

Thrive Tidbits

Respect and Responsibility



Did you know?

- That the basis for respect for others and for our environment is set in early childhood? What we model for our kids is what they learn and carry with them into adulthood.
- That helping a child develop into a responsible person begins by modeling responsible behavior and by teaching a child to make good choices beginning in early childhood?

Tips for raising your child...

Show that you respect your child and help them to become responsible in making decisions by giving them choices throughout the day. Give two options, both of which you like. Learning responsible decision making as a young child will help your child when they have more important decision making that comes up in later years.

Do you want to wear the red shirt or the blue shirt?

Would you like water or milk with dinner?

Should we go to the park or the library?

Teach and model respect. One way is to be kind and firm at the same time: kind to show respect for the child and firm to show respect for yourself and the needs of the situation. "It looks like you are getting a little wild. Would you like to walk or to ride in the cart? It's your choice".



Positive Time-Outs

When a child is overwhelmed and moving into a tantrum, have a comfy spot available with favorite books and stuffed animals so that the child can move there to calm down. Children do better when they feel better. When the child gets back in control, invite them back into the family.

Responsibilities

To help build responsibility, give your child tasks that he can handle. Teach them how and then expect that they will accomplish the task.

Name the emotions that you see your child exhibiting from babyhood on since emotions start at birth. Your child needs you to teach them about their feelings.

Working Together

-As parents, you have a big but rewarding job. The relationship between parents and infants is setting the stage for your baby's life. A loving, respectful home will start your child off toward a happy, productive life.

-The relationship between mothers and fathers affects their relationship with their baby which, in turn, affects their baby's health and development. If there is lack of respect with yelling, hitting, insults and/or violence, the child's mental and physical health is affected.

Make sure the message of love always gets through to your child. Start with "I care about you and I am concerned about the situation. Will you help me with a solution?"

