



Parents, You are the Best **ROLE MODELS**

by Usha Lamba



Let me begin by giving you some good news. Parents, you have made the best choice by sending your child to TLC Montessori Preschool! A nurturing school, which respects your child, has a positive impact on your child's academic and social progress through childhood and even adolescence. We like to involve our parents as active participants by ensuring that you understand what your child is learning at school. By building a connection between home and school, we aim to reinforce the learning experience and make the transition between childhood and adulthood a seamless one. Most importantly, it is you who will provide consistency for your child, as they graduate from preschool and move into a primary school.

Now, let me gently break the tricky part of parenting to you. Your children are very likely to mimic your behaviour. Now, it is up to you to use this critical information to your advantage. You can ignore this information, and continue as you always have, or you can use it as a handy parenting tool. Being a positive role model requires thinking first before speaking or acting, and needs self-control and discipline. Remember, children are sensitive and have an uncanny ability to understand if you play by the same rules you set for your family! It is easy to give our children a long list of things they should or should not do, but it takes a great deal of effort and discipline to practice what we preach. If we smoke cigarettes but tell our little children that they should not smoke when they grow up, what message do you think we are passing on? And, for those of you who believe that you can sneak a cigarette when your child is not looking, I am not sure who you think you are fooling.

Identify all the positive things that you can model for your child to follow – self-respect, sincerity, responsibility, humour, contentment, patience, generosity, courage, and kindness. Think before you say something because words have the ability to create an impact. Always speak well of others, including an inconsiderate boss, or a friend who did not invite you to her party!

You are playing a role, and your role as a responsible parent, who walks the talk, will make you an incredible adult, who inspires others, is confident and admirable. When your child does something “wrong”, avoid nagging, criticizing, shouting or judging them. Instead of pointing out the error, model the right way of doing it, or subtly and gently, make them aware of their mistakes. And when they do something “right”, avoid rewarding them with toys or sweets, instead encourage your child with sentences like, “you did it all by yourself”, or “you worked so hard to succeed.” This will give them an innate feeling of satisfaction that comes from doing things by themselves, and will inculcate good values in them.



Here are a few handy tips that will help you be the Guiding force in your Child's life:

When your child comes home from school, excited about something new he has learnt, support his creativity and fuel that passion by joining in the enthusiasm.

A sense of independence helps in building a child's confidence, you can help by involving your pre-schooler in chores at home. Folding the small towels, tying their shoelaces, putting away their toys, laying the table for a meal, arranging flowers in a vase, are all little things for us, but a massive achievement for a 3-year-old.

Introduce your child to nature by going for walks together or doing some gardening with them. Draw their attention to the sounds around them – a frog croaking, a bird chirping. Make them smell the grass, the flowers, even the mud. Let them touch the bark of a tree to feel the roughness, and understand how soft and smooth their cheeks are. Point out the trees and flowers, the birds and insects that you recognize. Now you have provided them with a multi-sensorial experience.

Finally, maintain as much order in your home as you can. A clean and organized environment will help your child concentrate on the task at hand. Keep a particular spot at the entrance of your home for your child's shoes. Have low shelves and storage boxes in your child's bedroom, where they can easily access things and can put them away without any help.

Finally, always remember that your love is the most essential thing that your children need – a warm and loving home, where they feel valued and treasured, where they will gain confidence and learn to be thoughtful and helpful to all those around them.

