

Nurturing children

Loving and caring for your children

Abuse of Children

Violence, committing incest, sexual touching/kissing, sexualising children's behaviour, hitting, kicking, pushing, shaking

Parent Line - 13 2055
9.00am to 4.30 pm Monday to Saturday

KIDS HELP LINE
1800 55 1800

Trust and Respect

Acknowledge children's right to have own feelings, friends, activities and opinions

- promote independence
- allow for privacy
- respect feelings for other parent
- believe your children

Promote Emotional Security

Talk and act so that children feel safe and comfortable expressing themselves

- be gentle
- be dependable

Give Affection

- express verbal and physical affection
- be affectionate when your children are physically or emotionally hurt

Provide Physical Security

Provide food; shelter, clothing

- teach personal hygiene and nutrition
- monitor safety

- maintain a family routine
- attend to wounds

Provide Discipline

- be consistent

- ensure rules are appropriate to age and development of child and expectations
- be clear about limits
- use discipline to give instruction not punishment

Give Time

Participate in your children's lives: activities;

- school; sports; special events and days; celebrations; friends
- include your children in your activities
- reveal who you are to your children

Intimidation

Instilling fear through looks, actions, gestures, property destruction

- using adult size
- yelling
- being violent to other parent, pets, etc.

Using Institutions

Threatening punishment with/by God, courts, police, school, juvenile detention, foster homes, relatives, psych wards

Using Adult Privilege

- treating children as servants
- punishing, bossing, always winning
- denying input in visitation and custody decisions
- interrupting

Isolation

Controlling access to persons, adults, siblings, other parent, grandparents

Emotional Abuse

- put downs, name calling
- using children as confidants
- using children to get or give information to other parent
- being inconsistent
- shaming children

Economic Abuse

- withholding basic needs
- using money to control behaviour
- squandering family money
- withholding child support
- using children as an economic bargaining chip in divorce

produced by the
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