



# How to Pass Your Values on to your kids

**Prepare your child for life.** Communicate the importance of character, values, and personal responsibility.

**Stand for something.** Share your beliefs and values in a consistent manner reinforced in many ways.

**Encourage exemplary behavior.** Inspire your kids to do their best *and* to be their best.

**Set an example.** Show, not tell. Be the person you want your kids to be.

**Manage expectations.** Establish clear boundaries and encourage your kids to live within them.

**Give responsibility.** Give your kids the freedom to make their own choices — but teach them that with independence comes accountability.

**Make yourself available.** Be available, not just present. When kids are ready to talk, be there to listen.

**Communicate more.** Create an environment in which open and honest communication is encouraged. Remember, when kids grow up, they'll hear your voice in their subconscious.

**Provide discipline.** Let your kids know when they step out of bounds. The fact is, saying nothing says everything.

**Keep good company.** Encourage your kids to surround themselves with positive people who possess strong moral character.

**Monitor the media.** Observe how your kids spend their free time and whether they're being positively/negatively influenced by others.

**Cultivate skills.** Treat every experience as a learning opportunity in which feedback is welcomed, mistakes are tolerated, and failures are viewed as hurdles rather than as roadblocks.

**Expose your kids to diversity.** Teach your kids to be open-minded to others' viewpoints and beliefs.

**Spend quality time.** Make time to create fond memories and bond as a family.

**Celebrate excellence.** Recognize and reward your kids' exemplary behavior with praise coupled with added responsibility.