

few swats to kids, applying the rod, we were talking about the little tiny ones who can't understand much else!—Those who are just learning to talk, very young. Sometimes you have to give 'm a little swat or a spank on their bottom or something.—But usually not these other big kids, they know better!

9. **There are other ways you can correct them, I don't even like to use the word "punish" them.** That's what chastening means, it does not only mean punishment, it means child-training. The thing that hurts them the worst is first of all just to displease, they really don't like to displease, & next worst, to be shamed before others! To have their misdeeds brought out in the open before you is bad enough, but if they go further, to deal with them in front of others is even worse! They're terribly peer-conscious & they want to appear right & good in the eyes of their peers, their fellow children & teenagers etc.

10. **So some of you need to revise your attitude on how to correct young people if we're going to start specialising in training teenagers!** I mean by that, preteens & even our older children who are not yet preteens, but are mature enough to be treated like teenagers. Don't use force unless you have to!

DAD'S GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE OF KIDS YOUNG & OLD!

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—Compiled & Edited by Maria from the MLs

1. **Even if you don't understand what the problem stems from, the Lord understands, & the answer is Love,** whatever the problem, & through His Love He can show you the specific solution. Love never fails.

2. **"Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty."**—Job 5:17.

3. **Communication is so important.** At times of misbehaviour it's even better if you don't just punish, but especially talk about things & give the child a chance to explain himself & talk it out. Try to find out why he's misbehaving. Young people should only be given punishment along with understanding.

4. **Be sure the rules as well as the punishment, deprivation of privileges or sentence you lay down are prayerful & Spirit-led & not done in anger or without prayer.**

5. **We do not put up with foolishness or rowdy, mischievous, naughty, disobedient, wilful, stubborn & rebellious behaviour in anyone.** Warnings are usually needed to give the person time to make the choice for themselves to change for the better. But if not, "The rod of correction will drive it far from him."—Pro.22:15.

6. **There's nothing wrong with disciplining in righteous anger over wrongdoing.** God does that. We should get angry over sin.

7. **Discipline must always be tempered with Love & mercy.**

8. **There is such a sin as having too much patience.** There are a lot of times you shouldn't have patience because you need to nip things in the bud & not wait too long. You need to get stirred up & angry once in awhile & you need to immediately punish disobediences & correct problem situations before they go too far.

9. **Give discipline in love as a loving parent in the right way**—not too hard, not too harsh, not too heavy, not to the point of total discouragement & despair so that your child gives up & quits trying because he just can't live up to your standards.

10. **Your long-term goal should be to encourage your children to obey out of Love & to have the conviction to know what is right & what is wrong & therefore choose to do the right thing.**

11. **Once you have actually promised sentence, you may temporarily suspend sentence & put them on probation.** But once you have said, "Now you're on probation & we've decided we're going to do thus & so with you", or whatever the sentence is, & you suspend the sentence for right now, you must tell them, "But if you don't respond to this probation & straighten out, then such-&-such will immediately occur."

12. **Each child's discipline must be tailored for his particular needs, his individual personality!** A lot depends on the child & what really gets through to him.

13. **A child not only has to love you, he's also got to fear you**