am able to be a
vibrational key (vessel of Spirit) that uplifts their energy so that it may come into
alignment with being whole, well, and beautiful. It’s not that I do any of the
healing; I’m simply a mirror reflecting acceptance and loving them for exactly
who they are, right where they are. That is all that is ever truly asked of us, to
accept and to love.

—Alaric Hutchinson

What the small boy needs to know is that there are men in this world who are like
him, black men, African-American men, who read and write and find the whole
process of academics something valuable....The epidemic of academic failure in the
African-American male population is not going to stop unless we, African-American
men, begin to do the job that we can do.

--Spencer Holland

Let me tell you about prejudice. It starts in the home, and that’s in all cultures, all
races, all creeds. The only thing we can do, as educated people, is understand that
we do have these feelings and say to ourselves, ‘Hey, that’s racist, I don’t have to
think that way.’

--Edward James Olmos

African-American leaders have now taken hold of the concept that we need to be
responsible for what goes on in our own backyard. In terms of solutions we need to
look inward...We need to do better job of parenting. We need to create extended
families. We need to create our own economic institutions. We need to take
responsibility for what goes on in our communities, in our families.

--Bill Nabor
Way down deep we feel it. The power of mother love. For centuries, it is been the glue that cemented the two things Black folks have traditionally valued above all others: our families and our faith.

--Laura B. Randolph

I was raised by a heroic single mother and wonderful grandparents who made incredible sacrifices for me. And I know there are moms and grandparents here today who did the same thing for all of you. But I still wish I had a father who was not only present, but involved. And so my whole life, I’ve tried to be for Michelle and my girls what my father wasn’t for my mother and me. I’ve tried to be a better husband, a better father, and a better man.

It’s hard work that demands your constant attention, and frequent sacrifice. And Michelle will be the first to tell you that I’m not perfect. Even now, I’m still learning how to be the best husband and father I can be. Because success in everything else is unfulfilling if we fail at family. I know that when I’m on my deathbed someday, I won’t be thinking about any particular legislation I passed, or policy I promoted; I won’t be thinking about the speech I gave, or the Nobel Prize I received. I’ll be thinking about a walk I took with my daughters. A lazy afternoon with my wife. Whether I did right by all of them.

Be a good role model and set a good example for that young brother coming up. If you know someone who isn’t on point, go back and bring that brother along. The brothers who have been left behind—who haven’t had the same opportunities we have – they need to hear from us. We’ve got to be in the barbershops with them, at church with them, spending time and energy and presence helping pull them up, exposing them to new opportunities, and supporting their dreams. We have to teach them what it means to be a man—to serve your city like Maynard Jackson; to shape the culture like Spike Lee. Chester Davenport was one of the first people to integrate the University of Georgia law school. When he got there, no one would sit next to him in class. But Chester didn’t mind. Later on, he said, ‘It was the thing for me to do. Someone needed to be the first.’ Today, Chester is here celebrating his 50th reunion. If you’ve had role models, fathers, brothers like that—thank them today. If you haven’t, commit yourself to being that man for someone else.

--Barack Obama

If you have told a child a thousand time and he still does not understand, then it is not the child who is the slow learner.

—Walter Barbie
We beg you to save young America from the blight of race prejudice. Do not bind the children within the narrow circles of your own lives.

—Charles Hamilton
Houston

It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.

—Maya Angelou

By 2000, more than 1 million black children had a father in jail or prison—and roughly half of those fathers were living in the same household as their kids when they were locked up. Paternal incarceration is associated with behavior problems and delinquency, especially among boys.

—Ta-Nehisi Coates

Racism is taught in our society, it is not automatic. It is learned behavior toward persons with dissimilar physical characteristics.

—Alex Haley

I want my children—I want Malia and Sasha—to understand that they’ve got responsibilities beyond just what they themselves have done. That they’ve a responsibility to the larger community and the larger nation, that they should be sensitive to and extra thoughtful about the plight of people who have been oppressed in the past, are oppressed currently. So that’s a wisdom that I want to transmit to my kids...But I would say that’s a high level of enlightenment that you’re looking to have from a majority of the society. And it may be something that future generations are more open to, but I am pretty confident that for the foreseeable future, using the argument of nondiscrimination, and ‘Let’s get it right for the kids who are here right now,’ and giving them the best chance possible is going to be a more persuasive argument.

—Barack Obama

To me, the black black woman is our essential mother; the blacker she is the more us she is, and to see the hatred that is turned on her is enough to make me despair, almost entirely, of our future as a people.

—Alice Walker

But to the slave mother New Year’s day comes laden with peculiar sorrows. She sits on her cold cabin floor, watching the children who may all be torn from her the next morning; and often does she wish that she and they might die before the day dawns.

—Harriet Ann Jacobs
One day, when my children are grown, I hope they still come through the front door without knocking. I hope they head to the kitchen for a snack, and slump on the sofa to watch TV. I hope they come in and feel the weight of adulthood leave them, for they are home. For my children, my door will forever be open.

—Internet Meme

One day, when my children have grown up and have their own own homes, I'm going to use their toilet and leave it un-flushed.

—Internet Meme

When we only look at behavior, we stop seeing the child and only look with an intent to judge whether we need to reward or punish. When we look behind the behavior, we see that little struggling human, our little human, who needs our help with something.

—Rebecca Eanes

If we are to reach real peace in the world we shall have to begin with children; and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won’t have to struggle; we won’t have to pass fruitless ideal resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which consciously or unconsciously the whole world is hungering.

—Gandhi

My motto for the home, in education as in life, is this: For heaven’s sake, let people live their own lives. It is an attitude that fits any situation.

--A. S. Neill

Rarely do American parents deliberately teach their children to hate members of another racial, religious, or nationality group. Many parents, however, communicate the prevailing racial attitudes to their children in subtle and sometimes unconscious ways.

--Kenneth MacKenzie Clark

Racism is an adult disease.
Let’s stop spreading it through children.

—Unknown
Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and will never be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them....‘Do you know what you are?’ You are a marvel. You are unique. In all of the world there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been another child like you. And look at your body....what a wonder it is! You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work; we all must work to make this world worthy of its children. The love of one’s country is a natural thing. But why should love stop at the border? We are all leaves of a tree and the tree is humanity.

--Pablo Casals

A Harvard Medical School study has determined that rectal thermometers are still the best way to tell a baby’s temperature. Plus, it really teaches the baby who’s boss.

—Tina Fey

I will defend the importance of bedtime stories to my last gasp.

—J. K. Rowlings

Children fall in love with books because of the memories created when they snuggle up and read with someone they love.

—www.raisingreaders.org

Girls are complicated. The instruction manual that comes with girls is 800 pages, with chapters 14, 19, 26 and 32 missing, and it’s badly translated, hard to figure out.

—Hugh Laurie

GOOD BONES

Life is short, though I keep this from my children.
Life is short, and I’ve shortened mine
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways
I’ll keep from my children. The world is at least fifty percent terrible, and that’s a conservative estimate, though I keep this from my children.
For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world
is at least half terrible, and for every kind
stranger, there is one who would break you,
though I keep this from my children. I am trying
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,
right? You could make this place beautiful.

—Maggie Smith

Having children gives you a perspective you didn’t have before. You are no longer
the center of the universe. It opened my heart, made me a different person. Every
move you make is with someone else in mind. I loved being a mother more than
anything else in the world, and being a grandmother is even more fun. There’s the
chance to do it again. It’s in the perfect order of nature: You raise your children, and
then the next generation comes along. They are the redemptive force in nature.
Plus, it’s easier!

—Jessica Lange

There was never a child so lovely but his mother was glad to get him to sleep.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Man is for woman a means: the end is always the child.

--Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are
impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

--Sir Francis Bacon

American women are good mothers, but they make poor wives.

--Margaret Mead

Another oppressed minority that deserves redress is the man who has a wife and
two teenage daughters.

—Unknown

Familiarity breeds contempt—and children.

--Mark Twain
Babysitter $800 a month, Diapers $100 a month, Formula $150 a month.…Abstinence…priceless.

—Slogan

I began to think maybe it was true that when you were married and had children it was like being brainwashed, and afterward you went about as numb as a slave in a totalitarian state.

—Sylvia Plath

No fathers or mothers think their own children ugly.

—Miguel de Cervantes

Children shouldn’t raise children.

—Slogan

What greater pain could mortals have than this:
To see their children dead before their eyes?

—Euripides

Marry your son when you will, but you daughter when you can.

—Benjamin Franklin

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

—Thomas Campbell

The desire to die begins with loneliness, a thwarted need for inclusion and connection. That explains why suicide rates rise by a third on the continuum from married to never been married. It also accords with the fact that divorced people suffer the greatest suicide risk, while twins have reduced risk and mothers of small children have close to the lowest risk. A mother of six has six times the protection of her childless counterpart.…She may die of work and worry, but not of self-harm.

--Thomas Joiner

I didn’t put my children in the world for me. It’s their life and their death. The best parents are the ones who let their children go. Children with terminal diseases like cancer mature much faster than other children. They think a lot about their life and death and how they’d like their death to be. And sometimes they’re more courageous than their parents.

—Jutte van den Werff

Ten Bosch
I’LL LEND YOU A CHILD

‘I’ll lend you for a little time a child of mine, he said.’
For you to love—while he lives,
and mourn for when he’s dead.
It may be six or seven years,
or twenty-two or three, but will you,
till I call him back, take care or him for me?
He’ll bring his smiles to gladden you,
and should this stay be brief.
You’ll have his lovely memories as solace for your grief.
I cannot promise he will stay,
since all from earth return.
But there are lessons taught down there
I want this child to learn.
I’ve looked this world over
in search for teachers true.
And from the throngs that crowd life’s lanes,
I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your love,
nor count the labor vain,
Nor hate me when I come
to call to take him back again?’
I fancied that I heard them say,
‘Dear Lord, Thy will be done.
For all the joy Thy child shall bring,
the risk of grief we’ll run.
We’ll shelter him with tenderness;
we’ll love him while we may.
And for the happiness we’ve known
forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him
much sooner than we’ve planned.
We’ll brave the bitter grief that comes
and try to understand.’

—Edgar Guest

There is no greater grief, than when a parent loses a child.

—Asa Don Brown
One out of one dies. Nothing, no one, lives forever. In an age of medical miracles, we have not yet eliminated death. Through technology we have introduced new and different choices concerning the when, where, and how of death, but still not the whether. All things end at some point. Regardless of how much energy or emotional commitment we invest in a relationship, it cannot last forever. Because one cares, because one invests a certain portion of one’s self into the cycles of others, one learns what it is to hurt and to grieve when those cycles are completed in one way or another.

If we have, then we are in danger of not having, and that loss (whether through death, divorce, abandonment or mutual dissolution) can be the most painful and devastating experience of one’s own cycle. Or it can be a point of growth and expansion of the spirit. But, regardless, loss hurts.

Grief is a natural and normal reaction to loss, loss of any kind. It is a physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological response. The death of a child is perhaps the most devastating loss one may experience. Yet, grief occurs following any change in our lives. Even positive change can bring a momentary grief response.

Grief is a complex process, guided by our past experiences, our religious beliefs, our socio-economic situation, our physical health, and the cause of the loss. Love, anger, fear, frustration, loneliness, and guilt are all part of grief. It is important to understand that grief is not a sign of weakness or lack of faith. Grief is the price we pay for love.

In his research, Colin Murray Parkes identified four components of the grief process.

When we first become aware of the loss, we become numb. Shock is a physiological phenomenon which protects us from further pain. When our circuits become overloaded, we cannot accept further information. We stop listening, stop hearing; you may feel like you’ve stopped breathing. A protective fog blankets us and cushions the reality of death. We switch to ‘automatic’ and our responses become mechanical. Decisions are made and actions taken and events pass, all without our full participation. Shock is what helps us get through the necessary details of death. It can last anywhere from a few moments to several months. When the shock or numbness wears off, the reality of our loss crashes into us. The collision with reality of death hurts. Parkes calls this part of the grief process pining. We know it as hurt. Unlike the localized pain of a physical injury, this pain is totally engulfing. Every part of us hurts. There’s a tightness in the throat, a searing pain in the chest, a heaviness in the heart. It hurts to move. It hurts to breathe. It hurts just to be! Sometimes the pain is so intense, we may develop physical symptoms. Sleep irregularities, changes in appetite, and gastrointestinal disturbances are common. Heartache, restlessness, muscle tension, and sighing may occur.

Anger and guilt are common emotions. You may feel angry with God, your spouse, your child or with others either involved with or totally separate from the death of
your child. You may be angry with yourself. Our sense of helplessness intensifies our anger. Why couldn’t I prevent my child’s death? ‘If onlys’ begin to haunt our thoughts. We retrace, over and over again, the circumstances of our child’s death, looking for something we should or could have done to prevent our child’s death. Why cries out and goes unanswered. Guilt feelings often accompany or follow anger. You may want to withdraw and be left alone. Depression and feelings of emptiness and hollowness may temporarily overcome you. You may experience headaches, tightness in the throat or chest, muscle aches or a burning sensation in your stomach. Grief hurts! You may, for awhile, become preoccupied with images of your child. You may ‘see’ or sense your child’s presence. You may begin to wonder if you are going crazy. Parkes calls the next part of the grief process dejection or depression. Now pain is replaced by emptiness. It may seem like you’ve fallen into a deep void. Emptiness may swallow up even the memories of your child. Apathy and deep depression are common. A feeling of being hollow sets in. We may feel that our lives have lost all meaning. Who are we now that our child is dead? Am I still a mother if there is no child to kiss? Am I still a dad if there is no one to tuck in at night? How can we go on living when our child has died? We feel cheated, betrayed, robbed not only of our child’s presence, but of our future as well!

—Darcie Sims

REMNANTS

Glimpses of you everywhere
Often catch me unaware.
Tell-tale remnants of the past,
Care-free days that couldn’t last,
Echoes of a joyous laugh,
Comic-books, a photograph.

Calliopes and carousels,
Haunting songs weave mystic spells.
Relics from the past will wane,
But in my heart
You’ll still remain.

—Lily De Lauder
COME ON, DAD!

The sun’s shining, not a cloud to be seen,
A day made in heaven, isn't it keen?
Wow, can you believe such a glorious sight,
A dream come true, a fantasy delight!

