1. A parent is an example; children copy the behavior that they see.

2. A parent should be a leader:
   - Sometimes you will be unpopular
   - Kids will not like the decisions you make
   - You will hear these words often: “you are unfair!” and “you don’t love me!” These are guilt causers. DO NOT fall for this. (You may regret decisions of the past: a divorce, staying with an abusive, alcoholic spouse too long, poor decisions resulting in trouble for you and the kids...these are all sources of guilt that allow you to be a pushover. Don’t.)

3. Parents are not in control of their child’s decisions; they can only control consequences the decisions earn.

4. Parents need to teach problem solving: “what are your choices here?” not “do it my way”.

5. Parents must assign* chores, without pay: chores teach responsibility. Chores should be within child’s ability to perform safely. Allowances are to teach money management. (*Children can choose the chores that they want to do from a list)

6. Parents must teach respect. This is best accomplished through teaching manners such as: “thank you,” “please,” and of course by example. You must be a leader to be respected.

7. Do not take your child’s poor choices or decisions as a reflection of you.