

8 Ideas to Improve Your Relationship with Kids

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1. If you can win your child's *heart*, you will be able to teach his or her *mind*. Make sure you initiate instruction from a heart of love. Your child will be more receptive to your words, and if you set the precedent by acting in love, they will follow your example!

2. Try to understand each child's *personality* and *strengths*—working with him or her, not trying to control or dictate (visual, auditory, metaphors). Everyone is different, having different character strengths and flaws. Because of this, everyone learns differently too. Take the time to find out what style works best for them, thereby saving you from the frustration of unmet expectations.

3. Try to understand how the child *perceives* his world and why he sees things the way he does. This is the fun and relational part of parenting. Kids come up with the funniest things! Take the time to enjoy each child and the amazing world that they live within.

4. Try to understand each child's *limitations* and *special needs*. Conversely, every child—every person for that matter—has areas of limitation; therefore, there are special needs to go with it. Reinforce that this is normal and a part of everyone's life in one way or another, but it does not define one's inherent value or opportunities.

5. Gain insight into your own limitations and what you are trying to accomplish with your resources (What are your expectations?). Because no one is perfect, we each bring imperfection into our relationships. Be transparent with yourself and honest with your children about what you bring into the mix.

6. Eliminate *power struggles*. He or she knows you are in charge. We give our authority away when we try to control them. Power struggles teach kids how to *manipulate* and *control* you by pushing your buttons. It actually has the opposite effect on them.

7. Focus on his or her *strengths* and *accomplishments*. Positive reinforcement is always the best approach. Negative reinforcement and punishment should be second and third options.

8. *Everything* you do will impact the child! Your time and energy is a great investment that will help to mold and create a confident, motivated, successful person.

A child spells love T-I-M-E. Quality time is really quantity time. Take the time to get to know who your child is, and allow him or her to get to know who you are too.