Dad! Hey, Dad! Something’s not right.
Mom’s upstairs crying. Did you have a fight?
No one is laughing or having any fun.
Dad, what’s wrong? Is it something I’ve done?

Come on, Dad, this is your day.
Get up, get going; come on and play.
Why are you sitting and staring at space?
Have you forgotten? Is this our same place?

I’m here, Dad! Can’t you see I’m right here?
I’m here in your heart; isn’t that clear?
I’m here in your thoughts and all that you do.
I’ve never been gone from any of you.

Our love lives forever. It won’t go away.
That’s why we’ll always share this day.
Put on a smile, not an ugly ole
frown. Come on, Dad . . . Don’t let me down!

Enjoy your day. Share it with me.
Laugh and love our whole family.
I’m here, Dad, like I’ll always be,
Come on, Dad. Do it! Do it for me!

—Carol Cichella

A MESSAGE TO MY WIFE

The years of our marriage are few
When measured against a lifetime.
We have encountered joy
And shared confidence in our future.
We have known hope’s ending
And have borne the death of dreams.
We have, together, been diminished.
Even minor aspirations have eluded
Our grasp in the cruel shadow
Of the loss of our child.
Yet, we still share our lives,
And though the brightness we
Once knew has fled,
We have grown enough to sense
A return of laughter — an uplifting
To shatter the dimness, to remind us
That tomorrow will come and
Dreams may again be born.

—Don Hackett

Sunlight dancing in the branches
Of the birch tree at my door.
Meadow stretching smug and lazy,
Darker, greener, than before.

Wind as warm as hugging children,
Clouds so round and very close,
And one small grave there
trembles
Lovingly, an early rose.

—Sascha Wagner

SOME WAYS TO HELP A GRIEVING SPOUSE

1. Assign top priority to your marriage relationship.
2. Cultivate transparency, openness, and honesty.
3. Accept the pain that you feel. Be willing to share it and to listen to your spouse’s expression of the pain he or she is feeling.
4. Be patient with your spouse and with yourself. Recognize that your spouse is probably not at the same place in the grief process as you, and that is okay.
5. Don’t expect your spouse to be your only source of healing.
6. Keep working at communicating. Give special attention to your affection for each other. Learn and practice gestures of love. Remember to stay in touch physically; the importance of human touching and hugging is hard to overestimate.
7. Allow or create space in your relationship. Everyone is entitled to a degree of privacy with his feelings, including his grief.
8. Allow yourselves to enjoy life and each other. Be willing to laugh together, as well as to cry together. Work at finding some fun things to do together.
9. Help each other to remember that life is more than this child who has died. As important as this child is to you, and as much as you feel pain over his or her death, your marriage relationship involves far more than this child.

—Howard Cupp

TO MY HUSBAND

My love, these past few months
Seem to have paralyzed us
In pain and anguish,
And I know, in that state,
The flow of communication becomes stilted.

The love we have and share
Is forever, darling.
But I realize that you have felt,
As have I, a separateness in our grief.
It’s alright, you know, dear.
I guess it is the nature of a loss so
devastating
That, no matter how we try to
comfort one another
Along the strange path of grieving,
We sometimes feel so alone.

We have done marvelously, my love.
We talked, cried, and remembered
our son
With tears and smiles.
I know we will laugh again,
My dearest beloved.
We will laugh again—I promise.

—Molly Murphy

NOW I KNOW

I never knew, when you lost your
child,
What you were going through.
I wasn’t there, I stayed away,
I just deserted you.

I didn’t know the words to say,
I didn’t know the things to do.
I think your pain so frightened me,
I didn’t know how to comfort you.

And then one day my child died.
You were the first one there.
You quietly stayed by my side, listened,
And held me as I cried.

You didn’t leave, you didn’t go.
The lesson learned is . . . NOW I KNOW.

—Alice Kerr
WHO WILL LOVE YOU?

Who will love you when I’m gone,
Whisper your name when twilight comes,
Long to touch your hand, then shed a tear,
Or write a poem to you
As I have often done?

Who will love you when I’m gone,
Sit in silence in your lonely room
And dream of times when I could
Watch you in your sleep
As I have often done?

Who will love you when I’m gone
And keep you in his breast
And feel the gaping pain
That makes me weep
As I have often done?

Who will love you when I’m gone
And stir up childhood memories
Of sandboxes, swings and trains?
I will, my son, for we will be
Together in eternity,

—David Ziv

It is against the natural order of life to bury our children. As parents and educators, we can, in time, reconcile ourselves to the loss of a child through accident or illness. But the choice of a child to end his or her own life is a different matter. We who are dedicated to nurturing human potential are appalled. Suddenly, part of the future is gone forever.

Tomorrow in the United States approximately 1,000 adolescents will attempt suicide. Eighteen will succeed. During the same period, twice as many young adults between the ages of 20 and 24 will end their lives.

—Maxine Seibel and Joseph N. Muray
RECOGNIZING CHILDREN’S GRIEF

How will adults know when a grieving child needs extra help?
The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry advises parents and teachers to consider referring a child for therapeutic counseling if these grief related symptoms persist for an extended period:
1. Severe depression that results in little interest in daily activities
2. Inability to eat and sleep normally
3. Fear of being alone
4. Imitation of the deceased
5. Repeatedly wishing to join the deceased
6. Loss of interest in play and friends
7. Refusal to attend school
8. Steady drop in school achievement.

—American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Across a range of behaviors—drinking, dating, spending time unsupervised—18-year-olds now act more like 15-year-olds used to, and 15-year-olds more like 13-year-olds. Childhood now stretches will into high school. Are today’s teens waiting longer to take on both the responsibilities and the pleasures of adulthood? Shifts in the economy, in parenting, certainly play a role. In an information economy that rewards higher education more than early work history, parents may be inclined to encourage their kids to stay home and study rather than to get a part-time job. Teens, in turn, seem to be content with this homebody arrangement—not because they’re so studious, but because their social life is lived on their phone. They don’t need to leave home to spend time with their friends.

—Jean M. Twenge

Prying the phone out of our kids’ hands will be difficult, even more so than the quixotic efforts of my parents’ generation to get their kids to turn off MTV and get some fresh air. But more seems to be at stake in urging teens to use their phones responsibly, and there are benefits to be gained even if all we instill in our children is the importance of moderation. Significant effects on both mental health and sleep time appear after two or more hours a day on electronic devices. The average teen spends about two and a half hours a day on electronic devices. Some mild boundary setting could be keep kids from falling into harmful habits.

—Jean M. Twenge
It will require a struggle to make America reality-based again. Fight the good fight in your private life. You needn’t get into an argument with the stranger at Chipotle who claims that George Soros and Uber are plotting to make his muscle car illegal—but do not give acquaintances and friends and family members free passes. If you have children or grandchildren, teach them to distinguish between true and untrue as fiercely as you do between right and wrong and between wise and foolish.

—Kurt Andersen

Allow children to be happy in their own way, for what better way will they ever find?

—Samuel Johnson

We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

In all our efforts to provide ‘advantages’ we have actually produced the busiest, most competitive, highly pressured, and over-organized generation of youngsters in our history—and possibly the unhappiest.

--Eda J. LeShan

I believe the recipe for happiness to be just enough money to pay the monthly bills you acquire, a little surplus to give you confidence, a little too much work each day, enthusiasm for your work, a substantial share of good health, a couple of real friends, and a wife and children to share life’s beauty with you.

--J. Kenfield Morley

We, the children, are so full of repressed resentments against the tyrannies inflicted upon us by our parents, and so full of repressed shame at the slavery to which we subjected them, that we cannot bear a word against them. The sentimentality with which we regard the home is an exact measure of the secret grudge we actually bear against it.

--Floyd Dell

Out of some forty families I have been able to observe, I know hardly four in which the parents do not act in such a way that nothing would be more desirable for the child than to escape their influence.

--Andre Gide

Govern a family as you would cook a small fish—very gently.

--Chinese Proverb
It is pleasant to have the family grow, too; in the chances of this world, the more the merrier is the best motto; I have always a little uneasiness when there is only one child. It is too much to stake so much love singly.

--George E. Woodberry

Sacred family!...The supposed home of all the virtues, where innocent children are tortured into their first falsehoods, where wills are broken by parental tyranny, and self-respect smothered by crowded, jostling egos.

--August Strindberg

Families with babies and families without babies are sorry for each other.

--E. W. Howe

Happy are the families where the government of parents is the reign of affection, and obedience of the children the submission of love.

--sentencedict.com

A man can’t get rich if he takes proper care of his family.

--Navajo Saying

The family you come from isn’t as important as the family you’re going to have.

--Ring Lardner

Children in a family are like flowers in a bouquet: there’s always one determined to face in an opposite direction from the way the arranger desires.

--Marcelene Cox

Four years old: My Daddy can do anything.
Seven years old: My Dad knows a lot.
Nine years: Dad doesn’t know quite everything.
Twelve: Dad just doesn’t understand.
Fourteen: Dad is old fashioned.
Twenty-one: That man is out of touch.
Twenty-five: Dad’s okay.
Thirty: I wonder what Dad thinks about this.
Thirty-five: I must get Dad’s input first.
Fifty: What would Dad have thought about that?
Sixty: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

--It Starts on the Frontline
It was the policy of the good old gentleman to make his children feel that home was the happiest place in the world; and I value this delicious home-feeling as one of the choicest gifts a parent can bestow.

--Washington Irving

The place of the father in the modern suburban family is a very small one, particularly if he plays golf.

--Bertrand Russell

Probably there is nothing in human nature more resonant with charges than the flow of energy between two biologically alike bodies, one of which has lain in amniotic bliss inside the other, one of which has laboured to give birth to the other. The materials are here for the deepest mutuality and the most painful estrangement.

--Adrienne Rich

When a child enters the world through you, it alters everything on a psychic, psychological and purely practical level. You’re just not free anymore to do what you want to do. And it’s not the same again. Ever.

--Jane Fonda

Claudia...remembered that when she’d had her first baby she had realised with astonishment that the perfect couple consisted of a mother and child and not, as she had always supposed, a man and woman.

--Alice Thomas Ellis

When you were small
And just a touch away,
I covered you with blankets
Against the cool night air.
But now that you are tall
And out of reach,
I fold my hands
And cover you with prayer.

--Dona Maddux Cooper

Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

--Marion C. Garretty

No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother’s love.

--Edwin H. Chapin
A mother’s love is like a circle, it has no beginning and no ending. It keeps going around and around ever expanding, touching everyone who comes in contact with it. Engulfing them like the morning’s mist, warming them like the noontime sun, and covering them like a blanket of evening stars. A mother’s love is like a circle, it has no beginning and no ending.

--Art Urban

I’d rather be a mother
Than anyone on earth
Bringing up a child or two
Of unpretentious birth.
I’d rather nurse a rosy babe
With warm lips on my breast
Than warm lips on my breast
Than wear a queen’s medallion
Above a heart less blest.
I’d rather tuck a little child
All safe and sound in bed—
Than twine a chain of diamonds
About my foolish head.
I’d rather wash a smudgy face
With round, bright baby eyes—
Than paint the pageantry of fame,
Or walk among the wise.

--Meredith Gray

No one family form—nuclear, extended, single-parent, matrilineal, patrilineal, fictive, residential, nonresidential—necessarily provides an environment better for humans to live or raise children in. Wife beating, child abuse, psychological terror, material deprivation and malnutrition take place in each of those family forms. And our responsibility, whether single parents or coparents or no parents at all, is to do all in our power to help create a healthy nonoppressive family environment for every living human being.

--Dr. Johnetta B. Cole

It is important for practical and psychological reasons to call any reasonably stable group that rears children a family....The advantage of this view is that traditional and nontraditional families can all be seen to serve the interests of children. Children can also feel comfortable with an approved family form, even if it is not traditional.

--Sandra Scarr
The mortgage is still in our name but, increasingly, the house is theirs. One diaper, one vote.

--Fred G. Gosman

To be sure, changes in American family structure have been fairly continuous since the first European settlements, but today these changes seem to be occurring so rapidly that the shift is no longer a simple extension of long-term trends. We have passed a genuine watershed: this is the first time in our history that the typical school-age child has a mother who works outside the home.

--Kenneth Keniston

Families need families. Parents need to be parented. Grandparents, aunts, and uncles are back in fashion because they are necessary. Stresses on many families are out of proportion to anything two parents can handle.

--T. Berry Brazelton

It is misleading to discuss recent changes in family life without emphasizing the fact that for generations some Americans have had to raise children under particularly appalling pressures. Although much of what is worrying American parents is shared by them all, the most grievous problems are those that especially afflict a large minority—the poor, the nonwhite and, in various ways, the parents of handicapped children.

--Kenneth Keniston

What we have seen in the way of adaptation and adjustment seems to indicate that families are adjusting parenting to the world of work, rather than the labor markets and industries responding to the parenting and family needs of their employees.

--Sheila B. Kamerman

There are no adequate substitutes for father, mother, and children bound together in a loving commitment to nurture and protect. No government, no matter how well-intentioned, can take the place of the family in the scheme of things.

--Gerald R. Ford

Our notion of the perfect society embraces the family as its center and ornament, and this paradise is not secure until children appear to animate and complete the picture.

--Amos Bronson Alcott
Family is the first school for young children, and parents are powerful models.  

--Alice Sterling Honig

The numbers are stark: One in four U.S. students will witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of 4, and more than two-thirds by age 16. These children do not—they cannot—simply close their eyes to what they’ve seen or experienced. With each forced eviction, each arrest of an adult in their home, each abuse to their own bodies, an instinctive trigger to ‘fight or flee’ is pulled over and again. Over time, a child’s developing brain is changed by these repeated traumatic experiences. Areas that govern the retention of memory, the regulation of emotion, and the development of language skills are affected. The result is a brain that has structurally adapted for survival under the most stressful circumstances—but not for success in school.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

There are fathers who do not love their children; there is no grandfather who does not adore his grandson.

--Victor Hugo

The most wonderful thing ever made by man is a living for his family.

—Thomas A. Edison

Most jobs today are still structured the same way they were 50 years ago, when most families had someone who could stay at home.

--Joan Blades

Teach a child to play solitaire, and she’ll be able to entertain herself when there’s no one around. Teach her tennis, and she’ll know what to do when she’s on a court. But raise her to feel comfortable in nature, and the whole planet is her home.

