



**Family Therapy  
Personal and Executive Coaching  
Professional Speaking**

**Andrea Bishop  
828-687-9998**

3175 Sweeten Creek Road, Suite 3 Asheville, NC 28803

### **TOP 10 TIPS FOR PARENTS**

1. Invest in your kids with quality time like a "Love Savings Account", when things get rough between you'll both draw on it to stay connected.
2. Use phrases like "Wow! How did you do that!", "Awesome job!", " I am so proud when you handle yourself like that!", and "I know you can handle this, I have faith in you, let me know if you need my support".
3. Tell them how you feel, "I feel \_\_, when you and what I would like is ." This models responsibility for your feelings, and makes a specific request without blaming.
4. Make the punishment fit the crime. For example, if they fail to do a chore regularly, let them know they will have to do an extra one each time they "forget".
5. Give kids choices. "Would you like broccoli or green beans with dinner?" This avoids power struggles, leaves them feeling respected. Does it matter how they eat green veggies?
6. Empower kids about money. Set up a savings account, teach them experientially about investing, debt, interest and life's expenses. If they see how much your mortgage and groceries cost, they'll understand why \$300.00 shoes are not realistic.
7. Set boundaries about time alone and personal space. "When the door is closed or I am on the phone, don't interrupt me unless you are on fire.' (Well, you get the idea!)
8. The best gift to your kid is good self-care and a loving relationship with your partner, Model that parenting does not equal martyrdom. Spending time alone with your partner gives kids a healthy model of love and a sense of security.
9. Teamwork and communication are valuable life skills! Put kids in environments where they learn to work as a team, and can safely express their thoughts and feelings.
10. Have your kids contribute at home and in your community. Chores foster pride and ownership in your home and volunteering produces pride in service to the world.