

Did You Know?

A Letter from Your CHILD

Dear Mommy, Daddy, Grandma and Grandpa...

Please help me!

- Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all that I ask for. I'm only testing you.
- Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer clear and reasonable boundaries. It makes me feel secure.
- Don't ignore my bad habits. They are danger signs that you and I have problems. Remember that force will not stop them.
- Don't do for me what I can do for myself. When this happens, I feel smaller and am less capable.
- Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
- Don't try to discuss my behavior in the heat of the situation. For some reason, my hearing is not very good at this time and my cooperation is worse. It is all right to take the action required. Let's not talk about it till later.
- I don't like it when my mistakes are viewed as sins. It upsets my sense of values.
- Don't be too upset when I say, "I hate you!" I don't mean it. I want you to feel sorry for what you have done to me and know that I am hurt.
- Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the HARD way sometimes.
- Don't take too much notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get the attention I need.
- Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself from appearing to be deaf.
- Don't make promises that can't be kept. Remember that I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
- Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I would like to. This is one reason why I am not always very accurate.
- Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
- Don't be inconsistent. That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in your guidance.
- Don't put me off when I ask questions for information. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere. If I ask questions for attention, this is a different matter.
- Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
- Don't ever think it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm toward you.
- Don't forget that I love experimenting. I couldn't get on without it, so please put up with it.
- Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do try.
- Don't use force with me. I will respond more readily to being led.
- Don't worry about the amount of time we spend together. It is HOW we spend it that counts.

 LOVE

Your Child