

15. Make mistakes

Consider the process of being with teens an experiment or work in progress. Be delighted in your mistakes, thereby giving young people permission to also make mistakes, which is part of their evolution of becoming adults. The more active you are with teens, the more likely you are to make mistakes. If you don't know, ask them. In your effort to get to know teens, trust that you already know how to make situations work and that you can just figure out the rest by listening to your intuition. Be willing to be the first one to take the risk to say you are sorry, to be uncool, or to show that you care. Try not to cover up your mistakes. Choose as often as possible to be less defensive. In doing this, the mistakes can be diffused and not become a block between you and the relationship with the teen.

16. Little things are important

Continue to remind yourself that it is the little things that are important and they are happening. You don't have to see dramatic change. The process is within the relationship with teens and not necessarily their change in behavior. Appreciate yourself for continuing to be committed as an ally to young people.

Remember, the best time to act as an ally is right now. Show that you care very much and that you can play an important role in helping their lives go well. Don't wait until you feel comfortable. Assume that you know enough and that you are ready right now. Become great allies. Help them organize today. Young people are the present and together we are all the future. Enjoy? Involvement with young people is fun, they are eager to participate. They can inspire you and all of us. They are filled with hope and they remind us how important it is to play, to listen closely to people, and to be tight friends. They push us to treat each other with complete respect. This work with teenagers will push your limits and your own values. The more you do this work with teens, the more you are truly yourself.



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