

Talk to Your Kids

Number one point, "Talk to Your Kids Alot". Well, about what? About anything. Let them know you'll listen as long as they're willing to talk. They'll talk about everything but here's the key, as they're talking keep in mind that kids will come up with things that are flat off the wall.

With children, you have to pick your poison and pick your battles carefully. It's fun to have fun with your kids and it just essentially says, "I'm open to you about life".

Responding and Reacting

Learn the Difference between Responding and Reacting. The crux of this lesson is wrapped up in how you react or how you respond. If you react, it's going to be a negative, if you respond, it's going to be a positive.

Kids have an agenda. I say it in one of my books, we have seen the enemy and they're small. They all come up with all kinds of things but here's some positive responses to the same kind of question or a problem or a pitch that the kid's bringing to you, but listen to the difference. "Well, whatever you decide, I'm on your side honey". "Sounds good, tell me more". "I can see why you've asked". "Let's consider this some more". "After we think it through together, I think you'll understand why it's not best". Now, what have you just said there? You just said, well, no but I'm giving you more than, "Hey, if a bird had your brain", etc.

If they don't talk to you, who are they gonna talk to? Are they gonna talk to people who are gonna influence their life in a positive way or a negative way.

Tone of Voice

The tone of your voice is a reflection of your attitude. What you have to understand, as a parent, are your words are like the keys. They're like the keys to the city. It's like some of those game shows where they give you a key to see if it fits and if it fits you win something marvelous.

Non-threatening versus Threatening Tone

Don't use a threatening voice with your children. If you're talking to your kid from this vantage point and talking down to your kid, I got news for you, he's never gonna hear you. She's never gonna hear you. Why? Because they don't see themselves as socially inferior to you in any way and I got news for you. Just to call a spade a spade, so to speak, God does not love you more than your five year old or your nine year old or your 11 year old. He sees us all on that wonderful same plane.

Statements over Questions

Speak More in Statements Rather than in Questions. Stop asking that kid questions. Don't ask him anything and watch what happens, it's like a miracle, all of a sudden you'll see a different kid under your hands and they'll start talking to you about life. It's amazing how that happens.

Collaborate

Collaborate: Exchange Ideas and Observations. Ask your child's opinion about what? About where to hang a picture you just bought at the Art Gallery? Or "Honey, does this tie look good?"

"I'm open to you"

Always Project the Attitude I'm open to you. Why? Cause it's encouraging your kid. 1st Thessalonians 5:11 says, "So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing". Now, in that particular verse, Paul is talking to the Christians of Thessalonica who are going through some tough times ahead but he's also talking to us. Well what's he saying? He's saying, "You can talk to each other".