

RESPECTING OTHER PEOPLE

Respect is cultivated and earned. Respect is the basis for strong relationships and it is the natural result when parents use love and guidance.



HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO SHOW RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Children will learn to show respect for people who show respect to them

The parent who uses a combination of showing affection and setting limits in firm but caring ways is more likely to be shown respect. **Example:** If a child starts to hit his or her sister, a parent could react with "What's wrong with you, you bully" or hit the child. Instead, they could catch the child's hand and say "We never hurt others. Will you tell me what is bothering you?" The wise parent sets and enforces limits but does it without attacking or insulting the child.

Children will learn respect for others when people who are important to them set an example of respect

Children watch everything, and when they see us honoring people who are examples of values that are important to us, they learn what and whom we value. Our willingness to show respect to all people, even those who look or speak differently from us, plays a big part in how they act around others. This doesn't mean we accept dangerous or illegal behavior as a valuable difference; instead, use witnessing undesirable behaviors as a teachable moment without using derogatory language. "He was looking at his cell phone, so he didn't see us about to cross the street. That isn't safe."

In order to teach respect, we, as parents must be willing to admit our own imperfections. We need to apologize to a child when we have been unreasonable. We need to forgive and ask for forgiveness when we have hurt them.

Questions to ask yourself:

1. Who are some of the people you most respect? What have they done to earn your respect?
2. What are some of the ways you show respect to your children? (Do you listen respectfully to the things they say? Do you spend time with them? Do you try to honor their preference ?
3. Now talk to your child about who they respect and why and how you can show respect for each other.