



# **A Parenting Guide for Entrepreneurial Parents**



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## Foreword

This ebook is a practical guide that presents an alternative to shouting, shaming, and blaming to give your child the skills that they need to grow and thrive while running your business as an entrepreneur.

Many time entrepreneurial parents mean well when they get home, but the stresses of their self-employment get in the way of building a positive relationship with their family members.

Discipline is an essential part of raising happy and successful kids, but as more and more parents are discovering, conventional approaches often don't work, and can even lead to more frustration, resentment, power struggles, and shame.

As a experienced parent with adult child, I believe that there's a better way. Having the latest research in child development, psychology, and relations-building, I have written this ebook to offer a productive alternative for successfully integrating effective parenting skills along with your entrepreneurial skills at work with pre-customers, customers, co-workers, and suppliers. It presents practical, connection-based techniques that really work--and that bring parents and children closer together instead of driving them apart.

Throughout the ebook, you will find that I use the singular form for children in the family. I realize that there may be more than one child in your family; however, I am deliberately subliminally discipling you to get in the habit of addressing each child separately.

With a focus on compassion and respect, this ebook teaches the reader how to create positive relationships and connections instead of using negative consequences.

Breaking the cycle of shaming and blaming, this ebook is filled with ideas for you to try today. *A Parenting Guide for Entrepreneurial Parents* helps parents of children of all ages embrace a new, more enlightened way to help your child listen, learn, and grow as you, likewise, listen, learn, and grow.



## Gaining Family Life Advice by Looking Through A Window

Living in today's metropolitan world of cellular phones, mobile computers, and other high-tech gadgets is not just hectic but very impersonal. We make money and then invest our time and effort in making more money. Does it end? Not usually because we are never satisfied.

How many times have we convinced ourselves that if only we had some more money, life would be so sweet? But then, after receiving a substantial raise, we realize that it wasn't enough and that we need more?

### What Should You Do?

I have read many books on life such as Robin Sharma's Monk says this and the monk says that, and they all seem to say that money is not necessary. But it is. Can you do without cash and a lot of it? I know I can't.

So, I went to my neighborhood Pastor and asked for advice that will help me find my true way in life.

The Pastor nodded and took me to the window. "What do you see?" he asked me.

Promptly, I answered, "I can see people walking to and fro and a blind man is begging for alms at the left corner."

The Pastor guided me to a big mirror. "Now look and tell me what you see?"

"I can see myself," the man answered.

The Pastor smiled, "Now you can't see anyone else. The mirror and the window are both created from the same raw material: glass, but because on one of them they have applied a thin layer of silver, when you look at it all you can see is your own reflection."

The Pastor placed his arm on my shoulders. "Compare yourself to those two pieces of glass. Without the silver layer, you saw the other people and felt compassion for them. When you are covered with silver, you see only yourself."

I looked at the Pastor with a befuddled look. "I don't understand."





The Pastor continued, "You will become someone only if you have the courage to remove the silver covering over your eyes in order to again see and love others."

I thanked him for his wise counseling and acknowledged that I am feeling better to start and maintain a relationship.

He welcomed me, patted me on my back, and sent me on my way.

I have thought of what he said and come to the conclusion that he had a point. Yes. We need the money and we should not aim to lead a moneyless existence; it's pointless and will only cause us and our families many heartbreaks in the future. Instead, I suggest that we should follow the advice the Pastor gave me. When we approach life through a silver covering, all we are able to see is ourselves. But discard that covering, and you will be able to see and feel everyone else.

In life, we are allowed to and should be able to look at both kinds of mirrors, but we should remember that a mirror reflects only us; a window is a door to compassion, health, and true wealth. In other words, seek wealth by all means, but don't let it dissuade you from life, people, children and the poor and needy.

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**Remember: *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
When you don't, we all lose.***





## Helping Your Child Develop Their Self-Discipline

We want our children to do the right thing, especially when they are out with their friends. We want to believe in them, but somehow, we don't feel certain that they would.

Have you ever asked yourself why you feel and act that way? Maybe the answer lies in the fact that, although you intend to, you rarely teach them how to develop their self-discipline. Or maybe it is because your parents never taught you how to develop yours. Well, it's never too late to learn.

**Here are fourteen principles to set you on the right track:**

- 1.** Natural and logical consequences require children to be responsible for their own behavior.
- 2.** Reward and punishment deny children the opportunity to make their own decisions and to be responsible for their own behavior.
- 3.** Distinguish the differences between the punishment approach and the logical consequences approach to developing their self-discipline:
  - Punishment expresses the power of authority; logical consequences express the impersonal reality of the social order.
  - Punishment is rarely related to misbehavior; logical consequences are logically related to the misbehavior.
  - Punishment focuses on what is past; logical consequences are concerned with the present and future behavior.
  - Punishment tells children that they are bad; logical consequences imply no element of moral judgment.
  - Punishment is associated with a threat, either open or concealed; logical consequences are based on goodwill, not on retaliation.
  - Punishment demands obedience; logical consequences permit choices.



