

Cynthia Tobias's Top Ten Tips for Bringing Out the Best in a Strong-Willed Child of Any Age:

1. Value my ability to see the world from a unique perspective.
Find ways to appreciate and make the most of my strengths, even when I annoy you.
2. Remember, we need compelling problems to solve, not just chores to do.
Don't be the "Big Boss." I'll respect your authority more when you tell me the point.
3. Ask for my input; keep me in the information loop.
Give me some ownership in the process and the outcome.
4. Protect our relationship—you won't get much from me without one.
Respect and value who I am, and I'll cooperate with you most of the time.
5. Smile at me more often.
Keep your sense of humor and try to smile, even when you don't like me.
6. Don't let me push you around, but don't push me around either.
Don't be afraid to stand up to me; just don't run over me.
7. Speak to me respectfully, but firmly.
Use your voice wisely; it's a powerful resource.
8. Choose your battles—don't sweat the small stuff.
Decide what's really worth it.
9. Give me some control over my own life and circumstances.
Allow me to share control without surrendering your authority.
10. Remind me how much you love me.
Find subtle ways to keep reminding me your love will always be there.