COMMUNICATING POSITIVELY WITH CHILDREN

by:

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In some ways nurturing is the same as loving. Parents show love for their children by giving help when it is needed.

Communication is the process of transferring signals/messages between a sender and a receiver through various methods (written words, non-verbal cues, and spoken words). It is also the mechanism we use to establish and modify relationships.

Having effective communication skills is imperative for your success. Positive communication will certainly increase the opportunities you find in your career and business. Having good communication skills will enable you to get ahead in certain areas where others who are less assertive may not succeed.

Good communication is an important part of the relationship between children and parents. As you already know, being a good listener is one way to show children that you respect them.

The way that you talk to children is equally important. Speaking in kind, respectful tone and using simple words and language works best. Techniques for good communication depend somewhat on the child’s age.

Tips for Communicating Effectively:

Get on the child’s level. Sit or kneel so that you are eye-to-eye, not towering over the child.

Be simple. Use words that a child can understand. Long, complicated sentences are confusing. If
You must give a child a long set of instructions break it into steps and give one direction at a time.

Be clear. Think in terms of the child’s point of view. A four year old to “settle down” will have a little ideas of what that mean.

Be timely. Young children should not be expected to remember instructions given to them for in advance. Give directions at the time you want them carried out.

Use action words. Put them near the beginning of the sentence.

“Please pick up your toys” is much easier to understand than a statement like “I need to get this room cleaned up”. “So wouldn’t you like to help me?”

Be positive. Hearing a constant series of “don’ts” and often negative messages is discouraging. Instead of “How many times do I Have to tell you?-don’t slam the door! Try saying “please shut up the door quietly.”

Give praise and love. Everyone needs to hear good things about themselves, but especially impressionable young children. Remember too, that a smile or a hug can often say more than words.

Be open to enjoyable, rewarding communication, although communicating to young children often involves telling them what to do, it should not be limited to that. Children need to express their thoughts and feelings to someone who will listen to and respect them.

Give children your attention and attune yourself to what they are trying to say. You will find that talking with and listening to children often delightful and fun. Using good communication skill has many benefits. It helps you avoid conflict and
misunderstanding. When communication is based on mutual respect and love, children
learn to value their own thoughts and ideas—they also learn to respect other people’s
opinions. Open trusting communication is the foundation for a good lifelong relationship
between parent and child.

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