**4. Natural consequences are those that permit children to learn from the natural order of the physical world.**

5. Logical consequences are those that permit children to learn from the reality of the social order.

6. For consequences to be effective, children involved must see them as logical.

7. The purpose of using natural and logical consequences is to motivate children to make responsible decisions, not to force their submission.

8. Apply the logical consequences approach in the proper sequence:

- Provide choices and accept the child's decision while using a friendly tone of voice that communicates your good will.
- While following through, assure the child that he may try again later.
- If the misbehavior is repeated, extend the time that must elapse before he may try again.

9. Consequences are effective only if you do not use the hidden motives of winning and controlling.

10. Be both firm and kind when correcting children's misbehavior. Firmness refers to your follow-through behavior; kindness refers to the way you present them with choices.

11. Talk less, listen and act more. Lead them into the proper behavior by setting the example.

12. When you do things for children that they could do for themselves, you are robbing them of the opportunity for self-respect and responsibility.

13. Avoid fighting or quarreling; they indicate a lack of respect for the other person. Avoid giving in; it indicates disrespect for yourself.

14. Be patient! It takes time for natural and logical consequences to become effective.

Follow these principles and watch your relationship with your children and spouse improve, the self-discipline of your children increases, and, perhaps most importantly, your patience and love for them return.





## Preventing Your Child's Misbehavior

Human behavior, whether that of a child or a grown employee, always stems from a goal or purpose. Starting as a thought, the behavior is further enforced by triggers of the emotions and senses. This behavior, when it is "good", gets us rewards and recognition, while on the other hand, negative, or "bad", behavior creates a strain on a relationship, sometimes fatally.

If you were to look at it closely, the misconduct of some employees closely resembles that of a child's misbehavior while he is seeking his mother's attention and not receiving it. Remember the antics of a young child in the supermarket who had a "Terrible Two's" tantrum because his mother won't buy him the candy or toy he wanted? Well, it is my opinion that the goal behind the employee's purposeful misconduct is to seek attention, in one way or another.

*"Every behavior, good or bad, begins as a goal." \**

Looking at the goals that trigger misconduct, let's begin by looking at the primary misconduct, that of attention-seeking. Behavioral studies show that the desire for attention is universal in all people, regardless of age, color, language, culture, etc. People tend to seek attention in positive and useful ways; but if they can't get it that way, they will seek attention in negative and useless ways.

### Turning the Negative into a Positive

To become effective in helping negative attention-seekers, we must first change our response to them by showing them that they can be accepted as a useful and contributing member of the family or organization. We do this effectively when we show them that they achieve significance through their positive and useful contributions rather than through their useless bids for attention or service. In order to focus on their constructive behavior, we must either ignore their misbehavior or pay attention to it in ways they don't expect.

**Caution:** *"Attention should never be given on demand, even for positive acts, because doing so reinforces their inappropriate desire for attention." \**

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\* **Source:** Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, **STEP**, began in 1976 when Don Dinkmeyer Sr. and Gary D. McKay expanded a successful book, **Raising a Responsible Child**, from a book study discussion group. **STEP** books have reached more than 4,000,000 parents and counting!

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Instead of reinforcing their negative and untrue belief that they don't belong unless they are the center of attention, help them develop positive feelings about themselves, their abilities, and their contributions.

### **Next Set of Misbehaviors Are Those of the Power-seekers.**

They are the ones who feel that they are significant only when they are bossing (bullying?) people around. They tend to do what they want, when they want, and how they want despite the rules, regulations, or policies. Even when their parents or supervisors succeed in subduing them, the victory is only temporary. The argument may be won, but the relationship is lost - maybe permanently.

On the other hand, sometimes the defying child or employee may seem to be complying, but they are doing so in their own way, in their own time, and at their own speed, all contrary to the rules, regulations, or policies. This artificial obedience is known as "defiant compliance". If this struggle for power continues and the power-seeker comes to feel that they cannot defeat their parents or supervisor, they may trade-in their desire for power for their next misconduct weaponry, that of subtle revenge.

When dealing with power-seekers, refrain from getting angry, from "blowing your top", and disengage from the power struggle by refusing to hold a no-win conversation. After arranging an appointment to meet with them when they calm down, turn your back and walk away. (After all, it does take two to tango, doesn't it?)

### **When Getting Mad Is Getting Even or Stopping the Madness**

The revenge-seekers are somewhat paranoid in their thinking, in convincing themselves that the world is out to get them, in believing that they have no significance unless they are hurting others, and in finding their belonging by being cruel in their relationships. Unfortunately, they trigger a downwards spiraling chain of events. Their revengeful acts, when discovered, deeply hurt their parents or supervisors, causing them to want to retaliate. The revenge-seekers then respond to the counterattacks by seeking further revenge, either by intensifying their misbehavior or by selecting another item from their weaponry inventory.