—Joyce Maynard

The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.

—Plato

Womanliness means only motherhood; All love begins and ends there.

--Robert Browning

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother.

—Lin Yutang
The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.

—Honore De Balzac

Because even if the whole world was throwing rocks at you, if you had your mother at your back, you’d be okay. Some deep-rooted part of you would know you were loved. That you deserved to be loved.

—Jojo Moyes

No one worries about you like your mother, and when she is gone, the world seems unsafe, things that happen unwieldy. You cannot turn to her anymore, and it changes your life forever. There is no one on earth who knew you from the day you were born; who knew why you cried, or when you’d had enough food; who knew exactly what to say when you were hurting; and who encouraged you to grow a good heart. When that layer goes, whatever is left of your childhood goes with her.

—Adriana Trigiani

I will look after you and I will look after anybody you say needs to be looked after, any way you say. I am here. I brought my whole self to you. I am your mother.

—Maya Angelou

Motherhood is a choice you make everyday, to put someone else’s happiness and well-being ahead of your own, to teach the hard lessons, to do the right thing even when you’re not sure what the right thing is...and to forgive yourself, over and over again, for doing everything wrong.

—Donna Ball

Mothers and their children are in a category all their own. There’s no bond so strong in the entire world. No love so instantaneous and forgiving.

—Gail Tsukiyama

As mothers and daughters, we are connected with one another. My mother is the bones of my spine, keeping me straight and true. She is my blood, making sure it runs rich and strong. She is the beating of my heart. I cannot now imagine a life without her.

—Kristin Hannah

Who fed me from her gentle breast
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheek sweet kisses prest?
My Mother.

—Ann Taylor
Who ran to help me when I fell,  
And would some pretty story tell,  
Or kiss the place to make it well?  
My mother.  

—Ann Taylor

The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men—from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms.  

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.  

—Unknown

STORY TELLING

Most every night when they’re in bed,  
And both their little prayers have said,  
They shout for me to come upstairs  
And tell them tales of gypsies bold,  
And eagles with the claws that hold  
A baby’s weight, and fairy sprites  
That roam the woods on starry nights.  
And I must illustrate these tales,  
Must imitate the northern gales  
That toss the native man’s canoe,  
And show the way he paddles, too.  
If in the story comes a bear,  
I have to pause and sniff the air  
And show the way he climbs the trees  
To steal the honey from the bees.  
And then I buzz like angry bees  
And sting him on his nose and knees  
And howl in pain, till mother cries:  
‘That pair will never shut their eyes,  
While all that noise up there you make;  
You’re simply keeping them awake.’  
And then they whisper: ‘Just one more,’  
And once again I’m forced to roar.  
New stories every night they ask.  
And that is not an easy task;  
I have to be so many things,
The frog that croaks, the lark that sings,
The cunning fox, the frightened hen;
But just last night they stumped me, when
They wanted me to twist and squirm
And imitate an angle worm.
At last, they tumble off to sleep,
And softly from their room I creep
And brush and comb the shock of hair
I tossed about to be a bear.
Then mother says: ‘Well, I should say
You’re just as much a child as they.’
But you can bet I’ll not resign
That story telling job of mine.

--Edgar A. Guest

I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren’t trying to teach us. We are formed by the little scraps of wisdom.

—Umberto Eco

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, ‘You’re tearing up the grass.’ ‘We’re not raising grass,’ Dad would reply. ‘We’re raising boys.’

—Harmon Killebrew

A father is the one friend upon whom we can always rely. In the hour of need, when all else fails, we remember him upon whose knees we sat when children, and who soothed our sorrows; and even though he may be unable to assist us, his mere presence serves to comfort and strengthen us.

—Émile Gaboriau

One night a father overheard his son pray: Dear God, Make me the kind of man my Daddy is. Later that night, the Father prayed, Dear God, Make me the kind of man my son wants me to be.

—Unknown

The instant he lays eyes on her, a father adores his daughter. Whoever she grows up to be, she is always to him that little girl in pigtails. She makes him feel like Christmas. In exchange, he makes a secret promise not to see the awkwardness of her teenage years, the mistakes she makes or the secrets she keeps.

—Unknown
There will always be a few people who have the courage to love what is untamed inside us. One of those men is my father.

—Alison Lohman

I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father’s protection.

—Sigmund Freud

**ODE TO DAD ON FATHER’S DAY**

You taught me how to walk  
and taught me how to talk  
you taught me to be strong  
and read me books for hours long.

You blew kisses on my scraped knees  
from falling off a bicycle  
You held me up and assured me  
that everything will be okay.

You watched me reach for the star,  
Impossible it may be by far  
But you were there by my side  
With confidence you offered in stride.

On this Father’s Day dear dad,  
I am grateful for all that you’ve done,  
This world we’re in may not be perfect,  
But I thank you endlessly for bringing me in it!

—B. Arlene Murray

That’s the way of a Father. To teach and inspire his children to do good of their own free will rather than fear of somebody else. That’s the difference between a slave’s Master and a child’s Father.

—Terence (160 B.C.)

**TO MY DADDY!!**

You were there from the day I was born, as I grew older you taught me how to crawl, walk, and ride a bike. You walked me in on my first day of school, and as I hugged you goodbye I saw you tear up. You were a single father and doing your best to take care of me with no help. You overcame so many issues and obstacles because
you knew what was best. As I grew to big for your lap I could see you were hurting. You were there to hold me when I had my first heart break and you tried your best to keep me from another one. But as I grew more into my teenage years I never wanted to listen to your advice because I thought I knew everything. You watched me graduate and i never thought i would ever see you cry the way you did. i remember how I would always wish that I was older so I could move out and make my own rules but now that I am I wish I was little again I wish I could crawl in your lap and just stay there. You didn’t give me everything I wanted in life but you made sure I had what I needed you are the best father in the whole world!!! I love you dad and thanks for not giving up.

—Unknown

A father is the driving force of the family who is always content to take a back seat.

—Linda Poindexter

You know dad, looking back i realized something and you know what that is? without you, i wouldn’t be who i am, i’d be nothing kind of like a pop without its fizz you were there for me whenever you could be and when you couldn’t you did everything you could to support me even if you said you shouldn’t you went out of your way to do many things for me and i know you wouldn’t have it any other way that i can see.

You spent your life teaching me, helping me, doing everything you could for me, and everything that was said impossible, you proved wrong that shows me the love you had for me you did all this and more as you sent me out in the world afraid for me, but knowing i would be the man you set me out to be, and more

For that Father... Dad... daddy, i thank you I love you so very much, more then you could ever imagine...

Happy Fathers Day, Daddy

—Angel Reyes
A MESSAGE FOR FATHER’S DAY:

When you’re little, there is nothing that brings as much light into your life as standing in the shadow of your father.

And, as you grow old, there is nothing that brings as much light into your heart as those memories of standing in the shadow of your father.

—Susan Gale

MY DAD

He isn’t much in the eyes of the world; He’ll never make history.
No, he isn’t much in the eyes of the world, But he is the world to me.
My dad, now here is a man.
To me he is ev’rything strong; no he can’t do wrong, my dad.
My dad, now he understands when I bring him troubles to share;
Oh, he’s always there, my dad.
When I was small I felt ten feet tall.
When I walked by his side
And ev’ry one would say, ‘that’s his son,’
and my heart would burst with pride.
My dad, oh, I love him so,
And I only hope that some day my own son will say,
‘My dad, now here is a man.’
My dad, now here is a man.
To me he is ev’rything strong; no he can’t do wrong, my dad.
My dad, now he understands when I bring him troubles to share;
Oh, he’s always there, my dad.
When I was small I felt ten feet tall.
When I walked by his side
And ev’ry one would say, ‘that’s his son,’
and my heart would burst with pride.
My dad, oh, I love him so,
And I only hope that some day my own son will say,
My Dad.

—Barry Mann &
Cynthia Weil

A girl’s first true love is her father.

—Marisol Santiago
I watched a small man with thick calluses on both hands work fifteen and sixteen hours a day. I saw him once literally bleed from the bottoms of his feet, a man who came here uneducated, alone, unable to speak the language, who taught me all I needed to know about faith and hard work by the simple eloquence of his example.

---Mario Cuomo

Dads are amazing. They have a special way of maneuvering through all the roadblocks you might create and refusing to stop until they reach your heart.

---Susan Gale

Yes, it is possible to be loved more than anybody else, more than everything else.....it is possible to find a man that will love you the way you wanted to, it is possible to be loved by a man unconditionally, it is possible to have the man of your dreams........it is possible because it happened to me......I love you daddy!!!!!!

---Unknown

A father’s smile has been known to light up a child’s entire day.

---Susan Gale

A true father is always there. He is there to spill tears of happiness when his eyes fall upon his infant daughter. He is there with arms to catch her when she takes her first steps or stumbles. He is there to teach her at the youngest age, even though she might not understand half of it. He is there to help her color inside the lines, make her grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, and tie her shoes. He is there to hug her and kiss her on her first days of school, and to walk her in if need be. He is there to teach her and tease her and laugh with her. He is always there to embarrass her, but that’s part of life. He is there to tell her to go ask her mother, when her mother told her to ask him. He is there to lecture her, prepare her for the monster called high school. He is there to put up with her teenage moods and her co-ed relationships. He is there to approve, disapprove, accept and forgive. He is there to give her a big bundle of flowers when she graduates, to smile when her name is called and feel proud. He is there to embrace her and kiss her before she goes to live and learn a thousand miles away. He is there to see her become a workingwoman, to walk her down the aisle (or not, if her independence and stubbornness prevail after all). He is there to watch her grow as the lines on his face grow. He is there to welcome her home, always, and let her hug him and smell the smell she remembers from childhood, the warm, protecting, comforting smell of dad. But most of all, he is always there to love her. And she is always there to love him back no matter where he is.

---Katie Schmarr
It doesn’t matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was.
—Anne Sexton

A dad is... someone who
wants to catch you before you fall
but instead picks you up,
brushes you off,
and lets you try again.

A dad is... someone who
wants to keep you from making mistakes
but instead lets you find your own way,
even though his heart breaks in silence
when you get hurt.

A dad is... someone who
holds you when you cry,
scoolds you when you break the rules,
shines with pride when you succeed,
and has faith in you even when you fail.
—Unknown

When my father didn’t have my hand....he had my back.
—Linda Poindexter

MY FATHER...
He was there when I didn’t understand, he was there when I was wrong, he was there when I cried, he was there when I lied. For some reason my dad was always there, when I needed him the most. His love was never ending. And now that he’s gone there is an emptiness in my world, but not in my heart.
—Michael Jordan

a father is someone that
holds your hand at the fair
makes sure you do what your mother says
holds back your hair when you are sick
brushes that hair when it is tangled because mother is too busy
lets you eat ice cream for breakfast
but only when mother is away
he walks you down the aisle
and tells you everything’s gonna be ok
—Unknown
A father is someone who carries pictures in his wallet where his money used to be.  
—Unknown

DAD,
When i was born,
You were there to catch me when i fall,
whenever and wherever.
When i said my first words,
You were there for me,
to teach me the whole dictionary if need be.
When i took my first steps,
You were there to encourage me on.
When i had my first day at school,
you were there to give me advice and help me with my homework.
I still haven’t finished school,
or walked down the aisle, or had my first child.
But i know you will be there for me through all these times and more, the good and bad.
So i just wrote this to say ‘I LOVE YOU DAD!!!’
—Louisa Mansfield

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.
—Jim Valvano

Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child will be going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken.
—Bill Dodds

The shortest night of the year is Christmas Eve—from sundown to son up.
--Burton Hillis

Clearly there are common sense things we can do to help children to have better lives and keep them from becoming so despondent that their only perceived solution is to kill themselves or others. How oblivious do we have to be to the inner turmoil of our own children to not see what they’re going through, and then suggest when they completely snap with homicidal violence, it must’ve been the video games?  
--Edward M. Wolfe
To nourish children and raise them against odds is in any time, any place, more valuable than to fix bolts in cars or design nuclear weapons.

—Marilyn French

I have 10 grandkids, including two great-grandkids. Make that 11—they snuck one in on me. You watch them crawl around the floor, trying to talk, behavin’ and misbehavin’. Then I realized I only could have seen this had I made 65.

—George Foreman

When I’m an old lady, I’ll live with each kid,
And bring so much happiness just as they did.
I want to pay back all the joy they’ve provided.
Returning each deed! Oh, they’ll be so excited!
When I’m an old lady and live with my kids.
I’ll write on the walls with reds, whites and blues,
And I’ll bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.
I’ll drink from the carton and then leave it out.
I’ll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they’ll shout!
When I’m an old lady and live with my kids.
When they’re on the phone and just out of reach,
I’ll get into things like sugar and bleach.
Oh, they’ll snap their fingers and then shake their head,
When I’m an old lady and live with my kids.
When they cook dinner and call me to eat,
I’ll not eat my green beans or salad or meat,
I’ll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table,
And when they get angry I’ll run if I’m able!
When I’m an old lady and live with my kids.
I’ll sit close to the TV, through channels I’ll click,
I’ll cross both eyes just to see if they stick.
I’ll take off my socks and throw one away,
And play in the mud ’til the end of the day!
When I’m an old lady and live with my kids.
And later in bed, I’ll lay back and sigh,
I’ll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.
My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping,
And say with a groan, ‘She’s so sweet when she’s sleeping!’

—Joanne Bailey Baxter
A child is the most expensive thing you can get for free.  
—Internet Meme

Being a grandmother is like acting. It’s a flight into another place. What I love so much about acting is escaping—my whole persona, my body, gets to be in somebody else’s. When you see this new life come into the world, it’s the same thing. You transcend. You escape the shackles of the world you know.  
—Blythe Danner

Grandmothers can no longer be defined by age, appearance, style or energy levels. We are just Mothers who were incredibly Blessed and suddenly became GRAND!!  
—Unknown

As I grew older I thought the best part of my life was over. Then I was handed my first grandchild and realized…the best part of my life had just begun.  
—T-Shirt Slogan

While grandma looks forward to special moments with her grandchild, she must now schedule those moments in between her other engagements, like working, working out, and being worked over (nails and hair).  
—Paul Linden

Grandmothers are to life what the PhD. is to education. There is nothing you can feel, taste, expect, predict, or want that the grandmothers in your family do not know about in detail.  
—Lois Wyse

I hate being a grandfather. It’s indecent. In my mind’s eye, I’m still twenty-five. Thirty-three max. Certainly not sixty-seven, reeking of decay and dashed hopes. My breath sour. My limbs in dire need of a lube job. And now that I’ve been blessed with a plastic hip-socket replacement, I’m no longer even biodegradable. Environmentalists will protest my burial.  
—Mordecai Richler

I learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage.  
—seniorresource.com

A lucky farmer is one who has raised a bumper crop of good boys.  
--Unknown
The baby boom has become the grandparent boom: There are now more grandparents in the U.S. than ever before—some 70 million, according to the latest census. That's a 24 percent increase since 2001. In fact, of all adults over 30, more than 1 in 3 were grandparents as of 2014.

