



*Wake Up
Call For
Parents*

Dennis Barger, Consultant, Help For You Consulting

~I Loved You Enough~

**Someday when my children are old enough
to understand the logic that motivates
a parent, I will tell them:**

**I loved you enough...
to ask where you were going, with whom,
and what time you would be home.**

**I loved you enough...
to insist that you save your money
and buy a bike for yourself even though
we could afford to buy one for you.**

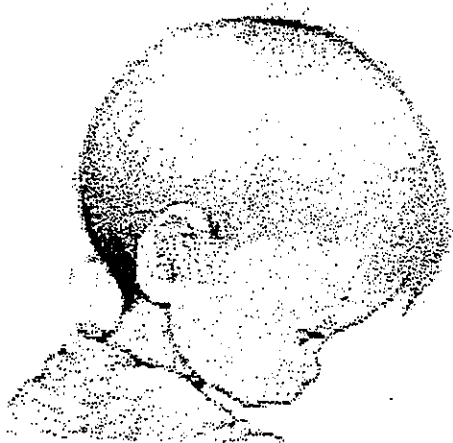
**I loved you enough...
to be silent and let you discover
that your new best friend was a creep.**

**I loved you enough...
to make you take a Milky Way back to the drugstore
(with a bite out of it) and tell the clerk,
"I stole this yesterday and want to pay for it."**

**I loved you enough...
to stand over you for two hours
while you cleaned your room,
a job that would have taken 15 minutes.**

**I loved you enough...
to let you see anger, disappointment
and tears in my eyes.
Children must learn that their parents aren't perfect.**

**I loved you enough...
to let you assume the responsibility for your actions
even when the penalties were so harsh**



"NOW CAN WE PLAY DADDY?"

After another late night at the office, Daddy came to little Johnny's room just as he was getting in bed. Johnny asked, "Daddy how much do you get paid an hour?" His Daddy replied, "I make \$20 an hour why do you ask Johnny?" There was silence and then he asked, "Daddy, could you give me \$10?" As Daddy handed him the \$10 he asked Johnny what the money was for. Johnny excitedly replied, "Thanks Daddy.....now I have enough money to pay for an hour of your time so you can play with me."

Dear World...



MY YOUNG SON starts to school today . . . It's going to be sort of strange and new to him for awhile, and I wish you would sort of treat him gently.

You see, up to now he's been king of the roost . . . He's been boss of the backyard . . . His mother has always been near to soothe his wounds and repair his feelings.

But now things are going to be different.

This morning he's going to waik down the front steps, wave his hand, and start out on the great adventure . . . It is an adventure that might take him across continents, across oceans . . . It's an adventure that will probably include wars and tragedy and sorrow . . . To live his life in the world he will have to live in, will require faith and love and courage.

So, World, I wish you would sort of look after him. . . . Take him by the hand and teach him things he will have to know.

But do it gently, if you can.

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, that all men are not true.

But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero . . . that for every crooked politician there is a great and dedicated leader . . . Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

Steer him away from envy, if you can . . . and teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

In school, World, teach him it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat . . . Teach him to have faith in his own idea, even if everyone says they are wrong . . . Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with tough people.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon . . . Teach him to listen to all men — but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and take just the good that siphons through.

Teach him, if you can, how to laugh when he's sad . . . Teach him there is no shame in tears . . . Teach him there can be glory in failure and despair in success.

Treat him gently, World, if you can, but don't coddle him . . . Because only the test of fire makes fine steel . . . Let him have the courage to be impatient . . . Let him have the patience to be brave.

Let him be no man's man . . . Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself.

Because then he will always have sublime faith in mankind.

This is quite an order, World, but see what you can do . . . He's such a nice little fellow, my son!



By DAN VALENTINE

THOUGHTS ON REPORT CARDS

Dear Mom and Dad,

In a few days, I'm going to bring home a "snapshot" of myself. This picture will be an exposure of me that's been developing during the past weeks. Considering my many likes and dislikes, my mood changes from day to day, I think it's a pretty good likeness of me.

