How to Raise the "Perfect" Child

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Don't ever show appreciation when your child helps out around the house, or they'll think it's not expected and become lazy. (Nobody pats me on the back for doing dishes.)

Compare your children constantly to others so they'll learn what you expect from them. (This way they'll get to see clearly what you value, and who they should strive to be!)

Remember also to notice and frequently point out their weaknesses, so they'll learn what they need to improve upon. (We could all use a personal coach like that - don't you think?)

Rarely recognize their unique strengths or gifts, or it will inflate their egos. (Besides, they can always be smarter, more athletic, or more interesting. There's always room for improvement! Why should they be "good enough" - when they can be better?)

Always prompt them to say "Thank you" when they receive something. (After all, we all know that it doesn't matter if they feel grateful, as long as they are being polite!)

Whatever you do, don't acknowledge your kids' angry or upset feelings, or their tantrums will just continue for longer and will get worse. No one likes a scene. (*This one might take some time, but eventually, your children will learn to bottle up their negative feelings appropriately, like you!*)

Make sure they hug and kiss all the relatives hello and goodbye at get togethers, so they learn that family comes first. (Besides, we don't have to worry about gut instincts or personal boundaries with relatives - they always have our childrens' best interests in mind, don't they.)

Make them clean their plate at every meal, so they get all the right nutrition to grow. (Be persistent with this and soon their stubborn internal body cues will be silenced in the name of health!)

Don't allow your children to express ideas that differ from the family's values, so they learn that home is a peaceful place, full of lighthearted discussion. (What is a family if not a place for individual sacrifice?)

Accept nothing less than complete and utter obedience, so they will always listen to future authority figures - no matter what they are asked to do. (Don't you think a little fear is healthy?)

Above all, only let them make inconsequential choices from a young age, so they grow up understanding that YOU always know what's best for them. (You'll always be around after all!)

Follow all my advice and you will have the PERFECT CHILD!

(And don't fret, these tough days of parenting will fly right by!

You won't believe how soon your children will become teenagers who are dying to move out, or even deciding to have their own sweet, and "perfect" babies!)