---AARP Bulletin

Grandparenting is healthy for us. Being in touch with the younger generation literally beefs up the immune system.

---Lillian Carson

We have to learn to remind the other parents who think we’re being careless when we loosen our grip that we are actually trying to teach our children how to get along in the world, and that we believe this is our job. A child who can fend for himself is a lot safer than one forever coddled, because the coddled child will not have Mom or Dad around all the time, even though they act as if he will.

---Lenore Skenazy

Alf then told John he must choose between going with Mummy or staying with Daddy. If you want to tear a small child in two, there is no better way.

---Philip Norman

The hardest crop to raise on a farm are the boys of the family.

---Unknown

We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves.

---Neil Gaiman

Playdate. (n) A Date arranged by adults in which young children are brought together, usually at the home of one of them, for the premeditated purpose of 'playing.' A feature of contemporary American upscale suburban life in which 'neighborhoods' have ceased to exist, and children no longer trail in and out of 'neighbor childrens' houses or play in 'backyards.' In the absence of sidewalks in newer 'gated' communities, children cannot 'walk' to playdates but must be driven by adults, usually mothers. A 'playdate' is never initiated by the players (i.e., children), but only by their mothers.

In American-suburban social climbing through playdating, this is the chapter you’ve been awaiting.

---Joyce Carol Oates
My father kept me busy from dawn to dusk when I was a kid. When I wasn’t pitching hay, hauling corn or running a tractor, I was heaving a baseball into his mitt behind the barn... If all the parents in the country followed his rule, juvenile delinquency would be cut in half in a year’s time.

—Bob Feller

If you want to recapture your youth, just cut off his allowance.

—Al Bernstein

I’m madly in love with my children. Having a kid opens your heart up to the universe, all of the suffering, all of the joy, all of the pain, all the failure, all the guilt—everything gets opened up when you’re a parent.

—Ted Danson

Children have a lot more to worry about from the parents who raised them than from the books they read.

—E. L. Doctorow

The single biggest predictor of high academic achievement and high ACT scores is reading to children. Not flash cards, not workbooks, not fancy preschools, not blinking toys or computers, but Mom or Dad taking the time every day or night (or both) to sit and read them wonderful books.

—First Grade Fun Times

Motherhood is about raising and celebrating the child you have, not the child you thought you would have. It’s about understanding that he is exactly the person he is supposed to be.

—Joan Ryan

Teacher: How old is your father?
Kid: He is 6 years.
Teacher: What? How is this possible?
Kid: He became father only when I was born.

—Internet Meme

To know that everything we say and do to this new little human being may have a profound effect on him or her is a daunting obligation.

—Gloria Estefan
The government alone can’t teach our kids to learn...children can’t achieve unless we raise their expectations and turn off the television sets and eradicate the slander that says a black youth with a book is acting white.

—Barack Obama

Everywhere he went he saw this same phenomenon—parents unmindful of their children, their attention fixed on little glass windows in the palms of their hands, mesmerized like drug addicts, longing for some artificial connection while their own flesh and blood careened wildly through a chaotic and violent world behind their backs. The writer was even worse. He invented false worlds and peopled them with ghosts while his motherless son scanned the horizon for a human connection. It was shameful. What did a man need to lose to be shaken from his immersion in a dream? What terminal force could liberate him from the pursuit of phantoms and engage him in the living world around him?

--Douglas Wynne

It’s 5:22pm you’re in the grocery checkout line. Your three-year-old is writhing on the floor, screaming, because you have refused to buy her a Teletubby pinwheel. Your six-year-old is whining, repeatedly, in a voice that could saw through cement, ‘But mommy, puleeze, puleeze’ because you have not bought him the latest ‘Lunchables,’ which features, as the four food groups, Cheetos, a Snickers, Cheez Whiz, and Twizzlers. Your teenager, who has not spoken a single word in the past four days, except, ‘You’ve ruined my life,’ followed by ‘Everyone else has one,’ is out in the car, sulking, with the new rap-metal band Piss on the Parentals blasting through the headphones of a Discman. To distract yourself, and to avoid the glares of other shoppers who have already deemed you the worst mother in America, you leaf through People magazine. Inside, Uma Thurman gushes ‘Motherhood is Sexy.’ Moving on to Good Housekeeping, Vanna White says of her child, ‘When I hear his cry at six-thirty in the morning, I have a smile on my face, and I’m not an early riser.’ Another unexpected source of earth-mother wisdom, the newly maternal Pamela Lee, also confides to People, ‘I just love getting up with him in the middle of the night to feed him or soothe him.’ Brought back to reality by stereophonic whining, you indeed feel as sexy as Rush Limbaugh in a thong.

--Susan Douglas

You can have a good morning or you can get your kids to school on time but you can’t have both.

—@OneFunnyMummy

The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent.

—Sam Levenson
Momsplaining: When one mom condescendingly explains proper parenting to another mom.

—Mike Spohr

The home is the child’s first school, the parent is the child’s first teacher, and reading is the child’s first subject.

—Barbara Bush

At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent.

—Barbara Bush

Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better.

—Magda Gerber

A word about TV: If a television is on, an infant will stare at it. This is not a sign of advanced development. TV entertains at a cost. Young children easily become dependent on the TV for stimulation and lose some of their natural drive to explore. A child with a plastic cup and spoon, a few wooden blocks, and a board book can think up fifty creative ways to use those objects; a child in front of a TV can only do one thing.

--Benjamin Spock

The children of strict parents are often more effective liars, due to the need to avoid punishment through deception.

—theChive

Aaron is a popular name among parents who don’t want to read the entire book of baby names.

—Barry Colthorpe

It’s the parents’ job to find books for kids that they’re gonna love. A lot of parents don’t get that. One of my best friends’ wife died when his boys were young, and he did a great job. But it didn’t occur to him that it was his job to find books for the kids.

—James Patterson
SUMMER RULES

HAVE YOU:

_____ MADE YOUR BED?
_____ BRUSHED YOUR TEETH?
_____ BRUSHED YOUR HAIR?
_____ GOTTEN DRESSED?
_____ HAD BREAKFAST?

Plus

_____ 20 MINUTES OF READING
_____ 20 MINUTES OF WRITING/COLORING
_____ CLEAN UP ONE ROOM
_____ PLAYED OUTSIDE FOR 20 MINUTES
_____ MADE/BUILT SOMETHING CREATIVE
_____ HELPED SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY

THEN YOU CAN USE ELECTRONICS

—Internet Meme

One hundred years ago, 16 percent of the babies born in this country died before age 5. Imagine telling our great-grandmothers, ‘Today babies don’t die.’ They’d think, How in the world did that come about? Well, it came about because of science and behavior change.

—Laura Carstensen

90% of parenting is picking bits of one kind of food out of another kind of food.

—BadParentingMoments

Mom of boys. Less drama than girls, but harder to keep alive.

—Internet Meme

Make reading easy. If your TV is within easy reach, but books are stored on a high shelf, you can probably guess how your child will spend her free time. But if she has her own bookshelf filled with interesting books and TV time must be scheduled in advance, she’ll probably pick up a book.

—The Parent Institute
Read aloud to your child. Research shows this is probably the most important thing you can do to encourage your child’s reading success. Here are some tips from Jim Trelease’s *The Read Aloud Handbook*, an excellent book to read before you begin:

➢ Begin to read to your child as soon as possible—no matter how young.
➢ Try to set aside time every day for reading aloud. You can start with just 10 minutes a day.
➢ Remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually. Vary the length and subject matter of your reading.

And here some read-aloud don’ts, also from *The Read Aloud Handbook*:

➢ Don’t read stories you don’t enjoy yourself.
➢ Don’t be surprised if your child interrupts with a lot of questions. Answer his questions right away.
➢ Don’t confuse quantity with quality. Your child will remember 10 minutes of reading together far longer than he’ll remember two hours of television.
➢ Don’t compete with the television. Trelease says that if parents ask children if they prefer a story or TV, kids will usually choose television. But, he says, ‘since you are the adult, you choose.’ Tell your child the TV will be turned off at 8:30—regardless. If he wants a story, fine. If he doesn’t, that’s okay, too. But don’t give your child the idea that books are the reason he can’t watch TV.

— The Parent Institute

Do you remember how hard it was to put away a good book just because it was bedtime? Did you bring a flashlight to bed to try to sneak in a few extra pages before your parents caught you?

Why not relax your family’s bedtime rules once a week? Let your child know he can stay up as late as he wants...as long as he is reading in bed. He’ll probably fall asleep soon anyway.

Choose a weekend night when your child can sleep late the next morning. You might even want to plan a special bedtime snack. You’ll encourage your child to read for pleasure...and help them find out that reading is fun.

— The Parent Institute

Today in an auditorium full of parents my son scanned the room looking for me. When he saw me his face lit up the room. He wasn’t looking for the perfect parent. He was looking of his mom. Don’t ever forget the power of simply being their mom.

— Rachel Marie Martin
How can you tell whether a book is on your child’s reading level? Some educators suggest using the ‘rule of thumb.’ Have your child read a page of the book aloud. Have her hold up one finger for each word she does not know. If she holds up four fingers and a thumb before the end of the page, the book is probably too hard for her to read alone. But it might be a great book to read aloud

—The Parent Institute

Limit the amount of TV your child watches. Studies show that kids who spend more than 10 hours a week watching television do worse in reading than kids whose parents set limits on TV time. Some families give their children ‘TV tickets,’ each good for 30 minutes of television time. When the tickets are gone, the set is turned off for the week. In some families, kids can redeem unused tickets for money (to buy books, of course). The same idea works for video games and computer time.

—The Parent Institute

When his English teacher-turned-radiologist dad and secretary-turned-social worker mom divorced, they consulted Monks. They said, ‘We both love you, and we’re not going to take it personally. We just want to have your opinion about who you’d like to live with most of the time.’ Monks chose his mom, and now, he jokes with her about his first thoughts: I remember thinking, ‘My mom is the one with the color television.’

—Keysha Whitaker

Socialized medicine is one of the accomplishments on which the British Labour Party prides itself most. Members of the American Medical Association, horrified that something of the same nature may be on its way over here, will like the story of what happened to one young married lady in London who believed that she was in the family way and went to the public health station to make sure. The doctor there gave her a cursory examination, assured her that her suspicions were well founded, and then, to her astonishment, simply took a rubber stamp, printed something with it on her abdomen, and said ‘That’s all.’ She reported the strange goings on to her husband that evening, and he, of course, asked, ‘What does it say?’ ‘I can’t read it,’ she admitted. He, too, found upon inspection that the print was too small for him, but a magnifying glass made everything clear. The inscription was, ‘When you can read this without a magnifying glass, rush your wife to the hospital.’

—Bennett Cerf

Mom, I just wanted to tell you that Mother’s Day wouldn’t be possible without me.

—Internet Meme
A farmer in Wisconsin always complaining that his wife didn’t shoulder her share of the burden, agreed to run the household one day while his wife went to Madison for a medical examination. A methodical chap, he kept a minute record of his activities. It read as follows:

Opened door for children: 106 times.
Shouted, ‘Stop, Johnny’: 94
Tied their shoes: 16
Stopped quarrels: 19
Provided glasses of water and cokes: 26
Answered phone: 11
Answered questions: 202
Ran after children: about 4 1/2 miles
Lost temper: 45 times.

The next day the farmer himself journeyed to Madison—and bought his wife the washing machine she had long coveted.

—Bennett Cerf

Reading is first and foremost a form of communication. When learning to talk, children develop the concept that words communicate thoughts, emotions, and needs. When learning to read, they develop the concept that words can communicate visually as well as orally. In order that the printed words will have meaning for them, children must have a solid foundation in language. Mastering spoken language is a key step toward mastering written language. The more experiences children have, the more they are talked to and listened to, the more stimulation they receive—the more they will be ready to read. Parents can help their children develop the needed foundation in language by talking with them and listening to them.

➢ Talk with your child while doing things together: folding laundry, driving the car, cooking.
➢ Ask your child to sequence the events of the day at dinner or at bedtime.
➢ Discuss what you’ve seen on TV or read together. Ask questions: who was your favorite character? Why? What would you have done? What do you think will happen next?
➢ Repeat favorite nursery rhymes and stories. If your child has memorized them, listen while the child tells them to you.
➢ Encourage questions and try to answer them.

—Madelyn Stoner
Learning to read is much like learning any other skill. It requires a combination of instruction, experimentation, and practice. But the first step must be motivation. The child must want to learn to read. Parents can encourage their children to read by demonstrating that they think reading is important. Parents can help their children discover the benefits of reading: new ideas...relaxation...adventure...fun.

➢ Buy as many children’s books as you can afford.
➢ Give books as gifts.
➢ Visit the library regularly.
➢ Allow your children to choose their own books. Don’t rush them.
➢ Show your children that you enjoy reading. Make sure they see you reading newspapers, magazines, and books.
➢ Set up a special place for reading.
➢ Encourage older children to read to younger children.
➢ Surround your children with words; point on street signs; label objects in the house such as table, desk, and stove.
➢ Play word games like Scrabble, Anagrams, and Ad Lib.
➢ Watch educational TV programs together. Some stress reading development (Sesame Street).
➢ Read to your child, especially at bedtime. Reread favorite stories.
➢ Ask your child to read to you.
➢ Stress the things your children do well in reading rather than any mistakes they make. Remember: success breeds success.

