

Follow a Plan to Teach Your Child Values

When it comes to teaching values, parents are the best teachers. And like any teacher, you need a “lesson plan” to build your child’s character at home. Here’s how to build your plan:

- **Think about the values** that are important to you. Talk about them openly with your child. Say things like, “Throwing trash on the ground in the park is not responsible.”
- **Teach by example.** This is the most powerful teacher of all. Ask yourself, “If my child watched my behavior all day, what lessons would he learn?”
- **Set high standards.** Expect your child to be kind to others and to tell the truth. Make it a point of family pride. “In the Smith family, we always tell the truth.”



- **Teach the Golden Rule.** Teaching your child, “Treat others as you want to be treated,” will help him make good decisions. He can ask himself, “Would I want someone to talk to me that way?”