

## Discussion points on what it takes to be a good Dad

### Esau White

1. Give your child a chance to argue with you and your reasoning (at least briefly). This takes patience but it builds trust that you have a concrete rationale for your actions and choices. It also affords your child a chance to build skills that he will need. If your children cannot question you then they will not question teachers and/or other adults; as a result, they become unable to form their own opinion. Letting them make small choices will give them the skills to make larger ones later in early adulthood. When it is important for them being able to make good decisions, and having confidence in their choices.
2. Have a parenting plan in place that is recognized by the courts. This will allow you to get an idea of what basic responsibilities are required of you. Additionally, if you are not on good terms with the mother of your child having a parenting plan in place will help a great deal to ensure that your rights as well as your child(ren) are not violated.
3. Make sure the time you spend with your child is quality time. Have an activity or game plan so that you are able to have many positive interactions. Sitting in front of the TV doesn't count. Reading is one of the best things to do that builds great bonds.
4. Make your child earn the things that they get from you. This will teach them to value money, and other material things appropriately and respect you at the same time.
5. If you do not have a good relationship with the mother of your child try not to disrespect or talk bad to her or about her in front of the child. This is not their business and will make them stressed and anxious unnecessarily.
6. Talk to your child as if they are an adult. They instinctively can understand much of what is going on around them. Being open and honest will make them trust you. Also, it will help them to become mature quicker. Being trusted and accorded respect will do that.
7. Assign responsibility at an early age. Whether its chores or something similar, a good work ethic and sense of responsibility can only be taught at a young age. After a certain period, it is much harder to teach.
8. Tell your child how much you love them all the time. Even when you are upset, remind them of your love and respect for them. Then they will not doubt you.
9. Set clear boundaries that you are their parent not JUST a buddy. What I mean by this is that you enforce the rules and set behavioral expectations. You can be a friend and a parent too, if you're a parent first.
10. Get to know your child. They are independent and always changing as they grow. Make sure that you are always operating from current information rather than outdated interest, worldview and experiences.

## **Ron Adrine:**

Good Dads,

1. don't physically, emotionally, financially or psychologically abuse their children,
2. don't physically, emotionally, financially or psychologically abuse their children's mother.
3. know that when children are exposed to violence or abuse, they are likely to suffer harm, even when the exposure to the violence or abuse is not direct (i.e., in the same room, close by, etc.)!
4. know that children are made insecure and frightened when either parent is threatened or injured, since they depend on and expect their parents to keep them safe at all times
5. know that children are affected by abuse as early as when they are still *in utero*, and if their mother is battered or, in some instance, even repeatedly exposed to severe threats. Psychic injuries, resulting hormonal and other changes can plague a child and cause behavioral problems, learning disabilities and other cognitive problems that may follow the child into adulthood and later life
6. know that children can become even more confused and scared when the parent who is abused is their primary caregiver (whether their mother or father) and the abuse is at the hands of the other person to whom they turn to for protection (whether their father or mother) for well-being.
7. know that children who grow up in violent homes are significantly more likely to grow up to be violent themselves.
8. know that children who grow up in violent homes are significantly more likely to suffer socialization issues, engage in acting out behaviors, (such as bullying), substance abuse problems (such as the abuse of alcohol, drugs, or other mind-altering chemicals), and inappropriate sexual precociousness.
9. know that children who grow up in violent homes are substantially more likely to suffer from mental health diseases and to believe that the violence that happens around them is their fault
10. know that children who grow up in violent homes are also more likely to become the victims of abusive relationships themselves.

## **Jaaziah Bethes**

Ten things it takes to be a good dad.

1. Responsible for words/actions
2. Loving/caring/supportive to wife/spouse
3. Build great relationships with his children
4. Provides for his family
5. Willing to discipline his children
6. Leads by example
7. Support children in their dreams/endeavors
8. Be understanding/forgiving
9. Be patient and kind
- 10. LOVE FAMILY UNCONDITIONALLY**

## Ron Adrine

“What do you see as the role of the father?”

Here is my list.

- **Be Present**  
He is always there when he is needed
- **Be Visionary and a Leader**  
He envisions the courses of action that are most beneficial to his family and lays out the pathway to his vision.
- **Be a Protector**  
He prevents his family from suffering undue harm and mitigates the harm he cannot prevent
- **Be a Provider**  
He makes sure his family has everything it needs to survive and prosper
- **Be an Inspirer**  
He makes the members of his family want to do their best and encourages them when they make efforts to do so
- **Display Common Sense**  
He develops in his children the ability to exercise good judgment and to recognize when they are being misled.
- **Be a Model**  
His life is his family’s sterling example of the way a man should live.
- **Be a Socializer**  
He assists his family in developing the best ways to live with, work with and help others regardless of their social station in life. He shows them the rules of social interaction and correct his children when those rules are violated.
- **Be a Community activist**  
He does his part to support and enhance the quality of life of all around him.
- **Exhibit Omega’s Pearls**  
Any man who exhibits the qualities outlined by our Founders will, by definition, be an excellent father.

## Al Woods

“Men are role models.”

“I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day: I'd rather one would walk with me than merely tell me the way.” Men should model for their daughters the type of man she should consider uniting with, by the example he displays in the way he treats his wife, mother, and sister(s).

Men should model for their sons what real men do:

1. Pray for their family;
2. Provide for and protect their family; and
3. Leave a legacy and an inheritance for his children.

In First Timothy 5:8 these words are recorded, “Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, **and especially for their own household**, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Stand-up, Man-up, and be about our Father’s business!