

Tips for Parents by Susie Kohl

In Appreciation of Parents

WHEN A FOUR-YEAR-OLD GIRL heard the words “It needs to be fixed,” she jumped out of her chair and exclaimed, “My dad can do it. He’s really brave. He can fix anything.”

Young children extol their parents’ wonderful qualities so expansively that it’s easy to dismiss what lies underneath those bold assertions. The fact that her father might not be a fix-it genius who can repair anything put before him isn’t the point.

Teachers understand what lies beneath young children’s effusiveness about their parents’ abilities: all-pervading love. They are often amazed that simply writing a note to a parent during an upset or making a painting to show at the end of the day can cure a child’s sadness. Teachers also know that though older children might not gush with enthusiasm about a mother or a father, their unconditional love for them is the underlying stability of all that they do.

At The Meher Schools, we join that admiration of our parents, who trust us to nourish and care for their children and to awaken their hearts to the beauty and joy of life. We are ever mindful of all the challenges parents face today. We love our families and applaud the stretching and sacrificing involved in giving their children the best, not so much in competitive advantages but in dedicating themselves to exploring ways to strengthen and support their spirit and their abilities to work and play with others cooperatively and compassionately.

Our parents are continually remaking themselves to keep up with their children’s growth, and it seems important to honor and celebrate that arduous work at the end of each year. We applaud how much our families do to prepare their children to contribute their best in a luminous new age. Stop and thank yourself for all the learning you’ve done and all the love you shower on your children every day. Reach out to other parents who may need words of encouragement to remind them that the process of parenting never involves perfection, only faith in the journey.

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