

## 12 Ways to be the Meanest Mom in the World

*When your kids tell you you're mean, take it as a compliment. The rising generation has been called the laziest, rudest, most entitled kids in history. Don't give up. They may think you're mean now, but they'll thank you later.*

Once, I walked out of the store without giving into my child's tantrum for a cookie. A woman stopped me in the parking lot and told me I was the best parent in the shopping center. My daughter wasn't so sure. When your kids tell you you're mean, take it as a compliment. The rising generation has been called the laziest, rudest, most entitled kids in history. The stories about spoiled rotten kids scare the best of moms. Newsflash: it's not just the kids, it's the parents. It's easy to want to throw in the towel with your own kids. After all, don't we all want to be the cool mom? Don't give up. They may think you're mean now, but they'll thank you later.

Here are 12 ways to be the meanest mom in the world:

### **1. Make your kids go to bed at a reasonable time**

Is there really anyone who hasn't heard how important a good night's rest is to a child's success? Be the parent and put your kid to bed. No one ever said the kid had to want to go to bed. They may put up a fight at first, but with consistency, they'll learn you mean business. Now enjoy some quiet me or couple time.

### **2. Don't give your kids dessert every day**

Sweets should be saved for special occasions. That's what makes them a "treat." If you give in to your child's demands for goodies all the time, he won't appreciate the gesture when someone offers a sweet gift or reward. Plus, imagine the dentist and doctor bills that may result from your over-indulgence.

### **3. Make them pay for their own stuff**

If you want something, you have to pay for it. That's the way adult life works. To get your kids out of your basement in the future, you need to teach your children now that the gadgets, movies, video games, sports teams and camps they enjoy have a price. If they have to pay all or part of that price, they'll appreciate it more. You may also avoid paying for something your child only wants until he has it. If he's not willing to go half with you, he probably doesn't want it that badly.

### **4. Don't pull strings**

Some kids get a rude awakening when they get a job and realize that the rules actually do apply to them. They have to come on time and do what the boss wants. And, (gasp!) part of the job they don't even like. If you don't like your child's teacher, science partner, position on the soccer field

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or placement of the bus stop, avoid the temptation to make a stink or pull strings until he gets his preference. You are robbing your child of the chance to make the best of a difficult situation. Dealing with less than ideal circumstance is something she will have to do most of her adult life. If children never learn to handle it, you're setting them up for failure.

## **5. Make them do hard things**

Don't automatically step-in and take over when things get hard. Nothing gives your kids a bigger self-confidence boost than sticking to it and accomplishing something difficult for them.

## **6. Give them a watch and an alarm clock**

Your child will be better off if he learns the responsibility of managing his own time. You're not always going to be there to remind her to turn off the TV and get ready to go.

## **7. Don't always buy the latest and greatest**

Teach your children gratitude for, and satisfaction with, the things they have. Always worrying about the next big thing and who already has it will lead to a lifetime of debt and unhappiness.

## **8. Let them feel loss**

If your child breaks a toy, don't replace it. He'll learn a valuable lesson about taking care of his stuff. If your child forgets to turn in homework, let him take the lower grade or make him work out extra credit with his teacher himself. You are teaching responsibility — who doesn't want responsible kids? They can help remind you of all the things you forget to do.

## **9. Control media**

If all the other parents let their child jump off a bridge, would you? Don't let your kids watch a show or play a video game that is inappropriate for children just because all their friends have done it. If you stand up for decent parenting, others may follow. Create some positive peer pressure.

## **10. Make them apologize**

If your child does something wrong, make her fess up and face the consequences. Don't brush rudeness, bullying, or dishonesty under the rug. If you mess up, set the example and eat your humble pie.

## **11. Mind their manners**

Even small children can learn the basics of how to treat another human with respect and dignity. By making politeness a habit, you'll be doing your kids a huge favor. Good manners go a long way toward getting someone what they want. We've all heard the saying, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

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## 12. Make them work – for free

Whether it's helping grandma in the garden or volunteering to tutor younger kids, make service a part of your child's life. It teaches them to look outside themselves and realize that other people have needs and problems, too – sometimes greater than their own.

With all the time you spend being mean, don't forget to praise and reward your children for their stellar behavior. And always, make sure they know you love them. With a little luck, your kids can turn the tide and make their generation one known for its hope and promise.

**Megan Wallgren**