To be of help to the revenge-seekers, train yourself to avoid retaliation, at all cost. As difficult as it may seem, train yourself to improve your relationship with the revenge-seeker by remaining calm and showing them goodwill. Be prepared to the unexpected: If the war of revenge continues despite your attempts to defuse it, the revenge-seeker may come to feel completely defeated and may give all attempts to become a contributing member. They may even turn their feelings inwards by displaying manipulation as their next weapon of choice.

### **To Suck Up or Seek Out? That Is the Question.**

Manipulators, because they tend to feel inadequate to interact appropriately in a relationship, may display feigned inadequacies or disabilities. Rather than come right out with their wishes, wants, and desires, they will find elaborate ways to get others to do something for them. They become con men and women. To them, they are finding the "easy and sure way" to get what they want by lying, cheating, overcommitting, supercharming, and "gently" aggressive.

To help the manipulator convert this misconduct, train yourself to eliminate criticism, and focus, instead, on their assets, strengths, and abilities. Look for ways to help them, as I like to call it, "maximize their potential".

### **Turning Misconduct Into Super Performance**

Remember that all misbehavior and misconduct, even appropriate bids for attention, stems from discouragement. Discouraged people lack the courage to behave in an active, productive, and constructive manner. Their misbehavior does not become evident unless the manipulator perceives a real or imagined loss of status. Whatever goal or purpose the manipulation serves, it is done in the belief that only in this way can they have a place in the family or organization.

**Conclusion:** In your relationship with your child or employees, remember that their behavior and intentions towards you will change only when you change your approach. Although you do not cause them to misbehave, you can reinforce and encourage their misbehavior by reacting in ways they expect. Therefore, concentrate your efforts on changing your behavior if you want them to change theirs.

**Remember: *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
When you don't, we all lose.***





## Anticipate Your Child's Misbehavior by Looking at Their Creative Side

Did you know that winning actually puts less wear and tear on the body than worrying? And did you know that you could worry yourself sick to the point that you'll end up in a hospital bed or maybe even the cemetery? And that, depending on the severity of the problem, when it becomes a chronic and acceptable mode of conduct, it could lead to options beyond hospitalization? It could very well lead to imprisonment or internment!

Dr. Charles H. Mayo once said that half the beds in American hospitals are filled by people who worried themselves into them. The human mind seems to be like a calculator. Before you can solve a problem with it, it must be cleared of all previous problems. Worry jams up the mechanism; it short-circuits the whole operation.

It has been proven many times that by a simple change in attitude, in mental outlook, the same amount of time and energy most of us devote to worrying about our problems could be used to solving them. Creative people look at problems as challenges. They realize that without problems, everything would come to a stop. Problems do to our emotions and psyche what pain does to our body: They keep us moving forward searching for a solution. They are responsible for every forward step we take, collectively and individually.

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\* **Source:** Wikipedia: Dr. **Charles Horace Mayo**, July 19, 1865 – May 26, 1939, was an **American medical practitioner** and was one of the founders of the **Mayo Clinic** along with his brother, **William James Mayo**, **Augustus Stinchfield**, Christopher Graham, E. Star Judd, **Henry Stanley Plummer**, Melvin Millet, and Donald Balfour.

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So, if you want to have a lot more fun and a lot less worry, try the following:

- Put your child's misbehavior in its true perspective.
- See their problems in their true light: a temporary inconvenience.
- See your child as a part of your world, and that world as a part of the universe, and the universe as a part of a great and mysterious living picture.

**Every misbehavior, often times, referred to as a problem, has a solution.**

You may see not the solution immediately, but a solution is always available. You may not like the available solution, but in time you can change it to whatever suits you best.

Think about these the next time you are faced with a problem from your child, spouse, or co-worker:

- No problem is permanent.
- Every problem has a solution.
- You have the God-given powers to solve your problem.
- There are probably a number of ways to solve the problem.
- The same kind of problem has been solved a million times somewhere around the world.

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## Develop and Maintain Positive Relationships Immediately Using Only Four Ingredients

People who live next door to each other seldom take the time to get to know each other. Or worst yet, co-workers go into the same building daily, and may even ride the same elevator, without even saying a word to each other. And this story goes on daily all across the land - different locations, same scenario! How much more rewarding life would be if people would only take a moment to greet each other and start to develop positive relationships!

It is my belief that we are, at times, our own worst enemy. Despite our kind and helpful intentions, we tend to shoot ourselves in the foot when it comes to developing and maintaining positive relationships.

There tend to be problems among people whenever they ignore each other or demonstrate a lack of respect. I drew this conclusion after studying this counterproductive behavior while in college and again while in the US Air Force. Consequently, I venture to say that ninety to ninety-five percent of the cases I counseled stemmed from lack of mutual respect and/or communication.

