

If Our Young Children Could Talk...

...and if they were capable of insight into their own behavior and feelings, these are some things they might say to those who help them grow and prosper:

1. I know quite well that I ought not have all I ask for - I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
3. I have to rely on you to detect bad habits in the early stages so I won't get used to them.
4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave foolishly "big."
5. I'll take more notice if you talk quietly with me in private, rather than yelling at me in front of people.
6. Don't make me feel my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of values.
7. You can't always protect me from consequence. And besides, I need to learn the hard way sometimes.
8. Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you." It isn't you I hate, it's your power to thwart me that enrages me.
9. If you nag too much, I'll have to protect myself by ignoring you.
10. Please remember that I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
11. I cannot always explain myself as well as I would like. That is why I'm not always accurate.
12. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
13. Your consistency is reassuring. When you are inconsistent it completely confuses me. I'm not quite sure when you "really mean it."
14. Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, you will find that I stop asking and seek information elsewhere.
15. I'm confused if you tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
16. It is not beneath your dignity to apologize to me. It shows you respect me and teaches me to be thoughtful.
17. I love experimenting! It's how I learn just about everything, so please put up with it.
18. How quickly I am growing up! It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please try.
19. Your steady care and attention and playfulness and affection matters more to me than anything in the world. I love you.

Source unknown