Languages of Love: Showing

There are many customized ways to love. There is telling. There is hugging. And there is showing. Every person likes to receive love in a little different way.

For people who like to be shown love, actions speak louder than words. Rather than be told about your love, they want to see it. This applies with adults and with children.

Everyone likes to be shown love. While showing may not be the main way a certain child wants to be loved, showing is important to everyone. For example, a boy may be glad that his father promises to take him fishing. Promises will stop being helpful if the father does not actually take his son fishing. An ounce of action may be worth a pound of promise.

The best way to show a child love is the way the child likes to receive love. Sometimes parents try to provide big events to show their love to their children. A child may prefer that the parent simply collects bugs with her, takes a walk with her, or helps her build a treehouse.

There are many ways to show love.

- Take a bike ride together
- Play a game together
- Help the child organize his room
- Go to a ballgame together
- Make a trip to the library together
- Sit together and talk
- Work on a project together: make something with paper or clay or sticks or fabric or . . .
- Go to an interesting place - a museum or a power plant or . . .
- Go fishing together
- Sing together
- Go to a movie together
- Go camping together
- Go shopping together
- Have a treasure hunt
- Read a book together
- Take a hike together
- Take a walk around the block
- Sit and watch the stars come out

Stay tuned. Listen to what your child says. Notice what your child does. Join your children in their lives. Parents are not perfect at showing love to their children. We can be effective if we keep learning and trying.
Applications.

Think of each of your children individually.

What does that child love doing?

Is there some way you can support him or her in that?

What are some requests your child has made of you? (Will you help me with my science project? Could we shop for some fabric?)

Can you show your love by responding to those requests?

Make regular dates to do things with your child that are important to that child.

Are there ways that you have successfully shown love to your child in the past? Consider what seems to be most effective with each child.