*The development of a relationship takes time,  
but applying the ingredients begins immediately.*

The way we learned to develop and maintain our relationships with others usually started in our homes when we were young. If our parents showed love and respect for each other, we tended to do the same for our family members. Having had positive interactions there, we took it to school and eventually to the workplace. However, if we never witnessed or learned mutual respect at home, we developed an indifference for our fellow-human being. It is no wonder that we never knew how to show it.





### Mutual Respect Goes a Long Way

Respect, whenever demanded, always results in "defiant compliance" (doing it because we have to, usually under pressure, not because we want to for the pure pleasure) that may lead to counterproductive behaviors. When respect is earned, on the other hand, positive things begin to happen on both sides of the fence. The only effective way to earn respect is to give it away. Then, not only will it return, but it will do so a hundredfold. The good thing about developing positive relationships is that it is never too late to do so, despite how blight the situation might seem.

**Hint:** To create an atmosphere of mutual respect, start by demonstrating in your words and actions respect for others, starting with your spouse and children. A good way to begin is to minimize the negative talk, in yourself and in others. Speak when the atmosphere is friendly. Your family member will be more apt to listen and respond in a friendly manner. Take what you have learned to the workplace and spread respect in a similar manner there.

*Put a Little Love, Fun, and Care into Your Life  
and the Life of the Significant Others Work, Home, or Church.*

Because we are so busy with the demands of work, home, community events, and church activities, it becomes easy to overlook an all-important aspect for building positive relationships. The good news is that it does not take as much time as we might think. The benefits come in the quality, not the quantity, of time we spend with the other person.

**Hint:** Spend time on a regular basis, once a week, or two or three times a week, with the other person doing something that you both enjoy. Avoid getting into the routine of making it a forced activity or schedule.

### Encouragement Creates Cooperation.

If we expect others to respond to our wishes and requests, we must first believe in ourselves and in the other person as capable and productive persons. This belief, when expressed in positive and supportive words and actions, sends a strong message of encouragement. The other person quickly picks up and responds positively and cooperatively.

**Hint:** Minimize your mentioning of the mistakes (except in hazardous or other dangerous situations) or the weaknesses of others. Instead, recognize and acknowledge their assets and strengths. Turn their lemons into lemonade.





*Show a Little Love, Humor, and Care in All You Do and Say*

I often heard in counseling situations that "He says he loves me, but he never shows it." What this person was actually saying was that she heard it in words but was not convinced by his actions (usually it a lack of action). Remember the old adage: "Action speaks louder than words"? It could not be truer here.

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Love is both an emotion and an action. Saying it alone is not enough. Neither is showing it by itself. For the other person to feel secure in the relationship, regardless of the level of intimacy, they need to know, see, feel, and perceive that they are on the receiving end, that the other person truly cares for them.

**Hint:** Expressing our love, care, and concern for the other person is both a feeling and an action that needs to be expressed in words and action. Often such expressions are most powerful whenever they are expressed at a time or occasion when the other person is least anticipating such comments and actions.

Avoid praising people, regardless of their age. The praise may seem artificial. Instead, give them encouragement; it comes across more genuine and caring.

Although mutual respect, love, and funtimes together are all important ingredients in creating positive relationships, it is the encouragement ingredient that is the most important of all. For it is through encouragement that we focus on the strengths and assets of the others.

Consequently, it is this encouragement that helps them to believe in themselves and their abilities, that helps them to accept and learn from their mistakes, and that helps them to develop the courage to be themselves, imperfections and all. (This just might be the first step they needed in helping them learn how to maximize their potential.)

There you have it: The four ingredients in developing and maintaining positive relationships, mutual respect, love, having fun together, and encouragement. Now put this recipe into practice with your employees, your customers, your colleagues, and others, and watch the positive results of your behavioral investments grow beyond all leaps and bounds.

**Remember:** *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
When you don't, we all lose.*



## What Every Parent Should Know About How to Unify Their Child

Project Head Start has been successful not only for the youthful students, but for the teachers, supporting staff, and families as well. My first job, while I was still in college, was as a Teacher's Assistant during the summer of 1968. Years later I was a Mental Health Consultant with Head Start in the US Virgin Islands. Although a bit bias, I have nothing but respect for Project Head Start and their teachings.

Therefore, borrowing from their *Seven Builders for Family and Youth* publication, I encourage you to apply them as well.

### **Principle 1. Commit to Quality and Excellence in Thought and Action:**

- Give quality service to all.
- Develop and maintain a professional image.
- Develop positive habits through daily practice.
- Provide the finest working environment possible.

### **Principle 2. Be Caring to Others and Be Sensitive to Their Needs:**

- Respect the individual.
- Listen and acknowledge.
- Be aware of what your actions say.
- Eliminate *cold prickles* and *dirty bricks*.
- Provide *warm fuzzies* and *golden bricks* and with sincerity.
- Help others solve their own problems and realize their maximum potential.
- Change leadership style as a person's competence and commitment grow.





