

HOW TO MANHANDLE A CHILD
in a loving, non-abusive way -- and sometimes with humor!

- 1) The brain takes 25-30 years to grow -- we'll see immature behavior for a mighty long time! But with a half-decent upbringing most kids will turn out OK -- for we're BORN to become a curious, thinking, talking, learning, fun-loving, social, and cooperative critter.
- 2) Most of the personality is inborn. We're also a bunch of needs:-for safety, security, survival, food, cuddling, respect, independence, power, pleasure, control, and decent relationships with other people.
- 3) The ideal: - Have them raised by a blood relative and/or homeschool; PUT YOURSELF IN THEIR SHOES; try to see a strange world from THEIR point of view. Feed and cuddle right away; that's a need. KEEP A SMILE ON THEIR FACE. Comfort them if you can't give 'em all they WANT.
- 4) Remain, however, the benevolent despot -- in charge and in control. But never fight with a child if you can't win. That is, you can't MAKE another human being eat, breathe, sleep, think, learn, listen, speak, pee, believe, succeed, or clean up; unless you threaten, which often aggravates the kid, and, in the long run, may undermine your authority. Thus, since we can't MAKE them answer or speak the truth, don't even try; i.e. questions irritate the hell out of them. But you MAY take some sensible action based on what YOU know.
- 5) And you can always make them STOP doing something; i.e. say nicely, "Please stop" and then, when they ignore you, scoop them up in your arms, or take them to the mat, and let them pound the floor. Thus they will discover that, when you say "stop," they VILL stop.
- 6) "It's time to go" and give them a reason, but don't bother trying to REASON with them. And then, when they don't move, attach your hand gently to the arm, neck, or ear, at which point they VILL move.
- 7) No, I'm sorry, you can't have it, and TV is bad for the brain, so go lie down, have a temper tantrum, and maybe I'll show you how. But I'll read aloud, read-in-unison, chit-chat, play games, and stay out of that crazy school business. That is, you're responsible for your success.
- 8) That's a magnificent, irritable, and demanding screech; I'll bet you could become an opera singer someday. So I'm going to conduct you for a while. Can you screech Higher? Lower? Louder? Softer? Better?
- 9) To stop icky behavior: -- hop up and down, scream at the ceiling, stating "I am going berserk, I can't stand it any more etc." But don't hit, threaten, or punish -- just blow up and forget it.
- 10) Let's clean up TOGETHER, right now, PLEASE, -- which works 98 percent of the time -- especially if you ignore their bedroom.
- 11) In the face of ludicrous, snotty, disrespectful, angry, and immature words, 1) roll your eyes, 2) gag, 3) suck air, 4) try to understand their feelings and say, "That's an incredibly childish way to talk."
- 12) And yes:- PARENTS should be seen and not heard! That is, reveal possibilities, but pressure, guide, teach, and ask questions only....

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BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD - Haim Ginott

Google Salon Peter Gray

IN DEFENSE OF CHILDHOOD - C. Mercogliano

THE 7 SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL PARENTS-Randy Rolfe Startsole.org

CONFESSIONS OF A SLACKER MOM - Muffy Mead-Ferro PLTW.org

<http://studylove.org/clearthinking/>