

Hey, Mom and Dad!

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The following comments on dealing teens do not come from a preacher, a psychologist or family counselor. They come from a survey of over 300 teenagers in Houston, TX. Some of their recommendations may surprise you:

- “Don’t allow your child to bring company into the house, unless you know them personally.”
- “Don’t let your small kids watch a lot of TV. If you do, they will adopt the bad attitudes seen on TV and end up not respecting you.”
- “Teach your children about God. Try to raise them according to the principles found in the Bible.”
- “When you let your children go out, give them a curfew. Let them know you love them and want them to be safe.”
- “When trying to talk to your children about private subjects like sex, just sensitively say it. If you beat around the bush, it makes you both nervous.”
- “Punishment should match the offense. That means physical punishment may be needed.”
- “Teach you kids manners, like how a lady sits and how a gentleman opens the door for a lady.”
- “Be consistent in what you say; follow through with your decision.”
- “Let your children grow up.”
- “Play with your kids. Have fun and laugh.”
- “Father, tell your daughter you love her often. If you don’t, she will go out looking for love in boys or friends, but she will never find the kind of love she wants.”
- “Be there for teens, even when they try to push you away. The harder they resist, the more they need you.”
- “Teach your children that a true friend will understand that when you say no, you mean no.”
- “Accept the fact that adults aren’t always right. If you’re wrong, admit it.”
- “When you children are very small, let them have only wholesome friends. If you allow your children to have bad friends, they will soon be bad, too.”
- “Praise your children often. When they tell the truth, when they make good grades, when they look nice, praise them.”
- “Cook for the family.”
- “Don’t hold the past against your child. What happened, happened; it cannot be changed.”
- “Know how to take control. Don’t be a pushover.”
- “Don’t jump to conclusions.”

(Focus on the Family, 1/97, research by Dayle Allen Shockley).