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# Poems and quotes

## Memos from the kids

### Don't spoil me.

I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.

### Don't be afraid to be firm with me.

I prefer it; it makes me feel more secure.

### Don't let me form bad habits.

I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.

### Don't make me feel smaller than I am.

It only makes me behave stupidly big.

### Don't correct me in front of others if you can help it.

I'll take much more notice of you if you talk to me in private.

### Don't make me feel my mistakes are sins.

It upsets my sense of values.

### Don't protect me from consequences.

I need to learn the painful way sometimes.

### Don't be too upset when I say "I hate you!"

It isn't you I hate but your power to thwart me.

### Don't take too much notice of my small ailments.

Sometimes they get me the attention I want.

### Don't nag.

If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.

### Don't make rash promises.

Remember that you feel badly let down when promises are broken.

### Don't tax my honesty.

I am easily frightened into telling lies.

### Don't forget how quickly I am growing up.

It must be difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please do.

### Don't forget I love experimenting.

I could not get on without it, so please put up with it.

### Don't be inconsistent.

That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.

### Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of understanding and love.

But I don't need to tell you, do I?

### Take time...

Take time to think -  
It is the source of power.

Take time to play -  
It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read -  
It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray -  
It is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to laugh -  
It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give -  
It is too short a day to be selfish.

*Anonymous.*

*Le matin, quand on est  
abeille, pas d'histoire,  
faut aller butiner.*

*Henri Michaux*

### Words of wisdom

Anxiety is a thin stream of fear tickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

Developing the mind is important, but developing a conscience is the most precious gift parents can give their children.

The reason I talk to myself is that I'm the only one whose answers I accept.

In the right light, at the right time, everything is extraordinary.