——Madelyn Stoner

A lady of forty discovered she was going to have a baby, and broke too loud lamentations. ‘I have sons of nineteen and eighteen away college,’ she wailed, ‘and I certainly don’t want another baby at this stage of the game.’ ‘You have nothing to worry about,’ soothed her doctor. ‘Forty is a good age for a mother to bear a child. I promise everything will go smoothly.’ ‘It’s not the baby’s birth that’s upsetting me,’ the patient announced vehemently. ‘What I simply cannot face is the thought of going through that whole routine with the Parent-Teachers Association all over again!’

——Bennett Cerf

Treat your kid like a darling for the first five years. For the next five years, scold them. By the time they turn sixteen, treat them like a friend. Your grown up children are your best friends.

——Chanakya
If you think I’m being mean, it means I’m doing my job as your mom. If I was nice, you would call me grandma.

—Internet Meme

ME TO MY 13-YEAR-OLD (2018)
Please don’t smoke, drink, vape, use weed, take pills, have sex, cyber-bully, or eat Tide Pods.
MY MOM TO 13-YEAR-OLD ME (1983)
Please don’t bring your Cabbage Patch doll to the dinner table.

—Internet Meme

Your children don’t have to fear you to respect you.

—Michael Madsen

We tend to overlook the fact that parenting is more expensive and motherhood more hazardous in United States then in any other developed country, that campaigns against family planning and reproductive rights are an assault on the families of the bottom 90 percent, and that law-and-order politics serves to keep even more of them down. We prefer to interpret their relative poverty as vice: Why can’t they get their act together?

—Matthew Stewart

At 8 a.m. the sight of my sleeping teen warms my heart. At 1 p.m., not so much.

—Internet Meme

Failing to get your kid into Stanford is not a life-altering calamity.

—Matthew Stewart

There are no bad authors for children, that children like and want to read and seek out, because every child is different. They can find the stories they need to, and they bring themselves to stories. A hackneyed, worn-out idea isn’t hackneyed and worn out to them. This is the first time the child has encountered it. Do not discourage children from reading because you feel they are reading the wrong thing. Fiction you do not like is a route to other books you may prefer. And not everyone has the same taste as you.

Well-meaning adults can easily destroy a child’s love of reading: stop them reading what they enjoy, or give them worthy-but-dull books that you like, the 21st-century equivalents of Victorian ‘improving’ literature. You’ll wind up with a generation convinced that reading is uncool and worse, unpleasant.

—Neil Gaiman
One of the visiting nurses from the Henry Street Settlement asked a young mother, 'Why do you put your baby in such a high crib?'

'We’re usually in another room,' explained the mother, 'and we want to be able to hear him when he falls out.'

—Bennett Cerf

40 Sayings From Your Parents That You Swore You’d Never Use (But Do!)
1. ‘Money doesn’t grow on trees you know….’ (famous)
2. ‘Close the door! - were you raised in a barn?’
3. ‘Here’s a dime kid…go call someone who cares.’
4. ‘Because I said so.’ (There was no where to go with this one...)
5. ‘If so and so jumped off a bridge would you jump off a bridge?’
6. ‘Stop crying before I give you something to cry about!’ (Always worked.)
7. ‘We’ll cross that bridge when we come to it.’
8. ‘Your face is going to freeze that way.’ (I believed this would happen.)
9. ‘Hold your horses.’ Which when pantomimed was usually followed by: ‘You think that’s funny? We’ll see how funny it is when you are in your room and the rest of us are...(insert something really fun).’
10. ‘I’ll wash your mouth out with soap.’
11. ‘When I was your age—I had to walk (10++++) miles to school…..’
12. ‘You’re not made of sugar, you won’t melt.’
13. ‘You’ll live.’
14. ‘You brought this on yourself.’
15. ‘This hurts me more than it hurts you.’
16. ‘Can’t never did.’
17. ‘If you do it and get caught and go to jail, you WILL spend the night.’
18. ‘ELBOWS OFF THE TABLE!’
19. ‘I brought you into this world and I’ll just as soon take you out!’
20. ‘Just WAIT till your father gets home.’
21. ‘You’ll understand when you are a parent.’
22. ‘One day, God willing, you’ll have one JUST like you.’
23. ‘And who do you think you are? The Queen of Sheeba?’ (Is there even such a place?)
24. ‘Come home when the street lights come on.’
25. ‘I was not born yesterday, Mister.’
26. ‘There are starving people in Africa who would gladly eat your dinner!’
27. ‘Don’t burn the candle at both ends.’
28. ‘You kids will be the death of me yet.’
29. ‘I suppose you think you are special, Lady Jane.’ (Who is Lady Jane anyway?)
30. ‘Don’t stir up the mud.’
31. ‘Hay is for horses.’

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32. ‘Put a sock in it.’
33. ‘Knock it off.’
34. ‘You kids go out and play in the yard.’
35. ‘You can, but you may not.’
36. ‘A roast is done, YOU are finished.’
37. ‘We’re not laughing AT you, we are laughing WITH you.’
38. They used the ‘F’ word…. ‘I FORBID it.’ It was like a double-dog dare to cross them.
39. ‘Wipe that smile off your face or I’m gonna wipe it off for you.’

and my all time favorite:

40. ‘Don’t you make me pull this car over….!' (incredibly effective with my own children)

—Monica Rodgers

The truth is, no matter how trying they become, babies two and under don’t have the ability to make moral choices, so they can’t be bad. That category only exists in the adult mind.

—Anne Cassidy

So often, children are punished for being human. Children are not allowed to have grumpy moods, bad days, disrespectful tones, or bad attitudes, yet we adults have them all the time! We think if we don't nip it in the bud, it will escalate and we will lose control. Let go of that unfounded fear and give your child permission to be human. We all have days like that. None of us are perfect, and we must stop holding our children to a higher standard of perfection than we can attain ourselves. All of the punishments you could throw at them will not stamp out their humanity, for to err is human, and we all do it sometimes.

—Rebecca Eanes

You blink and they are 8. Then 28. And then they are parents, resembling the you you once were. So take it in, mama. Let them climb into bed with you any hour of the night. Sing that song they requested for the tenth time. Hold them a little tighter when all they want is to hug on you—feel that small body against your own. Maybe in raising children you lose your mind a little bit. But boy, do you find your soul! Embrace the exhaustion. The hard days. The overwhelming. And all of the joy.

—Shannon Hankes
Be aware of the signs of anxiety: Sometimes children may say that they are anxious, but other times it is less clear—especially as they may not even realize it themselves. Signs can include:

- Recurring fears and worries about routine parts of everyday life
- Changes in behavior, such as irritability
- Avoiding activities, school, or social interactions
- Dropping grades or school avoidance
- Trouble sleeping or concentrating
- Substance use or other risky behaviors
- Chronic physical complaints, such as fatigue, headaches, or stomachaches.

—Dr. Claire McCarthy

Your children have come into this world because of the two of you. Perhaps you two made lousy choices as to whom you decided to be the other parent. If so, that is your problem and your fault.

No matter what you think of the other party—or what your family thinks of the other—these children are one-half of each of you. Remember that, because every time you tell your child what an ‘idiot’ his father is, or what a ‘fool’ his mother is, or how bad the absent parent is, or what terrible things that person has done, you are telling the child half of him is bad.

That is an unforgivable thing to do to a child. That is not love. That is possession. If you do that to your children you will destroy them as surely as if you had cut them into pieces, because that is what you are doing to their emotions.
I sincerely hope that you do not do that to your children. Think more about your children and less about yourselves and make yours a selfless kind of love, not foolish or selfish, or your children will suffer.

—Judge Michael Haas

The decision of whether or not to bear a child is central to a woman’s life, well-being and dignity. When the government makes that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a full adult human responsible for her own choices.

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Clean your house for 2 hours. Watch the humans you created destroy it in 10 minutes. Repeat for 18 years. This is parenthood.

—Internet Meme

Consider a small child sitting on his mother’s lap while she reads him a picture book. The picture book opens to a width that effectively places the child at the center of a closed circle—that of mother’s body, arms, and the picture book... That circle, so private and intimate, is a place apart from the demands and stresses of daily life, a sanctuary in and from which the child can explore the many worlds offered in picture books. Despite all of our society’s technological advances, it still just takes one child, one book, and one reader, to create this unique space, to work this everyday magic.

—Martha V. Parravano

My mom as a mom: ‘You get what you get, deal with it.’
My mom as a grandma: ‘Would you like your grilled cheese cut into hearts or stars?’

—Internet Meme

The goal of good parenting isn’t happy kids; that’s just an occasional side effect. The point is to eventually have happy adults.

—Internet Meme
As adults we choose our own reading material. Depending on our moods and needs, we might read the newspaper, a blockbuster novel, an academic article, a women’s magazine, a comic, a children’s book, or the latest book that just about everyone is reading. No one chastises us for our choice. No one says ‘That’s too short for you to read.’ No one says, ‘That’s too easy for you, put it back.’ No one says ‘You couldn’t read that if you tried—it’s much too difficult.’

Yet if we take a peek into classrooms, libraries, and bookshops we will notice that children’s choices are often mocked, censured, and denied as valid by idiotic, interfering teachers, librarians, and parents. Choice is a personal matter that changes with experience, changes with mood, and changes with need. We should let it be.

—Mem Fox

No one really disputes the tremendous opportunity costs to young children who are plugged in to a screen: time spent on devices is time not spent actively exploring the world and relating to other human beings.

—Erika Christakis

Parents now have more face time with their children than did almost any parents in history. Despite a dramatic increase in the percentage of women in the workforce, mothers today astoundingly spend more time caring for their children than mothers did in the 1960s. But the engagement between parent and child is increasingly low-quality, even ersatz. Parents are constantly present in their children’s lives physically, but they are less emotionally attuned. To be clear, I’m not unsympathetic to parents in this predicament. My own adult children like to joke that they wouldn’t have survived infancy if I’d had a smartphone in my clutches 25 years ago.

—Erika Christakis

Child-development experts have different names for the dyadic signaling system between adult and child, which builds the basic architecture of the brain. Jack P. Shonkoff, a pediatrician and the director of Harvard’s Center on the Developing Child, calls it the ‘serve and return’ style of communication; the psychologists Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Robert Michnick Golinkoff describe a ‘conversational duet.’ The vocal patterns parents everywhere tend to adopt during exchanges with infants and toddlers are marked by a higher-pitched tone, simplified grammar, and engaged, exaggerated enthusiasm. Though this talk is cloying to adult observers, babies can’t get enough of it. Not only that: One study shows that infants exposed to this interactive, emotionally responsive speech style at 11 months and 14 months knew twice as many words at age 2 as ones who weren’t exposed to it.

Child development is relational, which is why, in one experiment, nine-month-old babies who received a few hours of Mandarin instruction from a live human could isolate specific phonetic elements in the language while another group of babies who
received the exact same instruction via video could not.

—Erika Christakis

A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Toddlers cannot learn when we break the flow of conversations by picking up our cellphones or looking at the text that whizzes by our screens.

—Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Let your child be weird kid. Let them be the funny kid, the quiet kid, the smart kid, the athletic kid, the theater kid, the numbers kid, the teacher’s pet, the chatter box, the valedictorian, the middle of the pack the ‘barely made it’ kid. Just don’t let them be the mean kid.

—@mommywinetime

…the exceptionally ad hoc parenting style of 19th-century frontier parents...stashed babies on the open doors of ovens for warmth and otherwise left them vulnerable to all manner of accidents as their mothers tried to cope with competing responsibilities.

—Caroline Fraser

Distracted adults grow irritable when their phone use is interrupted; they not only miss emotional cues but actually misread them. A tuned-out parent may be quicker to anger than an engaged one, assuming that a child is trying to be manipulative when, in reality, she just wants attention. Short, deliberate separations can of course be harmless, even healthy, for parent and child alike (especially as children get older and require more independence). But that sort of separation is different form the inattention that occurs when a parent is with a child but communicating through his or her nonengagement that the child is less valuable than an email....What’s going on today, however, is the rise of unpredictable care, governed by the beeps and enticements of smartphones. We seem to have stumbled into the worst model of parenting imaginable—always present physically, thereby blocking children’s autonomy, yet only fitfully present emotionally.

—Erika Christakis

Parents should give themselves permission to back off from the suffocating pressure to be all things to all people. Put your kid in a playpen, already! Ditch that soccer-game appearance if you feel like it. Your kid will be fine. But when you are with your child, put down your damned phone.
The man in the traditional kimono is having difficulty with the breasts. The weight of the belly strains his back. Simply walking around the room—a party room in a Tokyo condo building—is more like lumbering. Lying down and getting up again is a struggle. The rest of the men in the ikumen class laugh as he tries to adjust to the new reality. But then we all have to try on the pregnancy suit ourselves, and one by one, we come to the same conclusion: It’s hard to be a woman....An organization called Fathering Japan was started in 2006, for example, to help fathers be more involved; it provides courses, and a sense of community. Yet men who forgo work to care for their kids remain outliers.

—Stephen Marche

Well-meaning adults can easily destroy a child’s love of reading: stop them reading what they enjoy, or give them worthy-but-dull books that you like, the 21st-century equivalents of Victorian ‘improving’ literature. You’ll wind up with a generation convinced that reading is uncool and worse, unpleasant.

—Neil Gaiman

Several studies also show that experiencing racism might be part of the reason black women are about 50 percent more likely than white women to have premature babies and about twice as likely to have low-birth-weight babies. Researchers think the stress they experience might cause the body to go into labor too soon or to mount an immune attack against the fetus. This disparity, too, does not appear to be genetic: Black women from sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean are less likely to have preterm births than African American women are, possibly because they’ve spent less time living in America’s racist environment.

—Olga Khazan

Without knowing it, the adults in our lives practiced a most productive kind of behavior modification. After our chores and household duties were done we were given ‘permission’ to read. In other words, our elders positioned reading as a privilege—a much sought-after prize, granted only to those good-hard-workers who earned it. How clever of them.

—Mildred Armstrong Kalish

We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves. Use reading-aloud time as bonding time, as time when no phones are being checked, when the distractions of the world are put aside.

—Neil Gaiman
If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.

—Albert Einstein

We’re suggesting that [kids are] missing something if they don’t read but, actually, we’re condemning kids to a lesser life. If you had a sick patient, you would not try to entice them to take their medicine. You would tell them, ‘Take this or you’re going to die.’ We need to tell kids flat out: reading is not optional.

