

From *The Power of a Parent's Words* by H. Norman Wright

Accentuating the Positive

- ❖ You treat your friends nicely.
- ❖ You have a wonderful ability with tools.
- ❖ Thanks for doing such a good job on your chores today.
- ❖ Your schoolwork has really improved.
- ❖ I liked the way you cleaned your room. Thank you.
- ❖ You're a very special person to me.
- ❖ I'm so glad you're my child.
- ❖ I love you because you deserve to be loved. You don't have to earn it.
- ❖ You make my life more complete just by being you.
- ❖ I'm glad I have you. You teach me so much about life.

Dealing with the Negative

- ❖ Here is a way you can do it that you might like better.
- ❖ It sounds like it's hard for you to accept a compliment. Perhaps you need more practice giving them.
- ❖ I'm not sure you heard what I said. Tell me what you heard, and then let me repeat what I said if you heard differently.
- ❖ Listen to the help and care I'm giving you right now.
- ❖ You can't do that any longer; but you can do this instead.
- ❖ That was a poor choice you made; but I have some good ideas you may want to consider for getting back on track.
- ❖ You're not paying attention. Something must be on your mind, since you are so good at listening and thinking. I wonder what it is.

from *The Power of a Parent's Words* by H. Norman Wright (Regal Press, 1991)