

We were all such good parents...
...Before we had children!

Advice from
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Vice President of Student Services

Stuff you need to know, but don't really want to hear

21. Talk to them on their time, not yours.

20. Have the conversations you have been avoiding (drugs, sex and booze).

19. Set a good example. This one is hard.

18. Tell them what you want and agree on a deadline. Subtlety is missed on them.

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17. Play the “what if” game with them, as in “What if your roommate is a jerk, what should you do?” or “What if you are struggling in a course, who can help you?”. This gives you opportunities to give advice, while at the same time getting them to think about scenarios that could happen.

16. Teach them to do their laundry.

15. Expect them to change.

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14. Discuss reasonable expectations for academic performance.
 13. Have the “FERPA” conversation with them.
 12. Change your mindset from head honcho to sidelines coach.
 11. If they are living in the residence hall, send an occasional care package. If they are living at home, bend and be flexible.

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10. Practice targeted swoops of nagging.
9. Make sure their major and career goals are theirs, not yours.
8. Leave them alone as much as you can.

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7. Create a financial plan.
6. Make sure they understand how to be safe.
5. Understand that emotions are running high all around.
4. Work on yourself, not them.

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3. Don't make threats you aren't going to keep.
2. Don't blame others for their mistakes.
1. Remember, they always come home.