—Walter Dean Myers

When we read with a child, we are doing so much more than teaching him to read or instilling in her a love of language. We are doing something that I believe is just as powerful, and it is something that we are losing as a culture: by reading with a child, we are teaching that child to be human. When we open a book, and share our voice and imagination with a child, that child learns to see the world through someone else’s eyes.

—Anna Dewdne

How wonderful to be read to. To be carried from this world and into another, born away on words.

—Justin Cronin

The parent who gets down on the floor to play with a child on Christmas Day is usually doing a most remarkable thing —something seldom repeated during the rest of the year. These are, after all, busy parents committed to their work or their success in the larger society, and they do not have much left-over time in which to play with their children.

—Brian Sutton-Smith

There is no app to replace your lap. Read to your kids.

—Eve Allijn

When a child hits a child, we call it aggression. When a child hits an adult, we call it hostility. When an adult hits an adult, we call it assault. When an adult hits a child, we call it discipline.

—Haim G. Ginott

Parents teach children discipline for two different, indeed diametrically opposed, reasons: to render the child submissive to them and to make him independent of
them. Only a self-disciplined person can be obedient; and only such a person can be autonomous.

—Thomas Stephen Szasz

Respond to your children with love in their worst moments their broken moments their angry moments their selfish moments their lonely moments their frustrated moments their inconvenient moments because it is in their most unlovable human moments that they most need to feel loved.

—L. R. Knost

I feel the only thing you can do about life is to preserve it, by art if you’re an artist, by children if you’re not.

—Philip Larkin

YELLING silences your message. Speak quietly so your children can hear your words instead of just your voice.

—L. R. Knost

Listen instead of lecture. Communicate instead of command. Relate instead of retaliate. Be flexible instead of being fixated on getting your own way. Seek to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. In short, behave the way you want your children to learn to behave.

—L. R. Knost

Parenting has nothing to do with perfection. Perfection isn’t even the goal. Not for ourselves or for our children. Learning together to live well in an imperfect world, loving each other despite or even because of our own imperfections, and growing as humans while we grow our little humans, those are the goals. So don’t ask yourself at the end of the day if you did everything right. Ask yourself what you learned and how well you loved, then grow from your answer. That is perfectly imperfect parenting.

—L. R. Knost
Every strength has a corresponding challenge and every challenge has a corresponding strength. The inattentive child may be a deep thinker. The uncooperative child may be a good leader. The emotionally-charged child may be gifted with exceptional empathy. The rule-defying child may be an out-of-the-box innovator.

When faced with challenging behaviors, look for the corresponding strength, and focus on nurturing that gift while providing gentle guidance and coping techniques for the challenging areas. That is the essence of working with, instead of against, our children.

—L. R. Knost

‘I know you see me as some crazy old bitch nagging at you,’ she said, ‘but you forget the reason I ride you so hard and give you so much shit is because I love you. Everything I have ever done I’ve done from a place of love. If I don’t punish you, the world will punish you even worse. The world doesn’t love you. If the police get you, the police don’t love you. When I beat you, I’m trying to save you. When they beat you, they’re trying to kill you.’

—Trevor Noah

Discipline is only a short term deterrent. It has never been responsible for long term change—only encouragement, upliftment and love can possibly do that!

—Elizabeth Richardson

There’s a wound most troubled boys share, which, at its core, comes from the feeling that they don’t have their father’s unconditional love.

—Clayton Lessor

I may deserve your disappointment as well as a lecture and strict discipline, but what I need is your understanding, your guidance, and your unconditional love.

—Richelle E. Goodrich

Rebuke without love is abuse. But, a love that would never rebuke? I dare to admit that that, too, would be a kind of abuse.

—Criss Jami

Mother made sure her little kids were subjected to a strict routine. We were given a timetable which covered our every waking moment, copies of which were posted by our bedside, in the sitting room and in the kitchen. Story hour meant that mother would read us novels and short stories by Guy de Maupassant, Oscar Wilde and Edmondo de Amicis. Soon we graduated to Tolstoy, Gogol and Turgenev. She read them to us in Chinese and I never realised until much later that the writers wrote them in different European languages. Comics were absolutely forbidden and so
were Enid Blyton adventures and pop music. Lee Cyn and I soon went to a primary school nearby. After mother’s rigorous timetable, school became fun and easy-going.

—Ang Swee Chai

Brutality will not,—cannot,—accomplish what a kindly disposition will; and, if folks could only know how quickly a ‘balky’ child will, through loving and cuddling, grow into a charming, happy youth, much childish gloom and sorrow would vanish; for a man or woman who is ugly to a child is too low to rank as highly as a wild animal; for no animal will stand, for an instant, anything approaching an attack, or any form of harm to its young. But what a lot of tots find slaps, yanks and hard words for conditions which do not call for such harsh tactics! No child is naturally ugly or ‘cranky.’ And big, gulping sobs, or sad, unhappy young minds, in a tiny body should not occur in any community of civilization. Adulthood holds many an opportunity for such conditions. Childhood should not.

—Ernest Vincent Wright

Violence is violence and can in no way be misconstrued as discipline under any circumstance cultural or otherwise.

—Aysha Taryam

We don’t choose our parents. The highest standards of behavior are required for parents and no one else. There is no one else whose standards of behavior need be higher than parents and so often parents get away with the lowest possible standards of behavior with regards to their children.

—Stefan Molyneux

Listen instead of lecture. Communicate instead of command. Relate instead of retaliate. Be flexible instead of being fixated on getting your own way. Seek to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem. In short, behave the way you want your children to learn to behave.

—L. R. Knost

Every day in a hundred small ways our children ask, ‘Do you hear me?’ ‘Do you see me?’ ‘Do I matter?’ Their behavior often reflects our response.

—L. R. Knost
The most effective alternative process [to punishment] is probably extinction. This takes time but is much more rapid than allowing the response to be forgotten. The technique seems to be relatively free of objectionable by-products. We recommend it, for example when we suggest that a parent ‘pay no attention’ to objectionable behavior on the part of his child. If the child’s behavior is strong only because it has been reinforced by ‘getting a rise out of’ the parent, it will disappear when this consequence is no longer forthcoming.

—B. F. Skinner

Readers who have owned animals will appreciate how difficult it would be to train a dog to play exclusively in his own yard, to fetch his sweater whenever he sees it is raining outside, or to be generous in sharing his dog biscuits with other dogs. Yet these same people would not even question the feasibility of trying to use reward and punishment to teach their children the same behaviors.

—Thomas Gordon

If by too much care you spare them every kind of discomfort, you are preparing great miseries for them.

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

This is not a contest with your child. The winner is not the one with more points. The winner is the one whose child still loves them when they graduate from high school.

—Martin L. Kutscher

People tend to raise the child inside of them rather than the child in front of them.

—Joe Newman

For if you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners to be corrupted from their infancy, and then punish them for those crimes to which their first education disposed them, what else is to be concluded from this, but that you first make thieves and then punish them.

—Sir Thomas More

The belief that children must be punished to learn better behaviors is illogical. Children learn to roll, crawl, walk, talk, read, and other complex behaviors without a need for punishment. Why, then, wouldn't the same gentle guidance, support, and awareness of developmental capabilities that parents employ to help their little ones learn those complex skills also work to help them learn to pet the cat gently and draw on paper instead of walls?

—L. R. Knost
Maybe we swore we would never be harsh with our children the way others were harsh with us. Then, just when they need us most—when they act up and misbehave and call us names and so on—we get angry and punish them, or feel hurt and block them out. We momentarily forget how fragile our little ones are, just as they forget about cooperation or sharing or calming down and following the rules.

—Lawrence J. Cohen

The beauty of problem-solving is that, unlike punishment, it offers endless possibilities. If you’re committed to punishment and your child continues to misbehave, all you can do is punish more severely. You might hit him harder or take away more privileges, but chances are you won’t get any closer to your goal of having a cooperative child. And you’ll create a lot of ill will in the process. With problem-solving, you can always go back and brainstorm some more. When you put your heads together, you’re bound to come up with something that will work for both of you.

—Joanna Faber

Some parents cannot distinguish between punishment and discipline. Anyone can punish a child and many parents do it out of frustration. Discipline requires time, patience, and love and may include some punishment. To punish children without discipline usually involves a parent who is frustrated and has turned to anger.

—Eric W. Hickey

Love was always and only about good feeling. In early adolescence when we were whipped and told that these punishments were ‘for our own good’ or ‘I’m doing this because I love you,’ my siblings and I were confused. Why was harsh punishment a gesture of love? As children do, we pretended to accept this grown-up logic; but we knew in our hearts it was not right. We knew it was a lie. Just like the lie the grown-ups told when they explained after the harsh punishment, ‘This hurts me more than it hurts you.’ There is nothing that creates more confusion about love in the minds and hearts of children than unkind and/or cruel punishment meted out by the grown-ups they have been taught should love and respect. Such children learn early on to question the meaning of love, to yearn for love even as they doubt it exists.

—Bell Hooks

Because of their size, parents may be difficult to discipline properly.

—P. J. O’Rourke

Parents are usually more careful to bestow knowledge on their children rather than virtue, the art of speaking well rather than doing well; but their manners should be of the greatest concern.
A grandmother is a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit best friend.

—Internet Meme

You must read to your children and you must hug your children and you must love your children. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.

—Barbara Bush

Handling children’s anger can be puzzling, draining, and distressing for adults. In fact, one of the major problems in dealing with anger in children is the angry feelings that are often stirred up in us. It has been said that we as parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators need to remind ourselves that we were not always taught how to deal with anger as a fact of life during our own childhood. We were led to believe that to be angry was to be bad, and we were often made to feel guilty for expressing anger.

It will be easier to deal with children’s anger if we get rid of this notion. Our goal is not to repress or destroy angry feelings in children—or in ourselves—but rather to accept the feelings and to help channel and direct them to constructive ends. Parents and teachers must allow children to feel all their feelings. Adult skills can then be directed toward showing children acceptable ways of expressing their feelings. Strong feelings cannot be denied, and angry outbursts should not always be viewed as a sign of serious problems; they should be recognized and treated with respect.

To respond effectively to overly aggressive behavior in children we need to have some ideas about what may have triggered an outburst. Anger may be a defense to avoid painful feelings; it may be associated with failure, low self-esteem, and feelings of isolation; or it may be related to anxiety about situations over which the child has no control.

Angry defiance may also be associated with feelings of dependency, and anger may be associated with sadness and depression. In childhood, anger and sadness are very close to one another and it is important to remember that much of what an adult experiences as sadness is expressed by a child as anger.

—Luleen S. Anderson

In dealing with angry children, our actions should be motivated by the need to protect and to teach, not by a desire to punish. Parents and teachers should show a child that they accept his or her feelings, while suggesting other ways to express the feelings. An adult might say, for example, ‘Let me tell you what some children would do in a situation like this...’ It is not enough to tell children what behaviors we find unacceptable. We must teach them acceptable ways of coping. Also, ways
must be found to communicate what we expect of them. Contrary to popular opinion, punishment is not the most effective way to communicate to children what we expect of them.

—Luleen S. Anderson

Catch the child being good. Tell the child what behaviors pleases you. Respond to positive efforts and reinforce good behavior. An observing and sensitive parent will find countless opportunities during the day to make such comments as, ‘I like the way you come in for dinner without being reminded’; ‘I appreciate your hangin up your clothes even though you were in a hurry to get out to play’; ‘You were really patient while I was on the phone’; ‘I’m glad you shared your snack with your sister’; ‘I like the way you’re able to think of others’; and ‘Thank you for telling the truth about what really happened.’
Similarly, teachers can positively reinforce good behavior with statements like, ‘I know it was difficult for you to wait your turn, and I’m pleased that you could do it’; ‘Thanks for sitting in your seat quietly’; ‘You were thoughtful in offering to help Johnny with his spelling’; ‘You worked hard on that project, and I admire your effort.’

—Fritz Redl and David Wineman

Good discipline includes creating an atmosphere of quiet firmness, clarity, and conscientiousness, while using reasoning. Bad discipline involves punishment which is unduly harsh and inappropriate, and it is often associated with verbal ridicule and attacks on the child’s integrity.
As one fourth grade teacher put it: ‘One of the most important goals we strive for as parents, educators, and mental health professionals is to help children develop respect for themselves and others.’ While arriving at this goal takes years of patient practice, it is a vital process in which parents, teachers, and all caring adults can play a crucial and exciting role. In order to accomplish this, we must see children as worthy human beings and be sincere in dealing with them.

—Luleen S. Anderson

Many educators say the rise in cheating is due to an erosion of ethics in a self-centered culture. Some point to habits ingrained in students through years of working together in cooperative learning situations. Others pin the blame on teachers who don’t care if kids cheat or who would rather avoid the hassle of disciplining those who do. Still others bemoan growing numbers of indulgent parents who refuse to hold their kids accountable….people are so much more concerned about drugs and violence. Cheating is getting worse, but it’s getting less attention….More serious is that many parents defend their kids even when they know they cheated. These parents may not even question the evidence. Rather, educators say, parents sometime
cut straight to the excuse, hoping to secure more lenient punishments. And teachers often buckle under the pressure. In a survey of 356 high school teachers by The American School Board Journal, roughly seven out of 10 teachers said parental pressure discourages educators from penalizing student cheaters.

The parents sometime offer startling excuses in defense of their children’s indefensible behavior. One high school world history teacher who responded to the ASBJ survey says, ‘I’ve had parents say to me that if they had not cheated, they never would have passed French in college.’

At North Springs High School in Fulton County, Ga., school officials are clamping down hard on student cheating. But North Springs principal Peter Zervakos says some parents don’t understand why, especially when their kid is the one being punished. They tell him cheating is a fact of life in the business world—so, what’s the big deal? Others argue that cheating is a justifiable reaction to academic pressure. ‘It’s scary because they really believe this,’ says Zervakos.

—Kevin Bushweller

Studies have found that most children have cheated, or thought about cheating, on schoolwork. While schools battle this issue, there are two important things parents can do to help. First, from the time children are very young, parents must emphasize and reward honest behavior. Second, parents must make sure that their children know that cheating will not be tolerated at home or at school.

—National Association of Elementary School Principals

But even if kids are not aware of cheating scandals like Enron, they are absolutely influenced by the role models they see close to them. So when they see their parent go ‘diagnosis shopping’ to get a doctor to say they have ADD so they can have extra time to complete their SAT test, or they hear a coach tell them to fake an injury in football when their team is out of time-outs to gain an unofficial one, kids get the message that it’s OK, even necessary, to do take whatever steps to gain an advantage. And to an adolescent that may translate as lie, cheat and steal.

