

YOUTH'S BILL OF RIGHTS



Stand by us, not over us. Give us the feeling that we are not alone in the world, that we can always count on you when we are in trouble.

Train us by being affectionately firm. You really will achieve more with us through patient teaching than by punishment or preaching. Say "NO" when you feel you have to, but explain your rules, don't merely impose them.

Say "Nice Work" when we do something really well. Don't hold back the praise when we deserve it.

Show interest in what we're doing. Even though by your standards our activities may not be important or interesting, don't reduce them in our eyes by your indifference.

Teach us by example. "What you are speaks louder than your word."

Treat each one of us as a person in his own right. Children are people, not carbon copies of grown-ups. Treat all children in your care fairly; that is, as of equal value to you. That is how we will learn to respect the rights of other people and to treat them fairly.

Give us the right to a major voice in our own lives. Decisions that will affect our whole future should be made with us, not for us. We have a right to our kind of future.

Don't try to make us feel inferior. We doubt ourselves enough without your confirming it. Predicting failure for us won't help us to succeed.

We need fun and companionship. Help us share our interests and happy feelings with groups of friends. Give us time to be with them and make them welcome when they come to visit.

Prepare us to lead our lives, not yours. Find out what we can do or want to be before you force us beyond our capacity or make us become what you want us to become.

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