

Memo From A Child

- Please set limits. I know quite well that I ought not have all I ask for. I'm only testing you.
- Please be firm with me. I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
- Try not to make me feel smaller than I am. It only makes me behave stupidly big.
- Please remember not to 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.
- Please help me form good habits. I have to rely on you to help me in the early stages.
- Please do not make me feel that my mistakes are sins. It upsets my sense of value.
- I hope you understand that when I say I hate you, it isn't you I hate, but your power to thwart me.
- Please do not take notice of my small ailments. Sometimes they get me the attention I need.
- Please remember if you nag, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
- Please keep promises when you make them. Remember that I fell badly when promises are broken.
- Please remember that I cannot explain myself as well as I would like. That is why I am not always very accurate.
- Try not to tax my honesty too much. I am easily frightened into telling lies.
- Please understand that my fears are not silly. They are terribly real and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
- Try to be consistent. It confuses me when you are not.
- Please answer when I ask questions. If you do not, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.
- Please let me know that you are imperfect and make mistakes. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are both.
- Please remember I live by trial and error. I couldn't get on without it, so please put up with it.
- Please feel free to apologize to me. An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm towards you.
- Please notice how quickly I am growing up. It must be difficult for you to keep up with me, but please try.
- Please remember I need lots of understanding love, but I don't need to tell you that, do I?