

Report Card for Parents*

- ▶ **Main Point:** Our children are far more likely to embrace our values if we maintain a healthy relationship with them, which takes time. Take a moment to get some honest feedback from your teen on how your relationship is doing (Proverbs 22:6).
- ▶ **Preparation:** Develop a report card that your kids will complete for you. The following is a template that you may choose to adopt:
- ▶ **Suggested Age:** Pre-Teen/Teen ▶ **Estimated Time:** 30–50 minutes

REPORT CARD FOR DAD/MOM

<i>Description</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1. Dad/Mom shows that they love me	_____
2. Dad/Mom is interested in my feelings	_____
3. Dad/Mom spends enough time with me	_____
4. Dad/Mom listens to what I say	_____
5. Dad/Mom trusts me	_____
6. Dad/Mom enjoys being with me	_____
7. Dad/Mom is truthful	_____
8. Dad/Mom makes the family a priority	_____
9. Dad/Mom is fair in their decisions	_____
10. Dad/Mom gives me the right number of chores	_____
11. Dad/Mom disciplines me when I deserve it	_____
12. Dad/Mom admits when they are wrong	_____
13. Dad/Mom controls their anger and words	_____
 Overall Grade for My Dad/Mom	 _____

On a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the best, what kind of relationship do you want to have with your dad/mom?

Considering all things, on the same scale, where are you today in your relationship with your dad/mom?

If you could have your dad/mom start today to do 1 to 3 things for you, what would they be?

Step One:

Take an evening and ask your teen to grade you on how you are doing as a parent. Tell them that there are several things God expects from you as a mother or father, and you'd like their honest opinion on how you are doing. Promise them that you won't defend yourself, no matter what they say. Give them the report card.

Step Two:

Discuss the results with your kids, listening to their opinion without defending yourself. You'll get clarification on expectations and discover areas that you might improve. After the kids go to bed, spend some time talking this over with your spouse.

*From Kurt and Olivia Bruner, *The Family Compass*, (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1999), 44.