**Principle 3. Grow as a Total Person:**

- Commit to self-development and improvement in all areas.
- Set meaningful goals and evaluate your progress periodically.
- Believe in your ability to make significant contributions and make them!
- Continually develop and maintain self-esteem and a sense of achievement.
- Promote training, education, self-sufficiency, and leadership for all children and adults.

**Principle 4. Have Personal Integrity:**

- Be fair to the best of your ability.
- Be honest with yourself and everyone around you.
- Say and do only those things of which you can be proud.
- Understand that mistakes will be made and learn from them.
- Let others know in as positive a way as possible when their performance or behavior is unacceptable, inappropriate, unhealthy, or unproductive.



**Principle 5. Love All Children (and the Child in All of Us):**

- Respect and protect each child from harm of any kind.
- Direct all efforts to providing a stimulating, exciting, and fun-filled learning environment.

**Principle 6. Value Parents and the Family (Starting with Your Own):**

- Give recognition for hard work, effort, and accomplishments.
- Develop parenting skills, quality time, and bonding with other parents.
- Focus on building close interpersonal relationships involving caring, respect, trust, kindness, and responsibility.

**Principle 7. Strive for Agency Unification:**

- Establish buddy systems to facilitate success.
- Promote loyalty within the agency by word and action.
- Live the agency's unifying principles as well as your own.
- Assist in the sharing of ideas and joint implementation through teamwork and group goal-setting.

Well, managers, supervisors, parents, and teachers, what do you think? I'm sure that you'll agree with me that these principles are as appropriate in the boardroom and workroom as they are in the classroom.

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## Taking Time Out for You and Your Spouse

**Robin Sharma**, one of the top leadership experts in the world, is the same Robin I've addressed in Chapter One. His work is embraced by rock stars, royalty, billionaires, and many celebrity CEOs. I'm shifting gears here to help you and your spouse develop an exceptional life as developed by Robin.

Ultimately, life goes by in a blink. And too many people live the same year over and over. To avoid getting to the end and feeling flooded regret over a life half-lived, read (and then apply) these tips:

- Exercise daily.
- Get serious about gratitude.
- See your work as a craft.
- Expect the best and prepare for the worst.
- Keep a journal.
- Read "*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*".
- Plan a schedule for your week.
- Know the 5 highest priorities of your life.
- Say no to distractions.
- Drink a lot of water.
- Improve your work every single day.
- Get a mentor.
- Hire a coach.
- Get up at 5 am each day.
- Eat less food.
- Find more heroes.
- Be a hero to someone.
- Smile at strangers.
- Be the most ethical person you know.
- Don't settle for anything less than excellence.





- Travel more.
- Read *"As You Think"*.
- Honor your parents.
- Tip taxi drivers well.
- Be a great teammate.
- Give no energy to critics.
- Savor life's simplest pleasures.
- Save 10% of your income each month.
- Spend time at art galleries.
- Walk in the woods.
- Write thank you letters to those who've helped you.
- Forgive those who've wronged you.
- Remember that leadership is about influence and impact, not title and accolades.
- Create unforgettable moments with those you love.
- Read daily.
- Have 5 great friends.
- Avoid the news.
- Be content with what you have.
- Pursue your dreams.
- Be authentic.
- Be passionate.
- Say sorry when you know you should.
- Never miss a moment to celebrate another.
- Have a vision for your life.
- Know your strengths.
- Focus your mind on the good versus the lack.
- Be patient.
- Don't give up.
- Clean up your messes.
- Use impeccable words.
- Travel more.
- Read *"As You Think"*.
- Honor your parents.
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- Forgive those who've wronged you.
- Remember that leadership is about influence and impact, not title and accolades.
- Create unforgettable moments with those you love.
- Have 5 great friends.
- Become stunningly polite.
- Unplug your TV.
- Sell your TV.
- Spend time in the mountains.
- Know your top 5 values.
- Shift from being busy to achieving results.
- Innovate and iterate.
- Speak less. Listen more.
- Be the best person you know.
- Make your life matter.

Remember: *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
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## Nine Things Your Child Wishes You'd Do But Doesn't Know How to Tell You

Courtesy of **Brandi Michel** and used with permission

(**Note:** See a brief bio about Brandi in the **Author's Corner** at the end of this chapter.)

We have the power to meet our children's deepest felt needs with purpose and intention. When these needs go unmet for long periods in a growing child, it leaves a deep hole that they desperately look to fill with something or someone else.

If you read this list and feel that you've been missing one or a few needs, please don't feel discouraged, judged, or condemned.

**Follow Brandi's recommendations: just take intentional action to *reconnect with your children* in that area.** The wonderful thing about children is their resiliency and their ability to forgive without question.

