

HOW TO RAISE KIDS—ACCORDING TO THE KIDS

1. **KEEP COOL.** Don't fly off the handle. Keep the lid on when things go wrong. Kids need to see how much better things turn out when people keep their temper under control.
2. **BUG US A LITTLE.** Be strict. Show us who's boss. We need to know we've got some strong support under us. When you cave in, we get scared.
3. **DON'T GET STRUNG OUT** on too much booze or too many pills. When we see our parents reaching for those crutches, we get the idea that nobody goes out there alone and it's perfectly OK to reach for a bottle or a capsule when things get heavy. Children are great imitators.
4. **DON'T BLOW YOUR CLASS.** Stay on that pedestal. Don't try to dress, dance or talk like your kids. You embarrass us and you look ridiculous.
5. **LIGHT A CANDLE.** Show us the way. Tell us God is not dead or sleeping, or on vacation. We need to believe in something bigger and stronger than ourselves.
6. **SCARE THE HELL OUT OF US.** If you catch us lying, stealing, or being cruel, get tough. Let us know WHY what we did was wrong. Impress on us the importance of not repeating such behavior.
7. **WHEN WE NEED PUNISHMENT, DISH IT OUT.** But let us know you still love us, even though we have let you down. It will make us think twice before we make that same move again.
8. **CALL OUR BLUFF.** Make it clear you mean what you say. Don't compromise. And don't be intimidated by our threats to drop out of school or leave home. Stand up to us, and we'll respect you. Kids don't want everything they ask for.
9. **BE HONEST.** Tell us the truth no matter what. And be a straight arrow about everything. We can take it. Luke-warm answers make us uneasy. We can smell uncertainty a mile away.
10. **PRAISE US WHEN WE DESERVE IT.** Give us a few compliments once in a while, and we will be able to accept criticism a lot easier. The bottom line is that we want you to tell it like it is.

Written by Rev. C. Galea. When he was assigned to the Guelph Correction Center, he asked the boys to draw up a code for parents, zeroing in on specific reasons they had ended up in the institution.