When you see my snapshot, remember this is a report of someone near and dear to you. So, please don't get too uptight if you see a blemish. I hope you will accept me as I am.

Please do not picture me as being better than all the children. Remember that all children do not learn to talk or walk at the same time, nor do they learn math and reading at the same rate. I ask you not to compare me with my brother, my sister, or the kid next door. You can set realistic goals for me, but please be careful not to push me to succeed at something that is beyond my ability.

I want you to understand that my report card is a picture of my school progress. When you meet with my teacher, you will learn many things about my life at school, even some things that might surprise you.

My teacher knows me as I am at school. You know how I am at home. The "real" me is somewhere in between. When these two pictures become blended, with acceptance and understanding, I hope my "snapshot" will be a shining portrait.

Your Child

ALPHABET FOR PARENTS

A is for Accountability. Hold your children accountable for their behavior.

B is for Boundaries. Set specific limits, and make clear the repercussions if those limits are exceeded.

C is for Consistency. Hold to the same principles and practices.

D is for Discipline. Make the punishment fit the crime. never discipline in anger.

E is for Example. Children are in greater need of models than critics. Set a good example.

F is for Forgiveness. Practice it and teach the importance of forgiving.

G is for Giving. Teach the joy of giving, not only to family and friends, but to strangers in need.

H is for sense of Humor. Keep your sense of humor. Promote laughter with your child.

I is for Imagination. Be creative, and play with your children. Make up stories or songs when you read and sing with them.

J is for Justice. Be fair, and insist that they be fair also.

K is for Knowing your children's friends and their parents as well as their teachers.

L is for Listening. Listen to your children. It will teach them how to listen to others, and their thoughts will give you insights.

M is for Morals. Be sure your own standard of conduct is sound.

N is for No. Use it, and mean it.

O is for Outdoors. Provide as much outdoor activity as possible. Teach respect for nature.

P is for Pressure. Reduce the pressure on your children, but insist they maintain high standards.

Q is for Questions. Pay close attention to their questions, and give simple answers unless they demand more.

R is for Respect. Show respect, teach respect and earn respect.

S is for Source of Strength. Share your own faith or beliefs with your children. Faith can be their port in the storms of life later.

T is for Togetherness. have special, designated times to be together as a family — but know when to let go, too.

U is for Uniqueness. Understand the uniqueness of each child, and let that child be who he or she is.

V is for Voice. Tone of voice can convey more to a child than the words spoken.

W is for Words. Keep your word. Promises broken destroy trust.

X is for eXamine. Examine constantly, and be aware.

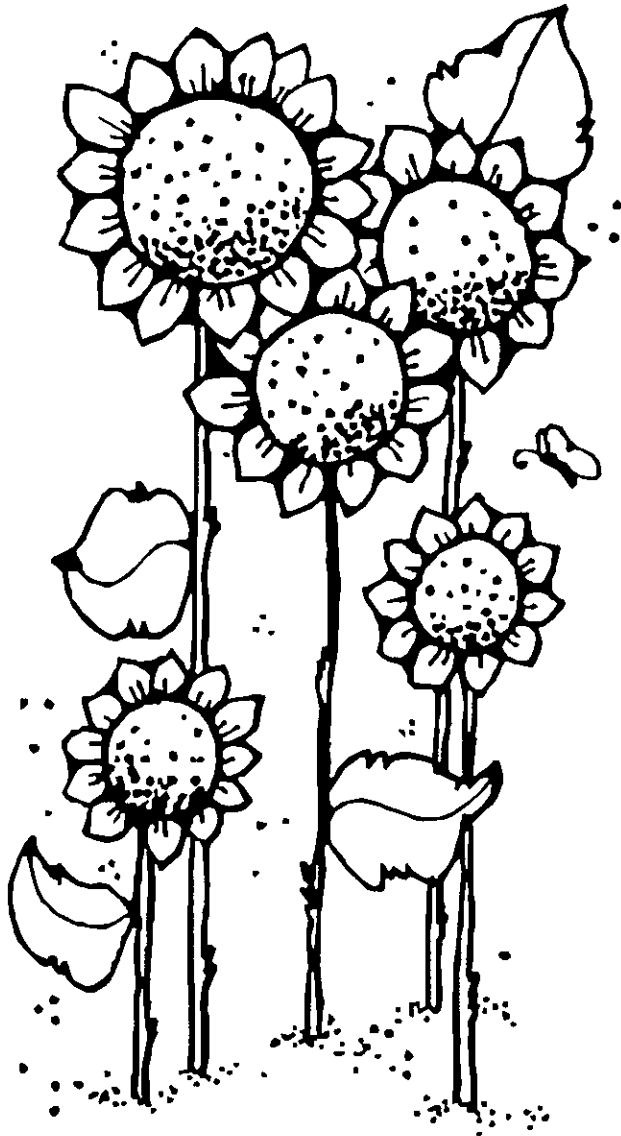
Y is for You. Take care of yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. A happy parent helps a child to be happy.