You may also read this list and think, these are no-brainers. Well, congratulations you're probably a fantastic parent. But take a moment and look around at your kid's school, at their soccer games, and dance recitals. Talk to many of your children's friends. You'll quickly see these aren't happening for every child as they ~~should~~ **we** need to get it out there and talk about it. Not so we can be finger-pointers and parent shamers, but to shine a light on what's lacking in this world. And how we as moms can make such a huge difference in this world through the gift and privilege of motherhood.

When we raise happy, resilient, and **kind** adults... we've made a tremendous impact in this world! And that's what this list is all about.



Now let's find out where we are...

### 1. Love Them Intentionally

What does it mean to love someone intentionally? It means to give thought and purpose to how we actively show love to another person, in this case, our kids. It's not enough to love them by providing a good home and sending them to a good school. Our kids need much more than that.

Money is the smallest thing our kids need from us . . . even though it doesn't always feel that way. Parents, including Brandi, tend to work our fingers to the bone to give them a better life. In the end, our kids aren't looking for that alone. Sure, they want their basic needs met and, yes, kids love asking for and spending money. Whew! She knows mine do!

But what they *really* need is for us to lovingly learn who they are and how they need to be loved. That's where the power and beauty of love languages come in. If you **know your child's love language**, it can make all the difference.

Simply showing up and taking an interest in what your child loves can go so far... even when their interest is gross, boring to you, or just plain annoying. Because ***sometimes they just are!***

**But there are some things our children *don't* always tell us. Things they *should*, but *don't* have the capacity to find the words.** Or they just have no idea how to tell you. These are things they desperately need us to do for them, that often go unmet. Tough. Right?

These are the things that children wish their parents knew, so they could easily be equipped to meet their unsaid needs. This is a sticky situation for both the children who need them and the parents who unknowingly fail to deliver.

That's why Brandi created this list. To help Moms like you and Brandi shift your focus just a bit because **parenting is hard** and complicated and Moms all miss it from time to time. Until we watch an inspirational video or read a post online that hits us between the eyes and helps us get where we always wanted to be. This has happened to Brandi me a million times since becoming a Mom over a decade ago.





## 2. Be Present and Pay Attention

This is a really huge need for children and doesn't go away as we become adults. There are many adults in marriages where the spouse provides a good home, puts food on the table, but isn't really *there*. When your spouse doesn't make any attempt to connect with you, it hurts deeply. I know because I've seen it happen.

It's the very same with children. They want you there physically but much more, they want you there emotionally. Brandi daughter played soccer for a couple years and she was really good and it was fun watching her little girl dominate the field with both girls and boys. During this time, Brandi saw a lot of different parents on the sidelines.

One in particular stuck out to her. There was a little boy who obviously played soccer for many years and was very good. He would ferociously kick the ball into the goal again and again like he was in the World Cup. The crowd would cheer and you could see him immediately look where his parents were sitting to catch their approval and instead would repeatedly see his parents walking around talking on their cell phones . . . never looking at the field.

When Brandi would look back at that child, every time you could see the disappointment in his eyes. Though we could applaud his parents for both being there *physically*, we can see that week after week they weren't really there.

In this [amazing article](#), there was a study done by College athletes that asked them what their parents contributed to making them feel joy during and after their games. The answer will shock you.

It showed the power in 6 words a parent can say that can make ALL the difference, "I love to watch you play." Wow! That's it! Parenting can feel complicated and overwhelming at times, but our children are really as simple as needing us to just show up.





### 3. Support Them No Matter Their Choices

Brandi knows her Type-A Moms are wincing back at this one. Stay with Brandi for a second... please. She didn't say "accept" all their choices, she said to support them no matter what their choices are. *Support your child, not the choices.*

Life is hard and we all need a support system. We also all make mistakes and miss the mark from time to time. And it's really hard to live life feeling like when we make a bad choice or totally screw up, that our support system is always in jeopardy. ~~Sure, it~~ sucks to have a child that can't seem to get it together or a teenager or young adult who looks on the surface like a total disappointment despite how you raised them. Brandi knows this because she was that screw-up child. She was an angry, hurt, and messed up child for a lot of reasons she can't get into here. But the one thing her parents *did* was support her every step of the way. NEVER her awful choices... ME.

How did they do this? By always keeping their loving doors open, never shaming her even when it was justified, and praying incessantly for me. They never gave up on her. And though her parents weren't perfect, Brandi always knew she was loved. And they taught her about Jesus who loved her unconditionally. And that was what she believe made all the difference in turning her life around.

### 4. Say No And Give Them Borders

Yes, Brandi said it. Our children need us to say no and they need us to give them safe and healthy borders. Children who have parents saying yes to almost anything, even the questionable things, are telling their children they don't care about them.



**It's true.** Though your child may be kicking and screaming because they can't go to the slumber party at Amy's house, they know way under the surface that you care. That might not be helpful right at the moment, but it's the hardest decisions of love that linger the longest.

