

10 things kids wish they could tell their divorced parents

1. Don't say mean things about my other parent – I want and need to love you both.
2. When you criticize my other parent it makes me angry at you.
3. Don't make me pick who I want to spend time with – it's not fair and I will get hurt if you do that.
4. Handle your financial conversations in private – I don't want to hear about it and I don't want to be your messenger.
5. Don't use money to win my love – be a stable and loving parent and I will love you no matter who has the “most” money.
6. Don't keep me from seeing the other parent – if you do, I'll grow up to resent you.
7. Get a counselor to help you with your problems – I need you to be strong and stable for my well-being. I don't want to hear about your dating and your disappointments. Talk to someone else. Don't make me be your parent.
8. The harder you make it on my other parent, the harder you are making it on me.
9. Laugh and smile – I want to enjoy my life and your mood has an impact on my mood.
10. Don't forget that I live between two completely different houses, rules, traditions and attitudes. Be patient with me when I forget things or need some time to adjust from house to house.

Adapted from Co-Parenting Works! Helping Your Children Thrive After Divorce, by Tammy Daughtry.

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