Z is for Zowie! Who would have thought they would grow up so quickly?

FAMILY THOUGHT

That energy which makes
a child hard to manage
is the energy which afterward makes
him a manager of life.

HENRY WARD BEECHER



My Daily Reminder

I clipped this poem by an unknown author to remind me how habits work for the good or the bad.

I am your constant companion,
I am your greatest helper
or your heaviest burden.
I will push you onward or drag
you down to failure.
I am at your command.
Half of the tasks that you do you might
just as well turn over to me and I will
do them quickly and correctly.

I am easily managed,
you must merely be firm with me.
Show me exactly how you want
something done;
After a few lessons I will do it
automatically.
I am the servant of all great people
and the regret of all failures as well.
Those who are great I have made great.
Those who are failures I have
made failures.

I am not a machine but I work
with all of its precision
plus the intelligence of a person.
Now you may run me for profit or
may run me for ruin.
It makes no difference to me.
Take me, train me, be firm with me
and I will lay the world at your feet.
Be easy with me and I will destroy you.
I am called Habit.

...

*Most things
with lasting value
are not easy
to bring about
but are surely
worth the effort.*

I am grateful that I continue to experience the joy of practical, personal change. I will continue to rely on what I've proven to be true. Once my beliefs are correct and in line with God's Word, it is possible to change behavior and establish good patterns. And I'm making a habit of it!

.....
Mary Hunt lives in Paramount, Calif. To request a copy of her new book, *The Financially Confident Woman*, see page 17

If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd finger-paint more and point the finger less.
I'd do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my
eyes.

I would care to know less and know ~~to~~ care more.

I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.

I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.

I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.

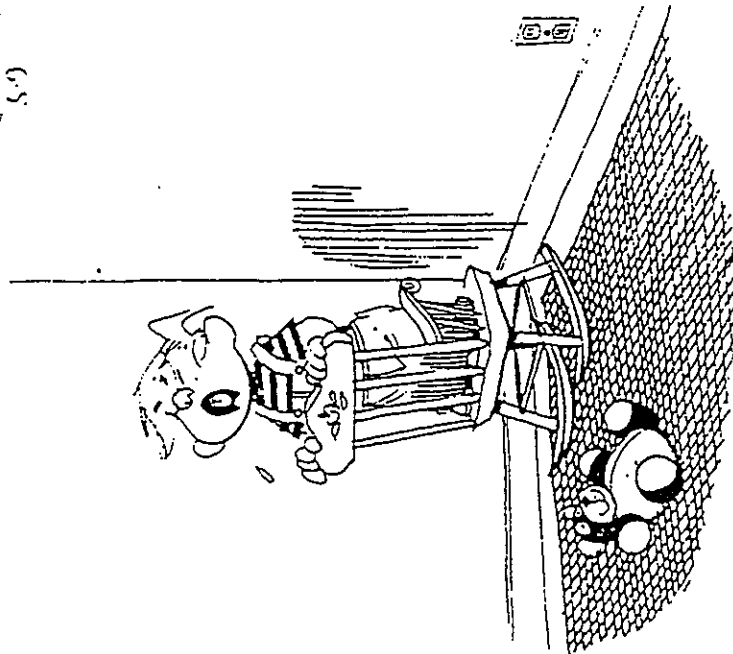
I'd teach less about the love of power,
and more about the power of love.