In this crazy, upside down world we live in, Brandi says NO a lot. She doesn't really have a choice because she loves her children. And it's her job to protect and lead them through the tough choices and teach them how to make better decisions. For example, at her daughter's sixth-grade orientation last year, her teacher mentioned a tip about taking your child's phone and keeping it in your bedroom at night. At the time, she'd never thought of this because her daughter never gave her a reason. She's so glad she heard this tip because it made her see the importance of simple ways. Brandi can remove the opportunity for her to be accessed at all hours of the night. It's unnecessary and has the potential to be dangerous.

Brandi treats social media accounts the same way. Our children don't need unfettered access to unfiltered content on social media at very young ages. By creating boundaries, you are helping your child know how to place healthy boundaries for themselves later on.

### **5. Let Them Live *Their* Purpose**

I believe every person born on this planet has a **God-given purpose**. A purpose that was given to them by their creator. We may have grown them in our wombs, but God gave them life and purpose. We need to honor the gifts they've been given and help them grow in them.

Our kids need us to tell them they are special and unique and even when they're scared and feel totally unqualified. That they need to discover and pursue their purpose with passion and intention.

Too often parents want their children to pass on the family business, whatever that may be. Or to choose a more "sensible" profession instead of the one in their dreams. And I'm talking about when they're older and not their dream of becoming a princess or Superman.





We often try to create a life plan *for* our kids without ever considering they already have one. Our job as parents is to help them *find* it and to embrace it.

There are millions of depressed, suicidal, and hopeless adults who were pressured to pursue a “sensible” career that was totally outside of their purpose. And though they may have attained success in the world’s eyes... they feel empty. Though we may not understand it, we owe it to our kids to lead them into their purpose instead of away from it.

### 6. Discipline Them

Just like our children need to be told no, they also need and want to be disciplined. The Bible teaches that we **discipline those we love**. There’s so much truth to that. Discipline isn’t necessarily punishment, it’s the intentional act of shaping and molding into the right behavior. And that takes work and compassion.

It doesn’t require love to want someone who’s done something terrible to face punishment. But it *does* require love to allow them to face that punishment while teaching and guiding them into the right behavior.

We don’t want to discipline our kids with the “rot in jail and throw away the key” mentality. Yes, punishment and consequences are all a part of the discipline process because that’s what prepares them for real life. But it’s also the compassionate and sometimes time-consuming teaching of the right behavior that makes all the difference and shows how much we love our child.

### 7. Give Them One on One Time

Tricia Goyer shared this concept from her book, *Balanced: Finding Center as a Work-at-Home Mom*. It was so simple, yet profound. But it does require endurance on your part. And it’s an investment of your time, depending on how many children you have! Yet, it’s time well spent.

If your spouse and your children each have your undivided “eyes only” attention each day, it sends a powerful message to them – YOU Matter. And there’s no revelation more powerful than that. Try carving out a small 10 minutes times for each person, each day. And then work your way up as you develop discipline in this habit.



## 8. Give Them Independence

Children need space and independence to grow and learn how to make good choices. This may seem to be in opposition to “be present” but it isn’t. Giving your child independence simply means allowing them to work things out on their own . . . with your guidance.

This teaches them about how their actions have both positive and negative consequences. And as they get older, they need to be able to safely make both good and bad choices. You’ll find that in doing this, they learn to self-correct at a much faster rate than us always doing it for them.

Just remember to give large doses of grace as they will make mistakes!

## 9. Embrace and Love Their Uniqueness

In this “fit in or get out” world we need to be intentional about embracing our children’s uniqueness. Our children need us to affirm that though their uniqueness makes them stand out, it’s that uniqueness that makes them special.

As a child’s minister years ago, Brandi taught her children that it feels uncomfortable to stand out and be different. And we have this desire to blend in with what the world says is beautiful, talented, or cool.

But she asked them to think about the biggest stars and icons in the entertainment industry and describe what makes them more of a star than all the other entertainers. And the majority of the answers were . . . the biggest stars worked very hard to stand out and be different.

Think of Lady GaGa and Michael Jackson. Their biggest claim to fame is doing what no one else has done before... to produce a sound no one else has heard before. That takes guts, confidence, and the ability to fully embrace their uniqueness.

As parents, this is probably the hardest thing to do. But no matter how many times you tell your daughter her curls are beautiful or that your son’s bright red hair is amazing, and they brush it off... keep saying it. Until they believe it.





## Author's Corner: **Brandi Michel**, Mother, Writer, Blogger

Brandi Michel, happily married for 15 years, is the co-parent of three awesome children. And though Brandi adores her family, she found the early days of motherhood to be harder than she thought it would be. It took much prayer and reflection, but she learned that her thinking was one of her biggest problems. Now, she's living her dream and she's trained her mind to think the right way which opened the door for a joyful life!

Along with Brandi, I hope her list gives you some inspirations on ways to be more connected with your children. Let's face it, we all fall short of hitting these perfectly – especially in busy seasons.

Perfection is the enemy of progress and it's better to be aware and make changes than to try for perfection any day. What are your thoughts on this list? Did she miss anything? Please add in the comments below!

