



The ABC's of Helping Your Child

By Carole L. Riggs

- A Accept your child, unconditionally.
- B Believe in your child. Trust in his or her ability.
- C Communicate with your child. Share ideas.
- D Discuss things with your child.
- E Enjoy your child. When parents enjoy their children, children enjoy their parents.
- F Find things of interest to do together.
- G Give your child responsibility which can be handled.
- H Help your child with words of encouragement.
- I Impress upon your child the vision of what is all around. Talk about the things you see, hear, taste, feel, and smell.
- J Join your child in fun activities.
- K Keep from over-identifying with your child. Don't try to live your life again through your child.
- L Listen to your child. He or she needs someone to share thoughts and ideas.
- M Model behavior you want to see in your child.
- N Name things for your child. Labels are important.
- O Observe the way your child goes about tasks. Provide help when needed.
- P Pace your child. He or she needs someone to share thoughts and ideas.
- Q Question your child using question words such as who, what, where, and when. Ask about stories or everyday things that happen.
- R Read to your child every day.
- S Spend time with your child.
- T Take your child to the library on a regular basis.
- U Understand that learning isn't always easy. Sometimes we all fail. We can learn from our mistakes.
- V Value your child's school and teachers. Your attitude will often be mirrored in your child.
- W Write with your child. Encourage the youngster to write; even scribbles are important.
- X X is often an unknown quantity. What else would you like to add to this list?
- Y You are your child's most important teacher.
- Z Zip it all up with love. Love gives zest to life.