—Denise Pope

The interesting thing about cheating is that it’s a window into a kid’s soul, and into the family’s soul, too. Because so many of these kids are cheating to please their parents—to get a grade, to get into college, whatever. The 100 or so academic integrity cases I dealt with in 20 years as a high school English teacher and in two years as a vice principal in charge of disciplinary matters showed how desperate kids are to please their parents and help their friends.

—Joe Di Prisco
While small children don’t lie much, teenagers lie a lot. This is a time in life when they’re naturally inclined to push limits. They lie to avoid punishment. They may even lie when they know there’s no need to do so, just to establish a sense of independence.

Helpful: Recognize that lying is part of the normal developmental process. By allowing teens increasing autonomy and freedom, you can reduce their perceived need to lie.

At the same time, don’t underestimate your teen’s capacity for lying and the need for your direction. Some lies can be injurious to their well-being.

Spotting the signs: When lying, teens are more likely to display an increased number of adapters — nervous movements, such as scratching or playing with their hair. They will also overact in an effort to cover up their nervousness.

If you suspect a teen is lying about things that could harm him, be direct. Instead of grilling him with questions, simply say, ‘I’m concerned that you’re not telling me the truth. And if you’re not, you’re putting yourself at risk and we’re going to have to work this out.’

—Charles V. Ford, MD

REPORTING THREATS: IT’S NOT TATTLING

Violent incidents occasionally occur in schools despite the best prevention efforts. Parents can strengthen these efforts by taking an active role in violence prevention. One way that families and schools, working together, can head off violence is by persuading children to report threats and dangerous behavior by their peers.

➢ It’s not tattling. Children hate to think of themselves as tattletales. You have to teach them that there’s a big difference between tattling and reporting. When a child alerts an adult to something that could be dangerous or destructive, that’s not tattling, that’s responsible reporting.

➢ Tell any adult. Sometimes a child is reluctant to approach a teacher, principal, or parent with information about a possibly dangerous situation. Let your children know that it’s all right to go to any adult they feel comfortable with—a cafeteria worker, a friend’s parents, the custodian, or a neighbor. The important thing is to let a responsible adult know what’s going on.

➢ Write it down. Children often feel uncomfortable talking with an adult about things like threats they’ve overheard. Make sure they understand that it’s okay to write a note instead, and that they don’t even have to sign it (although it would be much better if they did.)
It’s no joke. Teach your children that it’s not funny to joke about setting off a bomb in school, making a ‘hit list,’ or killing someone. Carefully explain the seriousness of any such threats they may overhear.

Talk to them. Encourage your children to talk with you about school and their activities. Show them that you care about what they’re doing and their safety, and listen carefully when they talk about their concerns or feelings. Children are more likely to ‘open up’ with a parent who has proven that he or she is a good listener. Listen to their friends, too.

Be a snoop. Don’t be embarrassed to listen to your children’s telephone conversations with their friends or even to check their e-mail (which is usually readily accessible.) By tapping into their ‘grapevine’ you may come up with fresh information about possible danger.

Online threats. Many children are far freer with their thoughts online, in e-mail or chat rooms, than they are face-to-face. Let your children know they should take threats or warnings seriously, whether they overhear them at school or read them on the computer screen.

Call for help. There have been cases were a child has warned an adult about a threat, only to have the adult not follow-up on it— with tragic results. If your child has a reason to be concerned about potential violence, you should contact either the school principal or the police.

Don’t ‘diss.’ Often, students who carry out violent acts do so in reaction to taunting by their classmates. Teach your children to respect their peers, and that ‘dissing’ other children is never acceptable—and could be dangerous.

Report bullies. Most schools have programs to help children who feel they’re being harassed by their peers. If you hear that your child or other children are being victimized by a bully or bullies, go to the school for help.

Inform the principal. Let your children know that an important part of their principal’s job is to keep them safe. To do this, the principal needs to know immediately if anyone is threatening to do something dangerous.

Talk about tragedies. School shootings elicit a lot of media coverage. Use these incidents as opportunities to discuss school violence with your children. Assure them that schools are safe environments, but stress the importance of keeping their school safe by reporting any dangerous, disturbing, or destructive behavior or threats they hear or observe.

—National Association of Elementary School Principals

Bullying is a widespread problem in schools. Research offers many possible explanations for this. School violence is influenced by parenting practices, temperamental factors, or culture, and societal reinforcement of violence through the media and sports. The predominant theory is that bullying is a learned behavior. Bullies often
come from home environments where physical punishment is used and children are taught to strike out physically as a way to solve problems. Parental involvement and warmth are often lacking. These children have little empathy for their victims and often find ways to defend their actions by saying they were provoked. In a study of 558 middle school students, bullying behaviors were positively correlated with the families where physical discipline was used, adult supervision was lacking, negative peer influence was present, and neighborhoods were considered unsafe. Conversely, the likelihood of bullying was significantly reduced for students who spent time with adults who modeled nonviolent strategies for conflict resolution. This suggests the substantial influence adult (parent, teacher, school counselor) behavior can play any child’s life.

—Sandra L. Pollock

What’s wrong with punishments is that they work immediately, but give no long-term results. The responses to punishment are either the urge to escape, to counterattack, or a stubborn apathy. These are the bad effects you get in prisons, or schools, or wherever punishments are used.

—B. F. Skinner

Research suggests that less dramatic events than abuse can also spark violence in girls. Many students experienced daily teasing about grooming and appearance. But at a time when kids are turning to violence to settle even petty disputes, such harassment can be dangerous. The toughest girls I knew were the least well-kept girls. Other girls would start picking on them when they were six or seven, and it was clear that these children couldn’t do anything about it. They couldn’t fix their own hair. You could tell there was no parent at home who was taking care of them, making sure their stuff was washed.

—Geoffrey Canada

YOUR WORDS MATTER

INSTEAD OF... TRY

Be quite. Can you use a softer voice?
What a mess! It looks like you had fun! How can we clean up?
Do you need help? I’m here to help if you need me.
I explained how to do this yesterday. Maybe I can show you another way.
Do I need to separate you? Could you use a break?
Stop crying. It’s okay to cry.
Do you have any questions? What questions do you have?
You’re OK. How are you feeling?
It’s not that hard. You can do hard things.
We don’t talk like that. Please use kind words.

@We Are Teachers

Children increase behavior that has desirable consequences for them and decrease behavior that has undesirable consequences. A parent’s attention—even negative attention—is always a desirable consequence for a child. Many parents are most attentive to their children when they misbehave—responded by scolding, spanking, or simply giving the child what he wants. When children behave the way parents wish, they’re often ignored. How often do parent praise a child for sitting patiently through dinner or being polite to a visitor? Good behavior that gets no attention is less likely to be repeated. Pay lots of attention to behavior you want to increase and withdraw attention from behavior you want to decrease.

—Wendy Schuman

For all ages, knowing why your child lies helps parents cope with the situation. To prevent lying, or at least reduce its incidence, parents must model honesty around their kids every day. For instance, don’t lie on the phone to your boss about being sick when you’re really heading to the Cubs game. Kids pick up on little lies like that and in their minds, it makes lying OK.

—Michelle Sussman

By the age of 6, 7, or 8, kids know the difference between fantasy and reality. This is when they begin to purposely use lies to their advantage. Being old enough to understand that consequences follow bad behavior, elementary kids may lie to keep themselves out of trouble. Many kids at this age also lie to make themselves seem better in their peers’ eyes. Your son may claim that his uncle is Rex Grossman and that his dad has 50-yard-line season tickets for the Bears. It’s not true, but for a while, he might be more popular.

If you discover a lie, sit your child down and explain that lying is simply wrong. Lay out the consequences of a lie and follow through with punishment. Enforce that lying is bad, but emphasize that your child is still a good person....For the younger set, be sure to explain the difference between lying and using tact. Focus on making small omissions in the truth to protect people’s feelings, such as not mentioning Grandpa’s expanding tummy mommy’s bad hair day. Little ones may not instinctively understand the difference between stating the obvious or ignoring it.

—Michelle Sussman
Most of it [lying] boils down to punishment avoidance….It’s developmentally normal for these kids to test their limits. Parents need to spend some time talking about trustworthiness and keep the conversation going for the next six to seven years….Occasionally it happens that some kids have repetitive and serious issues with lying. This is the time for a serious discussion and parents might want to seek out a therapist to resolve emotional issues.

—Dr. Jan Remer-Osborn

When tweens start to spread their wings, parents want to hold on tighter. For reason, too, since kids at this age tend to lie more about their whereabouts and activities. Tweens want to control their own lives more than their younger counterparts and may try manipulation to achieve their goals.

Kids also begin to engage in risky behaviors at this age, behaviors their parents probably would not approve. Ground rules should be established and discipline must be consistent.

But if your child continues to lie or the lies become related to more serious behaviors such as drugs, sex or unlawful behavior, parents must intervene.

—Michelle Sussman

I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet…
I asked my 17 brothers and sisters, and they didn’t know either.

—womenafter50.com

The old school made the amazing mistake of supposing that...by removing a situation a person likes or setting up one he doesn’t like—in other words by punishing him—it was possible to reduce the probability that he would behave in a given way again. That simply doesn’t hold. It has been established beyond question. What is emerging at this critical stage in the evolution of society is a behavioral and cultural technology based on positive reinforcement. We are gradually discovering—at an untold cost in human suffering—that in the long run punishment doesn’t reduce the probability that an act will occur. We have been so preoccupied with the contrary that we always take ‘force’ to mean punishment....We haven’t really altered his potential behavior at all. That’s the pity of it. If he doesn’t repeat it in our presence, he will in the presence of someone else. Or it will be repeated in the disguise of a neurotic symptom. If we hit hard enough, we clear a little place for ourselves in the wilderness of civilization, but we make the rest of the wilderness still more terrible.

—B. F. Skinner

AAP urges parents to use healthy discipline methods for children and teens.

➢ Catch them being good: Praising good behavior supports a child’s effort to control his behavior. So, when your child picks up his toys after being asked,
take time to reinforce good behavior by offering praise for following directions.

➢ Be a role model for good behavior: Don’t yell and fight to resolve conflict. Instead discuss the situation as calmly as possible or take a timeout to let the situation cool off before talking further.

➢ Set limits and expectations: Providing children with clear-cut expectations for behavior makes it more likely that they will meet those expectations. Consistency is also important—keep the rules the same so your child knows what is expected of her.

➢ Ignore bad behavior or redirect your child away from the bad behavior: Timeouts can work well to remove a child from a problem situation and give him time to consider his behavior. Unless your child is in a dangerous situation, sometimes it can be helpful to ignore bad behavior, such as whining or begging. It shows the bad behavior doesn’t reap the wanted attention from a parent.

➢ Apply natural consequences: If your child intentionally throws a toy and it breaks, he will no longer have that toy to play with. Most children learn quickly that that type of behavior doesn’t bring rewards.

—American Academy of Pediatrics

**POSITIVE THING TO SAY TO YOUR CHILD**

You are helpful.
You were right.
I know you did your best.
I’m grateful for you.
You have great ideas.
I love being your mom.
I believe in you.
You are important.
You make me proud.
You are loved.
You don’t have to be perfect to be amazing.
I believe you.
You are worth it.
Don’t be afraid to be yourself.
It’s good to be curious.
We all make mistakes, it’s OK.
I understand you.
You can say no.
This family would not be the same without you.
We can try it your way.
I appreciate you.
I know you did your best.
I forgive you.
I am so glad you’re here.
That was really brave what you did.
I admire you.
It’s your decision.
If you really believe in something, it’s important.
Don’t give up.
I could never stop loving you.
You can try again tomorrow.
Don’t compare yourself to anyone else.
You are enough.
It’s OK to be scared.
Even if you make a mistake, you can fix it.
Being kind does not make you weak.
Your ideas are great.
You don’t have to do what everyone else is doing.
Anything is possible.
You can make a difference.
I love how you said that.
I’m listening.
You did that so well.
You make my heart full.
Not everyone will like you, and that is okay.
You have a choice.
That’s a great question.
I’m so excited to spend time with you.
That was a really good choice.
I trust you.
I hear you.
Your attitude can change any situation.
You are a great friend.
Never stop trying.
I’ll always love you.

— beenke.com
My children are the most important aspect of my life, and the love of a child is the strongest love there is. You don’t actually realize it until you have a child. To me raising, nurturing and experiencing all that a child provides is the true meaning of a complete life.

—Dan L. Miller

[Letter to his son] Home, wife, children—they are what really count in life. I have heartily enjoyed many things; the Presidency, my success as a soldier, a writer, a big game hunter and explorer; but all of them put together are not for one moment to be weighed in the balance when compared with the joy I have known with your mother and all of you.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Every child deserves parents, but not all parents deserve children.

—theChive

WE NEED TO TEACH OUR DAUGHTERS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN

A man who flatters her
And a man who compliments her,

A man who spends money on her
And a man who invests in her,

A man who views her as property
And a man who views her properly,

A man who lusts after her
And a man who loves her,

A man who believes he’s a gift to women
And a man who believes she’s a gift to him.

And then we need to teach our sons to be that kind of man.

—www.illuzone.net

Three kinds of parenting style:
Permissive: the parent tries to be nonpunitive and accepting of the child.
Authoritarian: The parent shapes and controls the child based on a set standard of conduct.
Authoritative: The parent tries to direct the child rationally.
The ideal is authoritative, where the child grows up to respect authority, but does not feel controlled or manipulated.

—Diana Baumrind

I WILL MAKE MY CHILD DO CHORES

If kids aren’t doing the dishes and other chores, it means someone else is doing these things for them. Julie Lythcott-Haims, former dean of Stanford University, said ‘…they’re absolved of not only the work, but of learning that work has to be done and that each one of us must contribute for the betterment of the whole.’ She notes that kids raised on chores go on to become employees who collaborate well with their co-workers, are more empathetic and are able to take on tasks independently.

—David Larson

I Will Have High Expectations for My Kids.
The expectations a parent holds for their kids have a huge effect on their attainment. For example, parents who regularly frame college or post-high school training seemed to guide their child toward that goal irrespective of their income and other assets.
This falls in line with the Pygmalion Effect, which states, ‘what one person expects of another can come to serve as a self-fulfilling prophecy.’

