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TIRUCHIRAPPALLI
SRI AYYAPPA SANGAM
Cantonment, Tiruchi-620 001.

WHAT KIDS
WANT THEIR
PARENTS TO KNOW

Rs. 5/-

A child says :

You parents are funny. Even though you were once preteens yourselves, it seems that most of you have forgotten that period of your life.

I can see why many of you don't want to remember this time. Its really a weird one-going from being a little kid to a teenager. It is a time of change and challenge - physically, emotionally and socially.

Yet even though this is a tough time for us all, we need your support, your friendship, your guidance and most of all, your love.

You already know some of these things, but sometimes you forget. This is an important time for us. We only travel this road together once. Let's make the most of it.

01. Encourage me when I do a good job.
02. Let me teach you some things. Don't always be the teacher.
03. Don't show too much affection in public.
04. Let me take some risks; you did when you were young.
05. Try not to miss my ball games, school plays or the other activities that are special to me.
06. Respect my privacy.
07. Say "YES" more often than "NO".
08. Take me on short errands with you if I want to go.
09. Getting a pet is a great idea.
10. Set limits on the amount of television I watch.

11. Help me to develop a skill or talent that will last a lifetime.
12. Give me reasons for your demands.
13. Family activities really make me feel close to everyone.
14. Take time to explain things to me.
15. Don't take it personally when I act weird... sometimes I feel weird.
16. Hang out with me sometimes.
17. Understand that I don't try to make you mad; it just happens. I don't like being on your bad side.
18. Please stop showing pictures of me to everyone you meet. This is very embarrassing.
19. Tell me what's going on with family problems or any other problems. It hurts me when I know that I'm not being included.

20. Board games can be fun to play with the family.
21. Keep your word.
22. Keep praying for me. It makes me feel secure.
23. Ask for forgiveness of me sometimes.
24. Don't always give me what I keep asking you for.
25. Make sure you listen to my answers when you ask me questions.
26. Listening is one of the best ways to show me you love me.
27. If I spend a lot of time on the phone with my friends, don't get worked up.
28. Stop comparing me to my brothers or sisters or to my classmates. We are all different and want to be treated as individuals.

29. If I lose at something, let me have some time to myself. Later you can tell me what I did wrong... and what I did right.
30. Always buy me clothes that are in fashion not something you would wear.
31. I enjoy seeing my parents hug.
32. Don't make fun of the music I listen to or the clothes I wear.
33. Set high moral standards for me.
34. Wear your seat belt while driving the car. You are important to me.
35. Keep telling me you love me and are proud of me
36. Teach me how to act around elders.
37. Never put me down, especially in front of my friends.

38. Talk to me about all subjects even sensitive ones. I need information.
39. Encourage me to earn my own money.
40. Keep pushing me to learn how to express myself in words, both written and spoken. It really does help me to think better.
41. Pray with me.
42. Teach me about different religions, cultures and races.
43. Get to know my friends. Include them in some of our family plans.
44. Discuss movies after we see them. This teaches me to evaluate things.
45. Don't tell me my fears are silly.
46. Let me express myself through my hair and clothes.

47. Even though I complain about Maths lessons, make me stick with them.
48. Keep encouraging me to follow my dreams. Mine are different than yours.
49. Encourage me to save and not to buy things so quickly.
50. Encourage me to be honest.
51. Don't keep changing the rules.
52. Make sure I have a quiet place and a regular time to do homework.
53. Trust me.
54. Nagging doesn't work in the long run.
55. I can't always get good grades-sometimes I get nervous and make mistakes.
56. Don't push me into a specific sport. Introduce me to lots of activities and let me choose what I like.

57. Teach me to be kind.
58. Don't correct my mistakes in front of my friends.
Save your criticisms until we are alone.
59. Arguments are a natural part of being a family.
60. Don't begin sentences with "When I was your age...".
61. Let me be independent and learn to govern myself. I'll do the driving; you do the navigating.
62. Have atleast one meal as a family each day.
63. Ask open - ended questions, it helps me solve my own problems.
64. Tell me about our family history - it makes me proud.

65. Set clear, consistent boundaries.
66. Share the experiences that you had as a kid -even the mistakes and embarrassing times.
67. Tell me when you're in a bad mood or are having a bad day. That way I won't be so hurt if you say something dumb.
68. I like us to go to the temple together as a family.
69. Set a good example for me when it comes to habits like smoking or drinking.
70. Remember I can't read your mind.
71. Teach me to keep trying.
72. I may need rules, but not too many.
73. When I am with my friends, don't always try to hang out with us. You and I can spend time together later.

74. Let me decide my own bedtime.
75. Occasionally I still like to be kissed by both of my parents.
76. Cheer for my whole team, not just for me.
77. Know what I am watching on T.V. I am really not old enough to see somethings.
78. Your praise means more to me than anyone else's.
79. Make sure that my friends feel welcome at our house.
80. Don't say things you don't mean when you are angry.
81. Sometimes discuss problems with me when you don't know the solutions.
82. Instead of giving orders, offer choices.
83. Never, Never call me by my pet name in public.

84. Give me more responsibilities as I prove myself ready.
85. Let me decorate my own room, but you can give me advice.
86. Encourage me to start a collection of something interesting.
87. Teach me good manners.
88. Rent videos with a message for the family to watch.
89. Be aware of the music I listen to. Take the time to introduce me to other types of music.
90. Teach me to compare prices before buying.
91. Read the newspaper with me sometimes and discuss what's going on.
92. Let me go to the movies with a friend. We will get the tickets and the food and meet you later.

