

5 Discipline your child. Effective parents offer compassionate, consistent and honest correction. These parents are not quick-tempered and do not hold a grudge or keep a record of wrongs. Instead, these parents offer reasonable and clearly understood guidelines for their children to follow. Through patience and gentle but firm actions and words, effective parents guide their children's growth and moral reasoning.

For example:

- Make and explain simple, age-appropriate rules for your child.
- If a rule is broken, discipline with a consistent, safe punishment like a short, quiet time alone without play.
- Parents do get angry. It is ok to let your child know you are angry at his behavior.
- If feeling overwhelmed, call a friend. Get help.

6 Encourage your child. Effective parents always look out for the interests and needs of their children first, before their own. They are constantly alert for the physical and verbal cues infants and children give. These parents always seek to understand their children's growth and to respond appropriately to meet the needs of their children. They care as much for their children as they care for themselves.

For example:

- Spend time with your child doing things he enjoys.
- As you see your child developing a particular interest, encourage her in the way her interests and abilities show.
- Help your child get started, then allow more independence.
- Read a book together, a chapter each night.
- Go for a walk together once a week.
- Cook a favorite meal together, or go out to dinner with just your child once a month.

7 Never give up. Effective parents admit their fears and faults. In times of crisis, or when unsure what is right or wrong, effective parents do what they think and feel is best. These parents create a network of informed friends and professionals to whom they can turn for help and advice.

For example:

- Realize there is no single "right" way to parent.
- Challenge yourself to find new and different solutions to problems.
- Talk to friends and to other parents who have experienced your struggles about ideas for helping.
- Call a counselor. Every parent needs help and understanding. It is available, so ask for it.

**These include the parent's responsibility to provide, as best as possible, basic needs such as adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care and educational opportunities.*

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To give hope, help and healing to children, families and communities.

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Standards of Effective Parenting



*Every child has fundamental needs that must be met for an emotionally and physically healthy life. Every child must be able to feel safe and secure, loved and valued, able to trust and free to be a child.**

These needs must be met by a parent or guardian. While there are many roads to effective parenting, with varying styles and methods, experts agree that all positive parenting rests upon the attribute of love. In parenting, let love be your guide. To help parents grow emotionally and physically healthy children, KidsPeace® offers these seven standards of effective parenting.



1 Teach your child. Effective parents recognize that much of a child's learning comes from the parents' actions and words. Effective parents are flexible and adaptive, sensitively challenging their children to grow cognitively, socially and emotionally – appropriate to their children's age and development.

For example:

- Teach by living. Model a positive life by being positive yourself.
- Treat your children as you would like them to treat themselves ... and you!
- Encourage your child to talk to you about a problem. Tell your child about a similar struggle you have had and what you did to solve it.

2 Speak the truth. Effective parents do not knowingly tell falsehoods or intend to deceive, but build trust by speaking the truth in love. Effective parents realize it is sometimes better to say little or nothing and allow their children to trust than to lie and undermine confidence. Establishing a trusting relationship with your child will make it easier for your child to confide in you.

For example:

- If you don't know the answer to a question, say so; then find a source that will give the answer.
- Be someone your child can trust and come to for answers to difficult questions.
- Tell your child you are proud of her for sharing concerns and questions with you. Try not to act shocked or upset when your child shares sensitive thoughts or experiences with you.

3 Value your child. Effective parents always treat their children as valued, important and worthwhile people. These parents are intent on building up their children's self-esteem through honest praise and age-appropriate levels of independence. These parents understand their children and are always loyal to the best desires, instincts and dreams their children possess.

For example:

- Tell your child you are proud of her.
- Praise your child for doing a good job, for completing a task.
- No matter what happens, tell your child you love him.

4 Nurture your child. Effective parents consistently display love for their children through positive touch (hugs, kisses, holding close), through eye contact and through positive words of encouragement and support. Effective parents tell their children, "I love you" – verbally, physically and emotionally. These parents frequently spend time with their children.

For example:

- Look directly at your child when she talks to you.
- Respond physically – with a hug or gentle pat on the shoulder – when your child tells you a story or concern.
- Physically comfort your child when he is frightened or ill.
- Show pleasure in your child's accomplishments with a hug or pat on the shoulder or through verbal affirmation.