

## What a Son needs from a Father:

Here is an unscientific list of ideal “father-to-son” characteristics. See how many you might have missed out on....and, how many that you might be able to share with the son in your life. Note, this not meant to be a complete list. Feel free to add a few of your own).

1. Do what I say, or, do what I do? A son’s eyes are always on his father, and he will always do what you do. Be a great father model...always! Fathering is loving, learning, teaching, and sharing.
2. Be a good example. Teach by example, learn together. Tell stories that have a Learning message.
3. When you fail, (and you will) admit it, and correct it. Use that experience as a teaching moment for you both. Ask for forgiveness sooner rather than later.
4. Pray for and with your children. Model your spiritual life. Read stories of faith together.
5. Be a happy father, have fun, and even silly is okay. Play sports together, laugh, and have a joyful spirit
6. Work together on projects, get your hands dirty together, and share a job. Demonstrate that work is fun and good! Find projects that will help others.
7. Be gentle, but firm, kind, and slow to anger. Set boundaries, practice discipline and self-control, show love and respect to your wife, mothers and girls and ladies. Practice a good hand shake, eye contact, and model a good conversation style of listen and talk. Teach these things, practice them, and reward success.
8. Don’t be critical and negative. Have open arms, and acceptance, and hang out together. Encourage conversation, and all questions.
9. A son seeks and wants to please his father. Encourage and compliment your son. Help him to find ways to please you. Find good jobs for him to do, that he can be very good at, and show your pleasure. It will brighten his spirit.
10. Show your son a big, loving heart. Practice affection, father/son love, camaraderie, protection and strength.
11. Coach, teach, show by example, and be a good example to him at all levels. Also, point him to other coaches and examples, like a grandfather, uncle, teacher, pastor, coach, youth leader and other good male role models.
12. Show how much that you value your son, and that he matters greatly to you in all the above twelve areas.

Happy fathering...just know that your good work will be blessed for generations to come.