93. Always make time for me. We can sit around and talk, read a book, or do something else. The important thing is that you like to spend time with me.
94. Help me to pick out good books.
95. Don't make any promises you might not be able to keep.
96. Take me with you to work. It helps me to understand who you are.
97. Occasionally watch my favourite T.V. shows with me.
98. I like it when you have fun with my friends and me. They usually don't see parents acting so crazy.
99. Don't bottle up your problems. Share them.
100. Think of recreational things we can do together.

101. Pets teach responsibility.
102. Whenever possible let us kids resolve our differences by ourselves. We need to learn to work things out for ourselves. We can't always rely on you to be around to solve every problem.
103. Compliment my friends.
104. Tell me about your disappointments.
105. Don't spend all your time on the child who's acting up. Acknowledge the good as well as the bad.
106. Don't be sarcastic.
107. Teach me right and wrong.
108. Allow me to use some of your valuable possessions like your camera.
109. Help me to learn some world geography. I need to understand other people, other places.

110. Let me see you helping someone in need.
111. Sometimes listen to my friends and me talking without adding your own opinion.
112. Show me how to compete.
113. Let's once in a while take turns reading out loud.
114. Teach me how to cook.
115. Keep chart of my accomplishments and achievements.
116. Try not to embarrass me by the way you dress.
117. Let me choose my own friends.
118. Answer my questions, even if the answer is embarrassing.

119. Teach me to be a good winner and a good loser.
120. Please don't yell at me when there's a problem. The less anger the easier it is to understand one another.
121. The next time I have a day off from school, take a day off from work and spend the time with me. You can get to know me better.
122. When telling me about your rules, make sure I understand the consequences.
123. Even smart kids may make mistakes. I am smart, not perfect.
124. Don't keep adding on punishments. Don't ground me and then decide that I also can't use the phone, and then that I also can't watch T.V.
125. Keep encouraging me to read.

126. Remember that my room is the only private place that I can call my own. If I don't want to keep it perfectly neat, let me.

127. Make up a list of my chores. That way I know exactly what I need to do and you won't have to keep reminding me.

128. Teach me about love and affection.

129. Help me plan ahead. High school will be scary enough even with a plan.

130. Introduce me to lots of different things. Even if I never want to do something again, you have given me the experience.

131. Try to remember what it was like being my age.

132. Teach me how to relax.

133. Teach me to pray about my problems.

134. Give me enough pocket money so that I can learn how to spend wisely and how to save.
135. If you must fight, remember that I am close enough to hear you.
136. Don't be so overprotective. If I am not allowed to make mistakes, I can't learn from my mistakes.
137. Don't judge my friends by their clothes or hair. After all, I saw something in them that made me want their friendship.
138. I like the little private notes you sometimes leave me.
139. Help me with my homework when I need you to.
140. If I come home late, I might have a good reason. Ask for it before you get upset.

141. Teach me to be kind.
142. Don't punish me if I don't do well in school. Instead, work with me to improve.
143. I am no longer the little child you think of me as, but I am also not as grown-up as I like to pretend.
144. Talk to me about God.
145. Encourage me to use a computer. I'll be glad later.
146. When I ask a question, make sure I understand your answer.
147. Hire someone to do your taxes. Every year the whole family gets upset because you are so worried until they are done.
148. Don't bring up past mistakes. Forgive and forget.
149. Don't automatically blame until you know the facts.

150. Take me to the hospital sometimes when you visit friends who are ill. It makes me appreciative of good health.
151. Believe in me.
152. Assist with my chores when I ask for help.
153. Help me to get organised.
154. Listen to my music with me occasionally.
155. Teach me to respect elders.
156. A clothes allowance teaches me to make good choices and saves us all hassles.
157. When I have a bad attitude or do something mean, tell me.
158. Never let me smoke.
159. Pay my allowance on a regular basis. Don't make me have to ask for it.

160. Listen to my jokes and experiences in classroom.
161. Don't assume my teen years will be a hassle. You might actually enjoy me as a teenager.
162. Have a set time for us to do family chores.
163. I like it when you play practical jokes on us.
164. Look at family photo albums with me and tell me about the relatives.
165. Don't always let me win when we play games or sports.
166. Don't shout to make a point.
167. Never call me stupid or dumb.
168. Encourage me to exercise regularly.

169. Even when I do something wrong, let me know you love me.

170. Don't set unrealistic goals.

171. Sometimes I just want to be left alone.

172. Control the amount of time I play video games.

173. I like it when you have fun with me.

174. Thank me and point it out when I am polite.

175. Allow me to keep some of my money in a safe, secret place.

176. Make sure that I understand the meaning behind the words on my posters and T-shirts.

177. Ask my opinion sometimes.

178. Let yourself be a parent, not a policeman.

179. Spread your love around. Give equal attention to each child in the family.
180. Remember that even though I don't always say it, I appreciate all you do for me.
181. Don't visit my school too often. It is embarrassing to me.
182. Please do not smoke or drink. I want you to be with us for more years.
183. Introduce your friends to me.
184. Let me know about our relatives.
185. Teach me about hospitality.
186. When we go on tour, let me do the cash transaction. I will give account later.
187. When I am ill, I want you to take care of me personally.
188. Be punctual before asking me to be punctual.



YOU MAY ALSO GO THROUGH THE BOOK
" WHAT PARENTS WANT THEIR KIDS TO KNOW"
RELEASED BY TIRUCHIRAPPALLI SRI AYYAPPA SANGAM

Price : Rs. 5/-