**Parenting - Ponderings**

**Rearing children is like holding a very wet bar of soap -- too firm a grasp and it shoots from your hand, too loose a grasp and it slides away. A gentle but firm grasp keeps it in your control. (Elaine Hannagan, in Reader's Digest)**

**The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of his time each day. (O. A. Battista)**

**We never know the love of the parent until we become parents ourselves. (Henry Ward Beecher)**

**A parent knows success when his child turns out better than he did. (Joe Biden)**

**If I could change one thing about the first 17 years of parenting, I would have laughed more with the kids. I would have been less of a proper parent and more of a funny parent. When I messed up most, it wasn't when I was gone. It was when I was there but I had no sense of humor. *(Mary Loverde, in Stop Screaming at the Microwave!)***

**Our children give us the opportunity to become the parents we always wish we had. *(Quoted by Nancy Samalin in Love and Anger: The Parental Dilemma)***

**If you’ve never been hated by your child, you’ve never been a parent. (Bette Davis)**

**Perhaps parents would enjoy their children more if they stopped to realize that the film of childhood can never be run through for a second showing. (Evelyn Nown)**

**Having a child is like falling in love for the first time when you're twelve, but every day. (Mike Myers, actor and father of two)**

**What were we thinking? If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give your children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God has trouble with His children, what made you think it would be a piece of cake for you? (Ted Kuegele, in The Lutheran Witness)**

**A measure of good parenthood could be when our children exceed our own achievements. (Tom Haggai, in Chrissie, I Never Had It So Bad)**

**Parenthood remains the greatest single preserve of the amateur. (Alvin Toffler, in Future Shock)**

**Failing and laughing at our own shortcomings are the hallmarks of a sane parent. (Jim Gaffigan, comedian)**

**The first handshake in life is the greatest of all: the clasp of an infant fist around a parent’s finger. (Mark Beltaire, in Detroit Free Press)**

**If I hadn't had children, I probably would have had more money and material things. I probably would have gone more places, gotten more sleep, pampered myself more. My life would have been much more boring and predictable. As a result of being a parent, I have laughed harder, cried more often. I have worried more and hurried more. I've had less sleep, but somehow I've had more fun. I've learned more, grown more. My heart has ached harder, and I've loved to a capacity beyond my imagination. I've given more of myself, but I've derived more meaning from life. (Dr. Marianne Neifert, from a speech)**

**Your children need your presence more than your presents. *(Jesse Louis Jackson)***

**My parents treated me like I had a brain -- which, in turn, caused me to have one. (Diane Lane, in Hollywood Life)**

**The parent’s life is the child’s copybook. (Jewels of Home)**

**Having children makes you no more a parent than having a piano makes you a pianist. (Michael Levine, in Lessons at the Halfway Point)**

**Oh, what a tangled web do parents weave when they think that their children are naïve. (Ogden Nash, in Family Reunion)**

**Parenthood remains the greatest single preserve of the amateur. (Kate Tracy)**

**The secret of dealing successfully with a child is not to be its parent. (Mell Lazarus, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)**

**Among the things that are so simple that even a child can operate them, are parents. (Matty Simmons, in The Saturday Evening Post)**

**How good you are as a parent may depend on whether you think teenagers have problems or are problems. *(Doug Larson)*  
There are times when parenthood seems nothing but feeding the mouth that bites you. (Peter de Vries)**

**The toughest thing about raising kids is convincing them that you have seniority. (Gene Brown, in Danbury, Connecticut, News-Times)**

**Although today there are many trial marriages, there is no such thing as a trial child. (Gary Wills)**

**Every parent is at some time the father of the unreturned prodigal, with nothing to do but keep his house open to hope. (John Ciardi, in Saturday Review)**

**Parents are the bones on which children cut their teeth. (Peter Ustinov, in National Enquirer)**

**If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money. (Abigail Van Buren)**

**If adults didn’t always feel they had to wear armor, youth wouldn’t always be looking for the chinks in it. (Sydney J. Harris, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)**

**Chiding "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness." (Oscar Wilde)**

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