

BRIGHT FUTURES  TOOL FOR FAMILIES

Parents' Roles in Teaching Respect

Showing respect is a sophisticated communication skill. It is based on a guiding belief in the importance of expressing consideration for others. Outlined below are tips for teaching respect. Parents need to be patient; learning respect takes time.



- Show respect to your growing child through all of your daily ups and downs together, even when setting a limit or giving a consequence for misbehavior.
- Begin early to teach your child about the feelings, ideas, and opinions of others; find opportunities every day to repeat these messages to your child as she grows.
- Meet respectful behavior with praise and recognition; privately express disappointment and disapproval to your child when you observe your child exhibiting disrespectful behavior.
- Talk with your child in advance about how to ask questions of a teacher; how to behave during church; how to act at a play, concert, or birthday party; and so forth. Help your child plan how to show respect in these and other situations.
- Help your child learn that everyone has different likes and dislikes. Fun ways to help your child learn about how people are different include going to museums, listening to a variety of music styles, and tasting foods from different cultures. Teach your child to show respect for individual differences and preferences.
- Be a good role model by showing respect in your daily interactions with others.

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