—David Larson

10 BENEFITS OF READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN

builds vocabulary
improves reading comprehension
promotes empathy
reduces stress
boosts brain development
exposes children to different experiences
increases chances of later success
helps develop communication skills
builds self-esteem
deepens family connections

—fb.com/whatdowedoallday.com

Do you know what drives the world? Love, not sex. Love, not money. Love for our children, our mates, our friends, and our family.

—Jennifer Probst

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If you feel tired and want to sleep with kids in the house, tell them to wake you up in about 30 minutes so we can start cleaning the house and they will do literally anything to avoid waking you up.

—Internet Meme

Listen to anything your children want to tell you. If you don’t listen to the small stuff now, they won’t tell you the big stuff later.

—Internet Meme

In 1970 the average age of a first-time mom was 21. In 2008 it was 25. Now it’s nearly 30.

—Internet Meme [2019]

Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are. If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind. If we tell them they are capable, they become capable. Speak life into your kids, so they will have what it takes to tackle their own life one day.

—Amy Weatherly

Raising kids was my choice. I gave up things and went without for them. I regret nothing. My life was, is and will always be all for my children no matter how big they get. They didn’t ruin my life, they gave me a whole new view of the meaning of life. I couldn’t love them any more than I already do.

—lessonslearnedinlife.com

Do we want our children to know what honesty means? Then we might teach them about Abe Lincoln walking three miles to return six cents and, conversely, about Aesop’s shepherd boy who cried wolf.

Do we want our children to know what courage means? Then we might teach them about Joan of Arc, Horatius at the Bridge, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

Do we want them to know about kindness and compassion, and their opposites? Then they should read *A Christmas Carol* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* and, later on, *King Lear*.

—William Bennett

Human beings are the only ones in nature who are aware that they will die. For that reason and only for that reason, I have a profound respect for the human race, and I believe that its future is going to be much better than its present. Even knowing that their days are numbered and that everything will end when they least expect it, people make of their lives a battle that is worthy of a being with eternal life.
What people regard as vanity—leaving great works, having children, acting in such a way as to prevent one's name from being forgotten—I regard as the highest expression of human dignity.

— Paulo Coelho

The father who has selflessly poured himself into the life of his children may leave no other monument than that of his children. But as for a life well lived, no other monument is necessary.

— Craig D. Lounsbrough

One of the worst things in the world is being the child of a President. It’s a terrible life they lead.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

It wasn’t until we dropped him at his university dormitory and left him there looking touchingly lost and bewildered amid an assortment of cardboard boxes and suitcases in a spartan room not unlike a prison cell that it really hit home that he was vanishing out of our lives and into his own.

— Bill Bryson

A coworker today told me that if you raise your children you can spoil your grandkids, but if you spoil your children you’ll have to raise your grandkids. I think she found the secret to life because everything makes sense now.

— Lexi Burrow

Snowplow parenting is an evolution of helicopter parenting. Helicopter parents just hover over their children all the time. But snowplow parents actively try to plow through obstacles so their children don’t have to clear their own path. Although snowplow parents often think they are making things easier for their children, they are making things more difficult. They really are not helping, because the child never learns how to fail. And learning to fail, learning that you can survive failure, is one of the most important lessons in life....Parents should let their children handle their own issues. Children should be responsible for making their own decisions—and for living with the consequences of those decisions. They will make mistakes, but they can learn from their mistakes.

— Cecelia Horan

Nobody is more full of false hope than a Mom who places items on the stairs of her family members to carry up.

— @chaosandquiteblog
Adolescence is the age of risk-taking. Adolescents are supposed to take risks so that they learn from both their successes and failures. It’s also the age of identity formation, so they may take on many different personas, looks, etc. to explore whether this is who they are or not.

It can be hard to watch your child dye his or her hair blue or fail a test or lose a friend or not get a date to a dance. But these and similar experiences are necessary. I tell parents that unless it is really harmful, they should just ride it out. If parents are always stepping in to protect their children from unhappiness, the children come to rely on their parents instead of themselves to make things right. But nobody is happy all the time, and people have to learn to deal with uncomfortable feelings as well as comfortable ones. That is how you gain the confidence that no matter what life hands you, you will be able to handle it.

—Cecelia Horan

The most expensive part of having kids is all the wine you have to drink.

—someecards.com

MY LIVING WILL

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them, ‘I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.’

They got up, unplugged the television, and threw out my wine.

They’re such assholes.

—Ann-Margaret Carrozza

If we understand the signals they are giving us, middle school kids can be fun and adventurous. If we can find it in our hearts to overlook some of their quirky and mysterious behaviors, we can find them to be energetic and curious about how the world works around them. If we see the world as they view it, we can take their hand and guide them across the narrow bridges and frightening valleys they see sprawling before them. And finally, if we can reveal the patience to talk with them about the issues that confuse and bedevil them, we can find a world open for discussion and journey.

—Dr. Kid Brain

I can do one of two things. I can be President of the United States or I can control Alice Roosevelt. (His 19-year-old daughter.) I cannot possibly do both.

—Theodore Roosevelt
Grown-ups are always more fascinated by what you might become then what you are.

—Jim Lynch

Meena was a woman I met at a health facility we'd helped fund [in northern India]. She’d recently given birth, and we had a warm conversation, mother-to-mother, about bonding with a new baby. But when I asked if she planned to have more children, she said, ‘The truth is, no. I don’t know how I’m going to feed this child. I don’t have any hope of educating him. The only hope I have for this child’s future is for you to take him home with you.’ The conversation crushed me. I had to tell her, ‘I’m so sorry. I can’t.’ I started digging and learned that more than 200 million women in developing countries wanted access to contraceptives but didn’t have it.

—Melinda Gates

We all do the dishes together after dinner. But one night I was still in the kitchen 15 minutes after everyone else had dwindled away, and I thought, This isn't right. So the next night, when people started to drift off, I put my hands on my hips and said, maybe not in the most elegant way, ‘Nobody leaves their kitchen until I leave the kitchen.’ Bill and the kids gave me this surprised look. I said, ‘Look. After you guys leave, I’m still doing X, Y and Z.’ Guess what? Everything I did in 15 minutes got done by all of us in five minutes.

—Melinda Gates

Sperm donation was shrouded in secrecy from the beginning. In 1884, a doctor named William Pancoast found himself unable to cure a wealthy man in Philadelphia who was struggling with infertility. Not one to give up, Pancoast tried something new. After sedating the man’s wife with chloroform, he injected her with semen from his best-looking medical student. This was the first documented case of successful donor insemination. Pancoast told the husband only afterwards, and the man agreed to never tell his wife. The end justified the means. The healthy baby justified the lie.

—Sarah Zhang

Must parents and others accept the turmoil of adolescence like the ‘terrible twos’ and wait for their children grow out of it? [Joan] Lipsitz contends that this dangerous attitude essentially says to young people, ‘Be good, have fun, stay out of trouble, prepare of life, and we’ll get back to you later when you are normal. Then, we will like you better and understand you more.’ To troubled teens and preteens, such a passive, permissive attitude appears to be rejection rather than understanding, acceptance and support.

—Br. Eagan Hunter
Your life is fragile indeed when confronting your child is an act of bravery.

―Daniel Abbott

You will need to stay calm as you witness the candy floss in your daughter’s smile harden into brittle bitchiness. You will need to muster a new resolve as your son’s fascination with Pokémon shifts to porn. You will have to recalibrate your mothering instinct to accommodate the notion that not only do your children poop and burp, they also masturbate, drink and smoke. As their bodies, brains and worlds re-arrange themselves, you will need to do your own reshuffling. You will come to see that, though you gave them life, they’re the ones who’ve got a life. They’ve got 1700 friends on Facebook. They’ve got YouTube accounts (with hundreds of subscribers), endless social arrangements, concerts, Valentine’s Day dances and Halloween parties. What we have—if we’re lucky—is a ‘Thanks for the ride, Mum, don’t call me, I’ll call you,’ as they slam the car door and indicate we can run along now.

―Joanne Fedler

We try so hard to instruct our children in all the right things—teaching good from bad, explaining choices and consequences—when in reality most lessons are learned through observation and experience. Perhaps we’d be better off training our youth to be highly observant.

―Richelle E. Goodrich

Youth need coaches, not critics.

―Amit Kalantri

As we examine the youth of today, we must realize that the negative behavior we see on the outside, is a result of a deeper need on the inside.

―Eric M. Watterson

If we are genuinely concerned about engaging young people, particularly those that are vulnerable or at risk, we must listen to them properly.

―Libby Brooks

If we throw blankets over our children’s dreams, we darken their world and extinguish their desire to live.

―Suzy Kassem

There was a danger in asking too much of a child, but the danger of asking too little was almost equal.

―Robin Hobb
If you would only stop rating a child's ability by your own; and try to find out just what ability a child has, our young folks throughout this big world would show a surprisingly willing disposition to try things which would bring your approbation. A child’s brain is an astonishing thing. It has, in its construction, an astounding capacity for absorbing what is brought to it; and not only to think about, but to find ways for improving it. It is today’s child who, tomorrow, will, you know, laugh at our ways of doing things.

—Ernest Vincent Wright

From the time he was young, he dressed the way you told him to dress; he acted the way you told him to act; he said the things you told him to say. He’s been listening to somebody else tell him what to do... He hasn’t changed. He is still listening to somebody else tell him what to do. The problem is, it isn’t you anymore; it’s his peers.

—Barbara Coloroso

Young bodies are like tender plants, which grow and become hardened to whatever shape you’ve trained them.

—Desiderius Erasmus

Roterodamus

Little children, headache; big children, heartache.

—Italian Proverb

Heredity is what sets the parents of a teenager wondering about each other.

—Laurence J. Peter

Helping your eldest to pick a college is one of the greatest educational experiences of life—for the parents. Next to trying to pick his bride, it’s the best way to learn that your authority, if not entirely gone, is slipping fast.

—Sally and James Reston

I have more zits now than I did as a teenager. Stress zits.

—Tiffani-Amber Thiessen

You cannot raise your children the way your parents raise you. Because your parents raise your a world that no longer exists.

—Internet Meme
Telling a teenager the facts of life is like giving a fish a bath.

—Arnold H. Glasow

**DREAM CHILD**

My Easter baby.
Long-desired.
A bunny cap and
Fuzzy ball
Topped your cherished head.
Bright and sweet,
You soared beyond belief.
And truly ....
I was blessed.
So proud that you served.
So sad when you left,
And crushed on your return.
Viewed by only me,
Your grisly, shattered corpse
Was now my dream...my child.

—Dan L. Miller

**GOD’S LITTLE PRINCESS**

Down the lane
The little sentry mans her post,
Staring at the flowing fields of harvest-ready grain.
A fair breeze fingers her flaxen curls,
And the morning sun highlights her
Delicate face as she turns
To gaze a good ways down the road.
Her arms are snugly sheltered deep within
Her shapeless woolen sweater as she
Hugs herself to ward off dawn’s raw chill.
Her soft eyes don’t yet smile.
Her sweet face grows forlorn.
From my seat at the window I gaze
With adoration as my little princess
Waits upon the bus to school.

—Dan L. Miller
FIRST CHILD

Over your crib,
Late at night,
We tuck you in,
Just one more time.
We stand above you,
Hugging, gazing, and reveling
In what we’ve achieved
In creating our tiny wonder.
You’ve added new
Meaning to our lives.
You’ve doubled our joy and
Forged a family from a marriage.
We hope that in your life
You find the joy we’ve found in you.

—Dan L. Miller

Your kids don’t need a perfect mom. They need a happy one.

—Internet Meme

Children don’t say, ‘I had a hard day, can we talk?’ They say, ‘Will you come play with me?’

—Kyrsti Snyder

Children need at least one person in their life who thinks the sun rises and sets on them, who delights in their existence and loves them unconditionally.

—Pamela Leo

MY NEWBORN

Change.
Feed.
Cuddle.
Sleep.
Repeat.

—Dan L. Miller
Parenting involves a love deeper than any love you’ve ever felt before.
—Leslie Jamison

Every birth story is the story of two births: The child is born, and the mother is born, too—constructed by the story of how she brought her child into the world, shaped by the birthing and then again by the telling.
—Leslie Jamison

LOVING TWO

I walk along holding your 2-year-old hand, basking in the glow of our magical relationship. Suddenly, I feel a kick from within, as if to remind me that our time alone is limited. And I wonder: How could I ever love another child as I love you? Then she is born, and I watch you. I watch the pain you feel at having to share me as you’ve never shared me before. I hear you telling me in your own way, ‘Please love only me.’ And I hear myself telling you in mine, ‘I can’t,’ knowing, in fact, that I never can again. You cry. I cry with you. I almost see our new baby as an intruder on the precious relationship we once shared. A relationship we can never quite have again. But then, barely noticing, I find myself attached to that new being, and feeling almost guilty. I’m afraid to let you see me enjoying her, as though I am betraying you. But then I notice your resentment change, first to curiosity, then to protectiveness, finally to genuine affection. More days pass, and we are settling into a new routine. The memory of days with just the two of us is fading fast. But something else is replacing those wonderful times we shared, just we two. There are new times—only now, we are three. I watch the love between you grow, the way you look at each other, touch each other. I watch how she adores you—as I have for so long. I see how excited you are by each of her new accomplishments. And I begin to realize that I haven’t taken something from you, I’ve given something to you. I notice that I am no longer afraid to share my love openly with both of you. I find that my love for each of you is as different as you are, but equally strong. And my question is finally answered, to my amazement. Yes, I can love another child as much as I love you—only differently. And although I realize that you may have to share my time, I now know you’ll never share my love. There’s enough of that for both of you — you each have your own supply. I love you—both. And I thank you both for blessing my life.
—Unknown
Don’t compare your child to others. There’s no comparison between the sun and the moon. They shine when it’s their time.

—Internet Meme

Two important things to ask your kid after school each day:
Tell me about someone being nice to you.
Tell me about you being nice to someone else.

—Internet Meme

My 3 year old asked how long he had to wait until he could stop listening to me. I told him he had to listen to me for the rest of his life. He looked me dead in the eyes and said, ‘I’ll listen to you for the rest of YOUR life.’ Toddlers are cold-blooded, man.

—Internet Meme