

## HOW TO FATHER A SON

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The day he's born will be the greatest day of your life; never tell him that. If it slips out after a night of drinks or an unusually emotional situation, so be it, but never speak on it. Once he's walking he'll be curious about who he is and what he likes—put a football in his hands to answer that question. If he bends his arm like a sissy, slap it down—HARD. Hard enough to let him know what happens to boys who don't know how to be boys.

Once he's old enough, put him into as many sports as possible; he's your son so he has to be the best. If he refuses to try—slap him. Let him know what happens to losers. The world is cruel and you need to teach him that. Show his siblings love, but keep in mind, a daughter is still a daughter and the younger boys could never truly be your junior. At the end of the day, *he* is going to become you, and you have to put *yourself* first. If you come home exhausted from work or he's misbehaved in any way—slap him. He doesn't know what it's like to work, to struggle, to be a man—and it's your job to show him. When he's in high school, ask him about girls—frequently—not for details, but so he'll

know what you expect from him. There's no need for a real sex talk, he'll figure it out, but make sure he knows he needs to use a rubber, or there will be consequences.

Once he's graduated, a lot can happen, but one thing is important: he's becoming a man, and you need to make sure it's the kind of man you can be proud of. A high-paying career, a beautiful wife, and sons of his own to continue the family line. If he can't do that—shame him. It'll make him hate you even more than he already does, but it'll pressure him into the right decisions—just as it did for you. You can talk to him as a man now, but never let him forget who's in charge here.

Now that you're older, you might start having problems: liver, kidney, heart—maybe cancer. Start reevaluating your methods as he begins using them to raise his own children. Watch him closely and point out the mistakes you made now that you've seen them in action—though this isn't the first time you've witnessed them or the first time you've disagreed with them. He won't listen. You taught him well, and a feeble old man can't change the ideals you beat into him.

Seek out your grandson. Tell him the things you now wish you could tell your own boy. Tell him how much you love him. Tell him how much you

love his father in ways you couldn't express before. Tell him how he doesn't need to be anything he doesn't want to be; he just needs to be happy, and you'll be proud. Tell him his father is only doing what you raised him to do and that you regret it—just like your own old man. Teach him what you know now. Prevent him from making the same mistake. Stop him, or he'll end up like you—only now attempting to develop a relationship with your son as you enter your deathbed. Pray that he'll be the one to break the cycle, or we'll all continue being fathers to sons without a dad.