

STEP-PARENTING HINTS

Approaches to step-parenting that may not work

- You and your ex screwed these kids and now I am going to fix them.
- We are an instant family with instant love.
- “Why don’t you get the kids to...?” or “Do you know what your kids did?”

Some hints and other approaches that might work instead

- Beware of getting caught in a triangle; use one to one communication whenever possible;
- Draw boundaries around the marital relationship/couple relationship and around the new/blended family.
- Always take your parenting differences behind closed doors. Your kids don’t need to be subjected to the anger and anxiety of your conflicts. Present a united front with the kids.
- Don’t take it personally when the children challenge and may not include you. You need to earn their respect.
- Build up credits in the relationship bank account before you make withdrawals.
- Remember, no one has a lock on correct parenting. If all else fails, try the roommate or friend models for being a step-parent.