

## What All Children Want Their Parents to Know

*By Julia Loomans and her mother, Diane Loomans – 1996*

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Teach me to love and care for myself  
through your positive example.  
I will learn much more from what you do  
than from anything you could ever say

Notice me often,  
and take joy in my very existence.  
So that I grow up to feel special  
and know that I am loved.

Listen to me  
with an open ear and a loving heart,  
so that I learn to understand my feelings  
And trust that my needs will be heard.

Play with me often.  
Let down your guard and be carefree.  
The memories will last longer,  
and our connection even longer.

Focus on what I'm doing right,  
and tell me when you appreciate me,  
so that I learn to feel worthy  
and motivated to do even more.

Tell me more about your life,  
Your hopes, dreams, and successes,  
So that I come to know you as a person  
And can call you my friend  
As well as my parent.

