

I tried...

*I tried to teach my child with books,
He gave me only puzzled looks.
I tried to teach my child with words,
They passed him by, often unheard.
Despairingly I turned aside...
"How shall I teach my child," I cried,
Into my hand he put the key-
"Come," he said, "Play with me!"*

21 Memo's From Your Child:

1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not to have all that I ask for. I am only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me. I prefer it; it makes me feel more secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits. I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it. I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly with me in private.
5. Don't make me feel my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of value.
6. Don't protect me from consequences. I need to learn the painful way some times.
7. Don't take too much notice of my ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention I need.
8. Don't be too upset when I say, "I hate you." It isn't you I hate, but your power to thwart me.
9. Don't nag. If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
10. Don't make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly.
11. Don't forget that I cannot explain myself as well as I should like. This is why I am not always accurate.
12. Don't make rash promises. Remember that I feel terribly let down when promises are broken.
13. Don't tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
14. Don't be too inconsistent. That completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
15. Don't put me off when I ask questions. If you do, I will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.
16. Don't tell me my fears are silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
17. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect and infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
18. Don't ever think it is beneath your dignity to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm towards you.
19. Don't forget how quickly I am growing up. It must be very difficult to keep pace with me, but please try.
20. Don't forget I love experimenting. I couldn't get on without it, so please put up with it.
21. Don't forget that I can not thrive without lots of understanding and love, but I don't need to tell you, do I?