



Traits of a Healthy Family...

- Communicates and listens
- Affirms and supports
- Teaches respect for others
- Develops a sense of trust
- Has a sense of play
- Exhibits a sense of shared responsibility
- Teaches a sense of right and wrong
- Has rituals and traditions
- Has a balance of interaction among members
- Has a shared value system
- Respects privacy of one another
- Values service to others
- Fosters family time
- Shares leisure time
- Admits to and seeks help with problems

"Math Has Never Been the Problem!"

- Strong families are cohesive!
- Strong families communicate well!
- Strong families work to stay strong!

Cohesion

- Commitment
- Trust
- Honesty
- Dependability
- Support

Communications

- Cooperative rather than competitive
- Shared appreciation
- Respectful
- Sense of fun and play
- Negotiations are permitted
- "Equalitarian" decision making

Building on strengths...

- Seeking the positive in times of trial
- Embracing challenges as a whole
- Seeking outside help when needed
- Creating open channels of communication
- Keeping things in perspective
- Maintaining flexibility (Be Attitudes)

Good parents/partners...

- Establish a prenuptial agreement?
- Agree to disagree
- Avoid nasty surprises
- Resist the mom and pop routine
- Don't make the other the "bad guy"
- Make important decisions together
- Don't fight in front of the kids
- Seek amicable separation

Closing Thoughts

- It is a business of relationships...
- It really is all about the kids...
- It is intended for the long haul...
- It must be vested in authenticity...
- It must not be a position of isolation...
- It has to reflect appropriate values and ethics...
- It is clearly a position of trust!

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