

Advice I think all Parents Know - Nancy Brophy

1. **Don't spoil me.** I know I can't have all I ask for.
2. Don't be afraid to **be firm with me.** 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.** I'll take much more notice if you talk with me in private.
6. **Don't protect me from consequences.** I need to learn the painful way, sometimes.
7. Don't be too upset when I say "**I hate you.**" It isn't you I hate, but your power over me.
8. Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the **attention I want.**
9. **Don't nag.** If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
10. Don't forget that **I cannot explain myself** as well as I should like.
11. **Don't make promises.** Remember that I feel bad when your promises are broken.
12. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily **frightened into telling lies.**
13. **Don't be inconsistent.** That completely confuses me.
14. Don't tell me my **fears are silly.**
15. Don't put me off when **I ask questions.** You will find that **I will stop asking** and seek my information elsewhere.
16. Don't ever suggest that **you're perfect or infallible.** It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
17. Don't ever think it is beneath your dignity to **apologize to me.** An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly **warm towards you.**
18. Don't forget how quickly **I am growing up.** It must be very difficult to keep pace with me, but please do try.
19. Don't forget **I love experimenting.** I couldn't get on without it, so please understand.
20. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of **understanding love, but I don't need to tell you, do I?**

If you have taken the time to read this, your children would thank you.

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