



## Modeling Appropriate Behavior

Parents teach their children all the time. Sometimes they do not know they are doing it. Parents teach their children whenever the children are watching. Children see what the parents do. They learn from parents' words and actions. They learn what ways of behaving are good and what ways are not good by watching parents.

- Children learn from seeing.
- Children learn from listening.
- Children say things they have heard.
- Children copy things they have seen.
- Children learn actions and attitudes.

The best way to help children to do what you want them to do is by doing those things yourself. You must try to be the sort of person you hope your child will become.

For example:

- You may want to teach your child that physical violence is not the way to solve problems. Then you should not hit, slap, or spank the child.
- You may want to encourage your child to become responsible. Then you should admit it when you make a mistake, and you should keep your promises.

- You may want to teach them to respect others. Show them by your words and actions that you respect yourself and them. Use respectful tones and words.

*Sources:*

Crary, E. (1993). *Without Spanking or Spoiling: A Practical Approach to Toddler and Preschool Guidance*. Seattle, WA: Parenting Press Inc.

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