

Being a Dad to Teens

Contributed by Jeff Mathes

I am the father of five children – two of which are teenagers. They are still very much alive, sometimes I think that is my wife's doing. I admit, I get frustrated raising teenagers. They can be self-centered, egotistical, annoying know-it-alls.

I keep telling myself that in a few years, my oldest will become more sensible and easier to deal with. First, we need to make it through the getting a license stage though.

Don't get me wrong, I love my kids. Sometimes, though, I do wonder if the teenagers have checked their brains at the door. The stupid things I watch them do, I can't help but wonder what they were thinking.

Here's an example, my son actually thinks that he can hide his grades from me. Of course, with the Internet, that's just not possible these days. I can get his grades each day. So telling me a lie about getting an A on an assignment so he can go out with his buddies, isn't going to fly.

Teens can be challenging. They have reached the age where they want to test the waters and see how far they can push you. As they get older, they may start to think that they are stronger than you. This is especially true with boys and their fathers.

As your teenager goes through the phases where they want to prove they are stronger or smarter than you, the best thing you can do is keep your cool. Don't forget you went through these stages at one time. Losing patience, flexing your muscles, or showing them how much wittier you are than they could possibly be, just escalates the situation and creates an environment where they need to keep pushing you.