SHOWING RESPECT FOR OTHERS

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 RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE

Children will learn to respect people who show respect to them

The parent that uses a combination of loving and setting limits in firm but caring ways are more likely to be respected. 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 them; instead they could catch the child’s hand and say “We never hurt others, would you like to 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 to respect people when people who are important to them set an example of respect

Children watch everything and they see us honoring people who are examples of values that are important to us. They see how we act when we are around people who are different from ourselves. Our willingness to show respect plays a big part in how they act around others. This doesn’t mean we accept dangerous or illegal behavior.

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 forgive and asked 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 you child about who they respect and why and how you can respect each other.

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