

Building Respect

Teach respect by listening to your child

Sometimes the best way to get your child to behave respectfully is by doing something very simple. Just listen to him.

Suppose your child is arguing about having to do chores. It's an argument you've had before. So far, saying, "Just do the chores" hasn't worked.

So set aside time to talk and listen to your child. Your goal is to come away with an understanding of what the argument is really about.

Suppose your child says, "I really need time right after school to relax before I start doing homework or chores." That's probably something you can live with. You can give your child a chance to decide when to do things, but not whether to do them.

When you take the time to understand your child, he'll be more likely to cooperate. You remain in control, but you have demonstrated respect--and are more likely to receive it as well.

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