Diane Loomans

DENNIS THE MENACE By Ketcham

La Cigarras
(S. J.)

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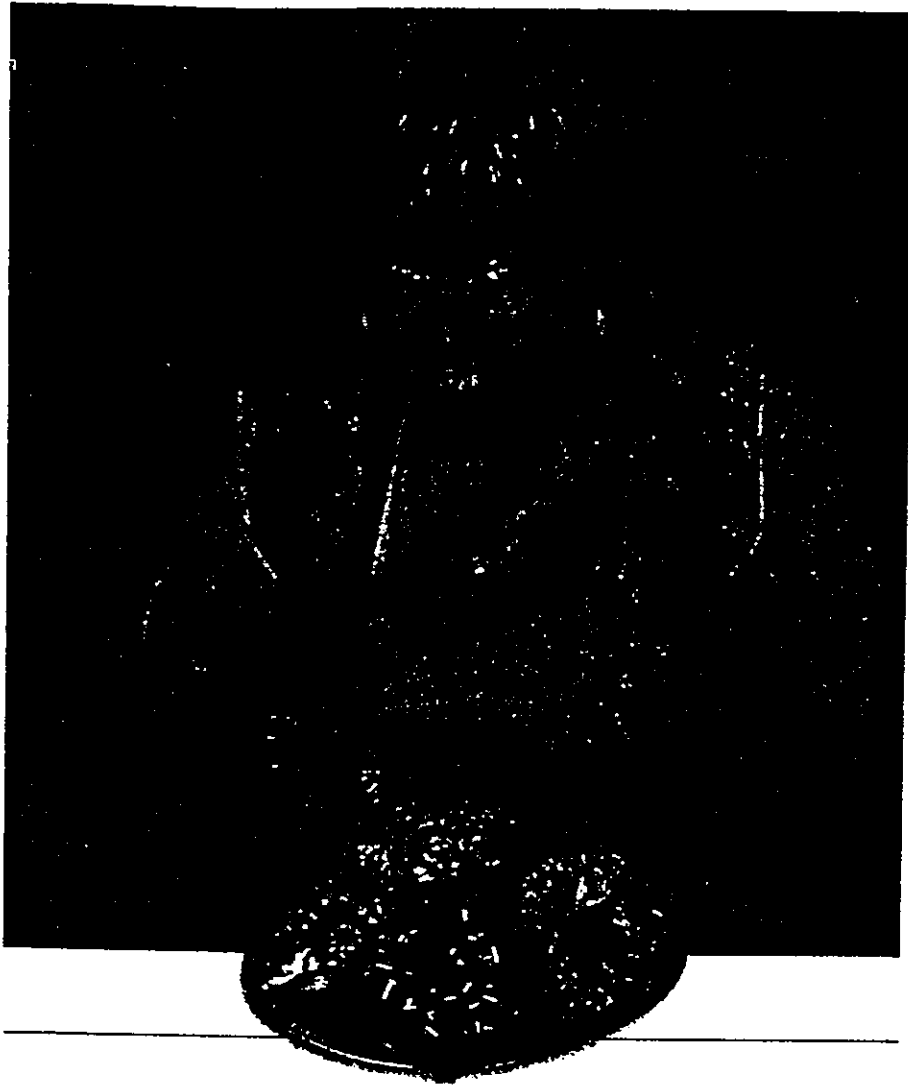
"If you're raisin' me right,
 HOW COME I GET INTO SO MUCH TROUBLE?"

