

TREAT ME WITH ESTEEM

(Author Unknown)

1. **DON'T SPOIL ME.**
I know quite well I ought not to have all I ask for. I am only testing you.
2. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO BE FIRM WITH ME.**
I prefer it; it makes me feel more secure.
3. **DON'T LET ME FORM BAD HABITS.**
I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. **DON'T MAKE ME FEEL SMALLER THAN I AM.**
It only makes me behave stupidly "big."
5. **DON'T CORRECT ME IN FRONT OF PEOPLE IF YOU CAN HELP IT.**
I'll take much more notice if you talk quietly in private.
6. **DON'T PROTECT ME FROM CONSEQUENCES.**
I need to learn the painful way sometimes.
7. **DON'T MAKE ME FEEL MY MISTAKES ARE SINS.**
8. **DON'T BE TOO UPSET WHEN I SAY "I HATE YOU."**
It isn't you I hate but your power to thwart me.
9. **DON'T TAKE TOO MUCH NOTICE OF MY SMALL AILMENTS.**
Sometimes they get me the attention I need.
10. **DON'T NAG.**
If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.
11. **DON'T MAKE RASH PROMISES.**
Remember that I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
12. **DON'T FORGET THAT I CANNOT EXPLAIN MYSELF AS WELL AS I SHOULD LIKE.**
This is why I'm not always very accurate.
13. **DON'T TAX MY HONESTY TOO MUCH.**
I'm easily frightened into telling lies.
14. **DON'T BE INCONSISTENT.**
It completely confuses me and makes me lose my faith in you.
15. **DON'T PUSH OR PUT ME OFF WHEN I ASK QUESTIONS.**
If you don't, you will find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.
16. **DON'T TELL ME MY FEARS ARE SILLY.**
They are terribly real, and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
17. **DON'T EVER SUGGEST THAT YOU ARE PERFECT OR INFALLIBLE.**
It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
18. **DON'T EVERY THINK IT IS BENEATH YOUR DIGNITY TO APOLOGIZE TO ME.**
An honest apology makes me surprisingly warm towards you.
19. **DON'T FORGET I LOVE EXPERIMENTING.**
I couldn't get on without it, so please put up with it.
20. **DON'T FORGET HOW QUICKLY I AM GROWING UP.**
It must be very difficult for you to keep pace with me, but please try.
21. **DON'T FORGET THAT I CAN'T THRIVE WITHOUT LOTS OF UNDERSTANDING LOVE.**
But I don't need to tell you that, do I?