

# Model the respectful behavior you'd like to see from your child

Being respectful is critical to success in school and life. However, when it comes to teaching your child about respect, the idea isn't to teach her at all. It's to show her. By demonstrating what respect looks like, you'll go a long way toward helping your child become respectful.

Here are some simple ways to demonstrate respect every day:

- Be honest. Tell your child the truth. Admit your mistakes instead of blaming others for them. Apologize (even to your child) when you are wrong.
- Be dependable. If you tell your child you'll do something, do it. Earn her respect by proving that you're reliable. And when you can't do something, be honest about it.
- Be kind. Don't insult or belittle your child when she makes a mistake.
- Be fair. Don't pass judgment on your child or punish her for something before learning all the facts. Show respect by taking the time to get her side of the story.
- Be polite. Say please, thank you and excuse me when talking to your child. Don't barge into her room, either. Knock first.

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