

RAISING GREAT KIDS:



TEM TIPS FROM A GRANDFATHER

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Raising children can be a wonderful experience. It is one of the most important jobs you will ever do. It is difficult at times, but the rewards make it worth it.

Through my own experience helping raise four wonderful daughters and nine grandchildren, I've learned a lot about raising kids. I've also asked other parents and read many experts' opinions. The tips in this book come from all this experience and study.

Hopefully, these tips will help you raise great kids --- kids that grow into smart, happy and healthy adults. I wish you success, happiness and good luck.



George Stevenson
Drawings by Bonnie Zak

The tips are...

1. Read with them
2. Talk and listen to them
3. Let them play
4. Create routines and structure
5. Build self-esteem and resilience
6. Have rules, discipline and rewards
7. Take them places
8. Help them succeed in school
9. Make sure they have caring adults in their lives
10. Teach them values and social skills

Read with them



Cuddle up with them
and a book at least 20
minutes each day



Read with expression in your voice
and make it fun



Ask questions, talk about the
pictures, and let them
point out things

Talk and listen to them



Start when they are tiny babies



Sing nursery rhymes and silly songs



Tell family or made up stories



Ask them about their day



Talk any time you do things together

Let them play



Set aside time for play by themselves - for creativity and to be alone



Play games with them - for rules and fun together



Let them play with other kids - to learn to get along, play fair and compete

Build self-esteem and resilience

Praise something good they
do every day

Teach them it is okay to
fail and to try again

Give them choices to make



Let them help around the house

Tell them you love them and
make time to be with them

Tell them stories about hard
times in your life and how
you got through them

Create routines and structure

Make a morning routine to get up, dress and eat



Have bedtime rituals (bath, storytime, bed - no electronics) at the same time every night

Create family traditions for holidays and regular together time



Have family dinners together

Have rules, discipline and rewards

Explain the rules and the reasons for them



Be consistent

Praise good behavior



If they disobey, redirect them - don't hit, spank or yell

Take them places

Take them to parks or on
neighborhood walks



Go to the library and get books

Visit friends' or relatives' homes
and take family trips



Visit museums or zoos

Help them succeed in school

Praise them for hard work

Talk about how important
education is



Discuss future plans
for college or career

Get to know and share information
with their teachers

Make sure they have caring adults in their lives

Build relationships with other children's parents



Introduce them to your neighbors, crossing guards and store owners

Enroll them in youth programs run by community or religious organizations



Get them involved in sports, music or art programs

Teach them values and social skills

Don't yell, scream, hit or use
bad words



Use good manners - say please
and thank you

Care for other people



Be honest, kind and
respect others

Remember...

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2. Talk and listen to them
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8. Help them succeed in school
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10. Teach them values and social skills

There's nothing here you can't do. Good luck!

Remember, kids learn from watching
you, so be a good role model.

And, most importantly, love them a lot!

