

# 12 TIPS TO BETTER PARENTING

1. ACCEPT THE ROLE OF PARENT AS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY —  
Let others be their friend
2. MAKE PARENTING A PRIORITY — Be there
3. EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACING  
TODAY'S CHILDREN — They are different from the problems you  
faced
4. GIVE CLEAR MESSAGES ABOUT YOUR EXPECTATIONS —  
Be specific about how you expect them to behave
5. BE AWARE THAT MANY IN THE COMMUNITY PUT CHILDREN'S  
BUYING POWER ABOVE THE CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING — Don't  
expect the community to reinforce family values
6. CLEARLY STATE THE CONSEQUENCES WHEN CHILD FAILS TO  
FOLLOW THE FAMILY RULES — Consequences are not negotiable
7. ENFORCE STATED CONSEQUENCES WHEN THE FAMILY  
RULES ARE BROKEN — Children who don't follow family rules  
today may break society's laws tomorrow.
8. DON'T ASSUME THAT THE PARENTS OF ALL YOUR  
CHILDREN'S FRIENDS HAVE THE SAME RULES YOU DO —  
Some have different rules, some have none
9. BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN WANT RULES TO GUIDE THEM —  
Allow them to feel you are the "bad guy"
10. REMEMBER THAT TEENAGERS NEED PARENTIAL SUPERVISION  
AS MUCH AS TODDLERS DO — It's just a different kind
11. IF NECESSARY, LOVE YOUR CHILDREN ENOUGH TO LET THEM  
HATE YOU — For a while
12. KNOW THAT CHILDREN ARE NEVER TOO BIG FOR A HUG —  
Even when they are grown

**A message from the Middletown Township Retired Police Officers Assn.,**

**Middletown Twp PBA Local #124 & the Middletown Twp Superior Officers Assn.**

## Some Comments about the 12 Tips

1. My JOB is to be your parent.
2. I'm your parent all the time. Children are always watching you must do what is right. Rules are for everyone. Prepare child to live in the "real" world. And you're gonna love this one... They don't pay teachers to be nice to you, they are paid to teach you.
3. If you are doing what "every other kid is doing"... you are doing the wrong thing. NO sexual, degrading, vulgar, suicidal or offensive words... movies to songs.
4. Participation in family tradition. We do this... we do not do that. What we believe in ... what our family does.
5. Just because it's available — don't buy it... video games "No, we don't do that here"
- 6/7. There must be consequences. Specific — clearly stated and enforced.
8. Extremely appropriate and necessary to meet all of sons/daughters friends and their parents. Never drop them at a home where you do not know the parents or if the parents not are home.
9. Don't be afraid to make rules... Child "I'm only going to do what I have to do." Our job is to make them do what they have to do.
10. They are not young adults. They are children and need supervision all the time.
11. Love is unconditional. Only support their correct decisions, not their bad ones. Negative self destructive decisions, no support.
12. Hug them often

Don't have a response to one of their stupid questions? "Only God knows and he hasn't