

Parent Sense

Dad, if you're the strong and silent type or the gruff and loud type, then you're not alone. Most men probably regret sometimes being too demanding, too distant, too uninvolved, too angry, and too busy for their children.

Your children crave and need from you relational warmth more than anything else. Why? Because that's what their heavenly Dad is like, and He made them to be that way, and you too. So Dad, how can you change? You can start today. Try these simple things and then ask God to help you make them a habit.



1. **Smile at your kids.** A lot. Your smile, flashed often, communicates your approval and acceptance.
2. **Touch them.** Put your arm around your boy's shoulder in church. Stroke your daughter's hair.
3. **Never go alone on errands.** Always invite a child. You'll be surprised at what comes up in the car.
4. **Speak words of encouragement** like, "you did a good job," and "I'm proud of you."
5. **Take them out for breakfast individually.** Remember Dad, they want you.

Original article printed in *Enjoying God's Love*, September 2007