ILLUSTRATION: THE MENACE™ used by permission of Hank Ketcham and
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He Is Just a Little Boy

He stands at the plate
 with his heart pounding fast.
 The bases are loaded,
 the die has been cast.
 Mom and Dad cannot help him,
 he stands all alone.
 A hit at this moment
 would send the team home.
 The ball meets the plate,
 he swings and he misses.
 There's a groan from the crowd,
 with some boos and some hisses.
 A thoughtless voice cries,
 "Strike out the bum."
 Tears fill his eyes,
 the game's no longer fun.
 So open your heart and give him a break,
 For it's moments like this
 a man you can make.
 Please keep this in mind
 when you hear someone forget.
 He is just a little boy, and not a man yet.

Chaplain Bob Fox



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with lasting value
are not easy
to bring about
but are surely
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MY DAILY REMINDER

I clipped this poem by an unknown author to remind me how habits work for the good or the bad.

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*I will push you onward or drag
you down to failure.*

I am at your command.

*Half of the tasks that you do you might
just as well turn over to me and I will
do them quickly and correctly.*

*I am easily managed,
you must merely be firm with me.
Show me exactly how you want
something done;*

*After a few lessons I will do it
automatically.*

*I am the servant of all great people
and the regret of all failures as well.
Those who are great I have made great.
Those who are failures I have
made failures.*

*I am not a machine but I work
with all of its precision
plus the intelligence of a person.
Now you may run me for profit or you
may run me for ruin.*

*It makes no difference to me.
Take me, train me, be firm with me
and I will lay the world at your feet.
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WHAT IS A MOTHER

Frederick E. Kruse

Somewhere between the youthful energy of a teen-ager and the golden years of a woman's life, there lives a marvelous and loving person known as "Mother."

A mother is a curious mixture of patience, kindness, understanding, discipline, industriousness, purity and love.

A mother can be at one and the same time, both "lovelorn counselor" to a heartsick daughter, "head football coach" to an athletic son.

A mother can see the tiniest stitch in the material for that dainty prom dress, and she is equally experienced in threading through the heaviest with a station wagon.

A mother is as gentle as a lamb and as strong as a giant. Only a mother can appear so weak and helpless and yet be the same one who put the first jar comer on so tight that even Dad can't get it off.

A mother is a picture of helplessness when Dad is near, and a marvel of resourcefulness when she is all alone.

A mother has the fascinating ability to be almost everywhere at once and she alone can somehow squeeze an enormous amount of living into an average day.

A mother is “old fashioned” to her teen=ager; just plain “Mom” to the third grader; and simply “Mama” to little two-year old sister.

**But there is no greater thrill in life, than to point to that wonderful woman
And be able to say to all the world, “That is my Mother!”**

The Silent Honor In A Father's Goodness

This world has seen many fathers
Who have performed many great and noble things.

Strengthened a nation,
Silenced fears,
Relieved suffering
And changed the course of history.

Yet the most great and noble father I have known
Lives within the walls of my own home.
He performs no extraordinary tasks,
No miraculous feats;
He just does what is right because
It is right.

He needs no adulation,
No praise or glory of men.
He just goes about doing good because
That is how it makes him feel.

But there are those that see his goodness.
They are his children.
Indeed, they may not always see
But they know
That this silent honor is what they will pass on
To their children.

They know that true greatness needs no praise
It is found in the day-to-day living of unwearied goodness
They have seen their father give.
Such goodness is truly a remarkable thing,
Far greater than any glory found in the annals of history.
For one day the child will say:
'He is my father'
And know it is an honor.

Forgiveness

by, Barry Maltese

If you look inside of your heart,
you can find forgiveness or at least the start
And from that place where you can forgive
is where Hope, and Love, also thrive and live
And with each step that you try to take
and with that chance that your heart might break
Comes so much happiness, and so much strength
which Alone can carry you a fantastic length
For hate and anger will not get you there
and though you say that you just don't care
You can EASILY avoid the pain on which hate feeds
...the kind of pain that no one needs
Just make the move, take the first stride let go of the thing known as "Foolish Pride"
Maybe then you can start to repair the past
into something strong, that will mend, and last!

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