

Moms, Children, School, Discipline: What works; What copes.

1. Refrain from punishing or judging. Be a good lawyer and settle out of court.
2. Talk truth and true principles. Make agreements with the children; simple ones.
3. Be fair. Drop the hypocrisy and double standards. Listen with compassion. Be honest.
4. Let them know that THEY are responsible for THEIR education. YOU can be a MENTOR, a GUIDE, a FACILITATOR. No one GIVES you education.
5. Love them enough to say yes. Trust is in God. Agency is everything. Fire is a good teacher; ie. Teach a child to avoid fire and then allow a child touch the fire and they will KNOW that it is hot AND they will know that they can trust YOU.
6. Watch them. See what they do that is good. Smile at it. This is the BEST reward you can give. Give as little as possible attention or recognition to things that are less than desirable.
7. Teach to the REAL trouble. Mutiny is the real trouble if children refuse to keep agreements made with parents in a family council meeting.
8. Protect feelings wherever possible. Address EVERY hurt feeling, EVERY issue, EVERY time, using truth, rather than blame, shame or guilt. This is how you earn THEIR trust.
9. Love. Love with all your might. Love God enough to love yourself enough to love them. Be what you hope they will be. BE LOVE. BE TRUST. BE FAITH.
10. ALLOW. The sooner you allow their choices, the sooner they will learn that THEY are responsible for what their own life looks like. Teaching and allowing go hand in hand. Freedom without knowledge can lead to many mistakes. However, when taught, children can learn to make informed choices, and the more you allow their God-given agency, the more they will respect it and you. Treat them the way you wish to be treated when you become feeble and unable to do all the things you once could. They are learning NOW how to treat you THEN!

Kathleen Smith's Blog:

<https://kathleen-theapricottree.blogspot.com/2013/05/where-is-love.html>