

BASICS OF GOOD PARENTING

What is Parenting?

Parenting is the process of actively providing a safe, secure, nurturing environment for your children. It requires flexibility to meet the unique needs of individual children, the firmness to set needed limits and the maturity to sometimes set aside your needs and desires for the benefit of your children.

Is Parenting natural?

People are not born with the essential skills to be parents, although some people have a natural temperament that makes it easier for them to parent. To some degree, learning how to parent involves considerable trial and error. Parents who are open to learning how to improve their parenting skills usually become better parents over the course of time.

What do Children need from Parents?

A parent's role changes as children grow up. When children are young, this role is to nurture, protect and guide them. Parents must continue to do this, but to a lesser extent, as children grow older. As children mature, the most important role parents take on is to help prepare them to be independent.

What do Children need from Parents?

Children need to receive messages from their parents that they are lovable, capable and special in positive ways. They need to know that their parents are available when they need help and support and are eager to be present to witness their accomplishments, they also need parents to provide an atmosphere that is mentally and physically challenging and stimulating.

How can I improve as a Parent?

Learning how to be a parent is an ongoing process. When in doubt about your parenting, talk to other parents, attend parenting classes, and gather information from books, magazines, television and radio. If you still have major concerns, consult with a professional who specializes in working with parents and children.

Ways to handle the stress of Parenting

1. Take time out (every day if possible) to do something just for yourself.
2. Keep your relationship with your spouse strong, you need each other's support. If you don't have a spouse, build a support system of friends and relatives.
3. Experience the joys of seeing your children grow and develop.
4. Remember that children will make mistakes, be inconsistent, act selfishly, and be thoughtless.
5. If you feel overwhelmed, arrange for help to relieve you of some of your responsibilities so you can focus more on caring for your children.
6. Accept the fact that parenting often involves putting the fulfillment of your own needs and desires on hold.
7. Let yourself laugh when things you try don't go exactly as planned.
8. Change your routine whenever possible.
9. Spend time with friends. Share your concerns about parenting with them.
10. Let the Child in you come out and play with your children.

