

Top Ten Tips for Parenting Your Teen

1. With privilege comes responsibility. If your teen receives a privilege (a later curfew, permission to use the car, a chance to throw a party at your home, etc.), he must take full responsibility for his actions.



2. Get your facts straight. Nothing kills your credibility with a teen faster than turning out to be wrong.

3. Pick your battles. Don't fight over the insignificant; save your strong words for major issues.

4. Be as nonjudgmental as possible about your teen's friends. If you've communicated your values, your teen will make the right decision in the long run.

5. Teenagers need consistent limits. Don't be afraid to set them.

6. Protect your teen from making mistakes that can last forever. If your teen is doing something that is dangerous to herself or anyone else, get involved.

7. Keep your teen closely tied to the family. She wants and needs to be surrounded by the people who love her best.

8. On the other hand, be prepared to turn in your "being in charge" card. Over time, your teen should be making more and more of her own decisions.

9. Listen before you speak. You may change your mind once you hear what your teen has to say.

10. Always believe in your teen. Believing that your child is good can be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

