



# RULES FOR SUCCESSFUL TEAM PARENTING

1. **Make your relationship with your child a top priority.** In all your dealings with team members, focus on your commitment to build a healthy child/parent relationship.
2. **Be businesslike.** If you and your child's other parent — or other important team members — cannot be friends, treat them like colleagues that you must work with even if you don't like them.
3. **Keep your child out of the middle.** When issues come up between you and your child's other parent, keep it there. Do not say negative things to your child about his or her mother/father or the other team members. Don't talk that way on the phone, either, when your child is within earshot.
4. **Give compliments to team members.** Frequently problems arise when people feel unappreciated. Make a habit of thanking people for what they do for your child.
5. **Listen, listen, listen.** In order to resolve problems, each party must listen to the other's point of view. Your child's mother/father is more likely to listen to your issues if they feel you listen to theirs.
6. **Go ahead and apologize.** When you've made a mistake, or not done something you said you'd do, simply apologize. Don't give explanations or excuses.
7. **Make changes when necessary.** If something you are doing is causing a real problem for some team member, ask what you can do to reduce tensions. If the request is reasonable, make the change. Just do it.
8. **Share your experience.** If something the other person does is making it hard for you as a parent, explain what it is. Say it in a way that is non-blaming, non-confrontational, so the person can hear.
9. **Ask for what you want.** When you want something from a team member, ask...don't tell or demand.
10. **Be a person of your word.** Do what you say you're going to do. Keep your promises, and be on time with all scheduled activities. If for some reason you can't keep your word, call immediately and let the other person know. You create your own reputation by how you carry out your promises. As other team members see you being consistent in your actions, they will want to cooperate on your team.