

What is a Parent's Responsibility?

Question Man by Conti

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Diane Tong, late 20s, secretary, South Market

I want my children to be independent. To think on his own and not be afraid to take risks. To make decisions for himself, instead of always obeying me. So, within reason, I'd let him make up his own mind about what's right and wrong and then support his decisions as best I could regarding career or relationships.

Vanessa Bryant, 36, data processor, Oakland

To give the children good guidelines and morals and values. To help their children set goals and to think about their own future. You want to see your kid become a stable, productive citizen as an adult, and they should think seriously about life as well as fun while they're young.

Jeff Bach, 343, advertising art director, Potrero Hill

To spend time. To nurture and support their interests early in life so they can get a jump on things. If you encourage and support a child, he becomes more proficient and will probably get into the better schools and eventually get the better jobs and be an all-around happier person.

Andrew Goodman, 30, information specialist, the Marina

Setting a good example. Actions are louder than words. If you don't live life the way you think it should be led, you can't expect your words to be listened to. Teach them that everyone needs to feel their life is valuable and that they're contributing to making the world a better place.

Monica Daly, 39, clerk, the Sunset

To raise a happy, healthy, morally good and motivated, responsible child. Being healthy and happy are the main things. Let him experience the good things in life. Not dwell on the doom and gloom because they'll experience that anyway. Stress the happy things because the important thing is to enjoy life and not be a depressed person.

Jim Braden, 39, attorney, Pacific Heights

To try to understand the way their children feel about what happens in their life. Kids don't know how to articulate that, so it takes a lot of sensitivity and effort. If the feelings are never understood, when they grow up, they have to sort out what's dysfunctional in their life.

Myron Lai, 31, systems analyst, Albany

To teach a kid about the other cultures and make sure he appreciates them. That would improve the world. Unfortunately a lot of parents tell their kids not to play with certain ethnic groups. That's how racism starts. That's when problems start; when kids are young, forming opinions about people.



**OPINIONS AND FEELINGS ARE FREQUENTLY A PERSONAL TRIUMPH OVER GOOD THINKING
YOU DEFINE REALITY BY WHAT YOU KNOW, WHAT YOU BELIEVE, AND WHAT YOU DO ABOUT IT.**