Ready to Start Really Connecting with your children and Developing Meaningful Relationships?

Get **FREE Access** to the simple and effective steps to get your kids talking and avoid the most common communication traps along the way!

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**Remember: *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
When you don't, we all lose.***





## Helping Your Child Stay Safe Online

Nowadays, staying safe online has become a never-ending battle - for children as well as adults. Because cybercriminals are becoming smarter and more sophisticated in their operations, they are real threats to your personal security and privacy. Your money, your computer, your family, and your business are all at risk.

However, with a little common sense and some knowledge about what to do and not do, one can surf the 'net unscathed. Here is a great set of rules for kids while they are online. I found these rules at [safekids.com](http://safekids.com). Parents, Employers, and Managers, you can take some notes from these rules, too:

1. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
4. I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the service provider.
6. I will talk to my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.



7. I will not give out my Internet password to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.

8. I will check with my parents before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt our computer or jeopardize my family's privacy

9. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.

10. I will help my parents understand how to have fun and learn things online and teach them things about the Internet, computers and other technology.

Although you may follow the rules religiously, you, your computer, and your family might still be at risk because cybercriminals leave you with three choices:

1. Do nothing and hope their attacks, risks, and threats don't occur on your computer.

2. Do the research and get training to protect yourself, your family, and your business.

3. Get professional help to lockdown your system from all their attacks, risks, and threats.

**Remember: *When you say "No!" to hackers and spyware, everyone wins!  
When you don't, we all lose!***



## Improving Your Family and Customer Relationships via Social Media Marketing

Before I address the following questions:

- What is a social media site (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, et al)?
- What can a social media site do for your child or children? and
- What can a social site do for your business?

... let me pose a few "What if ..." questions to you.

Keeping in mind that before your prospects and customers buy from you, they need to know you, like you, and trust you. In other words, they need to know, whether overtly or covertly, that they have a trusting and ongoing relationship with you. What better way to accomplish that goal than a blog?

Now, here are my What if ... questions:

- What if in less than two minutes after creating and posting a comment or event on your social media website, it was promoted to 10,000 prospects without any extra effort or cost on your part?
- What if every time someone clicks on a hyperlinked keyword that describes their hobbies, their occupation, their industry, their favorite books, movies, music, or artist, every time they go online to your social media site?
- What if every time you leave a comment on someone else's social media site, you could leave a hyperlink to your social media site website, or email?
- What if someone enters your name, business name, or one of your keywords into a search engine or your hashtags on a social media website, the findings will direct them to your business website (or a website of your choice) in their search engine results?





- What if every time you post content on your social media website, it would bypass the spam filters and instantaneously appear on your subscribers' desktop without any extra effort or cost on your part? **Hint:** This an excellent opportunity to get your sale, your special message, or your time-sensitive announcement into their hands, or actually in front of their eyes!
- What if your satisfied customers had the opportunity to place their self-generated testimonies on your social media website? (Although some might need encouragement, that's all right. Make an incentive opportunity of it! Offer some incentive for their efforts.)

By now you should be beginning to see the powerful potential of social media marketing offers you. These are just some of the powerful customer relationship management features social media marketing offers you. But wait! There's more!

What if you were to combine these powerful features with other online and offline efforts such as a social media website, a blog, teleseminar, webinar, online articles, and others?

*Would that enhance your relationship efforts with your customers?*

I realize that successful marketing and sales are still a high touch entity, but when you combine high tech with high touch, you're bound for success!!!

Now to answer the original questions: What is a social media website? and What can it do for your business?

A social media website offers your business countless options, namely, it will:

- help to reduce your time spend distributing emails and other messages.
- give your viewers, prospects, or customers immediate access to you.
- improve your content delivery rates close to 100%.



- improve your search engine rankings.
- publish fresh content constantly.
- bypass spam filters completely.
- improve your online visibility.
- enhance your web presence.
- generate more visitors.
- and more . . .

So, if you don't already have a social media website, I only have 1 question for you: **What are you waiting for?!?** Don't let this cutting-edge technology, this powerful marketing tool, pass you by. Online companies are popping up all over the internet offering you free social media websites. My recommendation is that you grab one, or two - or more! Most, if not all, are extremely easy to create but may be time-consuming, according to your already hectic schedule, to maintain.

If that's the case in your situation, you might want to call in outside help. Consider the high school computer techie next door, or the college-age computer-major son or daughter of a friend who could always use a few extra bucks.

Or, if you don't have either option available to you, or want to see samples first, I invite you to take a look at what I'm doing as a social media marketing consultant, predominantly at [www.Pinterest.com/eagibbs](http://www.Pinterest.com/eagibbs)

**I leave you with this wish:**

May you always be successful in looking for and using new and creative ways to maximize the potential of your family.

**Remember: *When you maximize your potential, everyone wins.  
When you don't, we all lose.***



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